

# Become a Professional Drone Pilot



### Taking the test.



## And the student shall become the master.

At last, we've covered everything you need to know (and probably more) about safely piloting drones. The last step to becoming a licensed commercial drone is to pass your aeronautical knowledge exam. It's time to sign up to take your test!

#### Finding a testing center.

There are two companies (CATS, and PSI/Lasergrade) that proctor the part 107 test, and 700 testing centers around the United States. You can find a testing center near you using this search tool:

#### Unmanned Aircraft Test Location Site Search

Alternatively, you can find the complete list of official Airman Knowledge Test Centers here:

Airman Knowledge Testing Organization Designation Authorization Holders

#### Signing up for the test.

Unfortunately, there's no way to schedule your exam online. So, once you've found your testing center, you have to call and schedule the exam as if it's 1985.

If you've found a CATS testing center, call 1-800-947-4228. If you've found a PSI/Lasergrade testing center, call 1-800-211-2754 or 1-800-733-9267.

Most of these testing centers are small, and quite a few of them are flight schools across the country. They can super busy or they can schedule you for two days from now.

Schedule your test for sometime in 3-4 weeks. That will leave some time for review before you head in.

They'll ask some personal questions on the phone, like the city of your birth. This is also the time to pay the \$150 for your test, so be ready to recite your card information on the phone.

# Taking the Aeronautical Knowledge Exam.

First, a quick reminder of the test's crucial facts:

- Costs \$150, which you can pay the day you take the exam.
- There are 60 multiple-choice questions.
- You have 2 hours to complete the entire test (but it probably won't take that long)
- The minimum passing score is 70%. That means you can miss up to 18 questions and still past the test.

And, of course, all of the standard test-taking advice applies. Make sure you know where the testing center is, and leave yourself a generous cushion of time so that you're not feeling rushed the day of the test. Also make sure that you've eaten solid meals, stayed hydrated, and done all of the other nice things that make your brain work optimally.

### Note: If your State ID doesn't match the testing center's state, read this.

When I took the test, I had recently moved from California back to Massachusetts. When I showed up at the testing center, I was unable to take the test because of it.

If you've recently moved states and haven't updated your ID yet, make sure you bring proof of residency with you. You can

use mail addressed to you, a bill, or anything else that proves you live in the state.

### Apply for your remote pilot certificate.

After you take the test, apply for your Remote Pilot Certificate using the FAA's online IACRA system. You may have to wait up to 48 hours before you're in the system.