

# Airman Certificate Testing Service (ACTS)

Presented to: ATEC

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Federal Aviation  
Administration



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# Introduction

- **Program Manager and Contracting Officer Representative (COR) over the Airman Certificate Testing Service (ACTS) Contract working within the Airman Testing Standards Branch (AFS-630) of the Federal Aviation Administration.**
- **Oversee all aspects of the FAA's Knowledge Testing Contract and testing vendor, PSI Services LLC.**
- **Oversee the test delivery aspects of the ACTS contract**





# Briefing Overview

- **What is ACTS? Who is the Testing Vendor?**
- **Airman Knowledge Testing Program Overview & Historical Structure**
- **FAA Mechanic Test Volume Stats**
- **Breakdown of Testing Center Network**
- **Goals and Benefits of ACTS**
- **The Different Phases of ACTS**
- **Overview of the PSI test assessment process**
- **Who Does What in FAA Testing?**
- **How ACTS Impacts Mechanics**
- **Knowledge Test Scheduling Key Points**
- **Importance of Knowledge Test Data Collection**
- **Frequently Asked Questions**





# What is ACTS?

- **Airman Certificate Testing Service (ACTS)**

- In June of 2018, the FAA entered into the ACTS contract with PSI Services LLC.
- The ACTS contract is a comprehensive, best-practices approach aimed at enhancing the overall quality of FAA Airman Knowledge Testing.
- PSI Services, LLC is the vendor contracted with the FAA to provide services in:
  - Test development leadership
  - Delivery
  - Analysis
  - Enhancement of test items and supplementary materials





# FAA Testing Vendor

- Vendor is PSI Services LLC
- PSI was the FAA's testing provider for test delivery services through the Organization Designation Authorization (ODA) Program.
- PSI has delivered the FAA's knowledge tests since 1996.





# FAA Testing Vendor (cont.)

- **PSI is a recognized leader in the high-stakes testing industry with a global presence. PSI brings many capabilities and experience to help the FAA accomplish it's mission.**
- **Based in Glendale, CA**
- **PSI is involved with many different industries other than aviation and administers tests for numerous other Federal Agencies as well as State Governments**





# Historical Program Structure

- **Computer Testing Designee (CTD) Program** 1990's to 2010
  - Focused on Test Delivery (Delegation)
- **Airman Knowledge Testing (AKT) Organization Designation Authorization (ODA)** 2010 to 2019
  - Focused on Test Delivery (Delegation)
- **Airman Certificate Testing Service (ACTS)** 2018 to present
  - Focused on the enhancement of the development of testing, technology, as well as test delivery (**Government Contract**)





# Current Airman Knowledge Testing (AKT) Program

- **Complexity and Magnitude of the FAA AKT Program**
  - 14,000 active test questions in domestic banks
  - 11,000 test questions in international banks
  - **Over 200,000 tests administered annually**
  - 90 Different tests offered with 411 active form tests
  - Complexity of test requirements driven by policy
  - The Airman Knowledge Testing Program is one of the largest and most complex testing programs in the world from any industry.





# FAA Mechanic Knowledge Test Volume

## How does FAA Mechanic Test Volume Rank Relative to Total FAA Test Volume?

Volume Rank	Test Code	Test Name	2021 Volume	% of Total FAA Tests
1	UAG	Unmanned Aircraft General - Small (UAG)	53,573	26.44%
2	PAR	Private Pilot Airplane (PAR)	34,738	17.14%
3	IRA	Instrument Rating Airplane (IRA)	17,722	8.75%
4	CAX	Commercial Pilot Airplane (CAX)	12,883	6.36%
5	AMG	Aviation Maintenance Technician General (AMG)	12,392	6.12%
6	AMP	Aviation Maintenance Technician Powerplant (AMP)	10,469	5.17%
7	AMA	Aviation Maintenance Technician Airframe (AMA)	10,215	5.04%
8	FOI	Fundamentals of Instructing (FOI)	9,428	4.65%
9	FIA	Flight Instructor Airplane (FIA)	8,832	4.36%
10	ATM	Airline Transport Pilot Multiengine Airplane (ATM)	8,648	4.27%

**FAA mechanic testing accounts for over 16% of total FAA testing**





# PSI & FAA Testing Center Network

- **PSI Corporately Owned and Operated Facilities**
  - Currently 200 active PSI locations across the country.
    - 165 of these locations are being used on average over the last 12 months.
    - These locations account for 20% of overall test volume and are often located in major metropolitan areas
- **Third-Party Facilities**
  - Currently over 800 active locations across the country
    - 571 of these locations are being used on average over the last 12 months.
    - These locations account for 80% of overall test volume and are often located at general aviation airports, part 141 & 147 schools, universities, technical colleges, etc.
- **FAA Managed Military Testing Centers** (Located on U.S. military bases)
  - Currently around 62 locations
    - Only authorized applicants may test at these locations





# Goals & Benefits of ACTS?

Newly certificated airmen will be more knowledgeable and better equipped to operate in the NAS because the service will enable the FAA to:

- Assess an applicant's cognitive application of knowledge
- Reduce test question harvesting (memorizing and selling of test questions)
- Replace the FAA's antiquated test management system
- Replace the FAA's delivery system for military and international testing
- Leverage the FAA's resources in aviation certification to produce more knowledgeable airmen
- **Align airmen certification exams with academic testing standards to test for cognitive vs. rote memory, problem solving skills, and risk management behaviors**





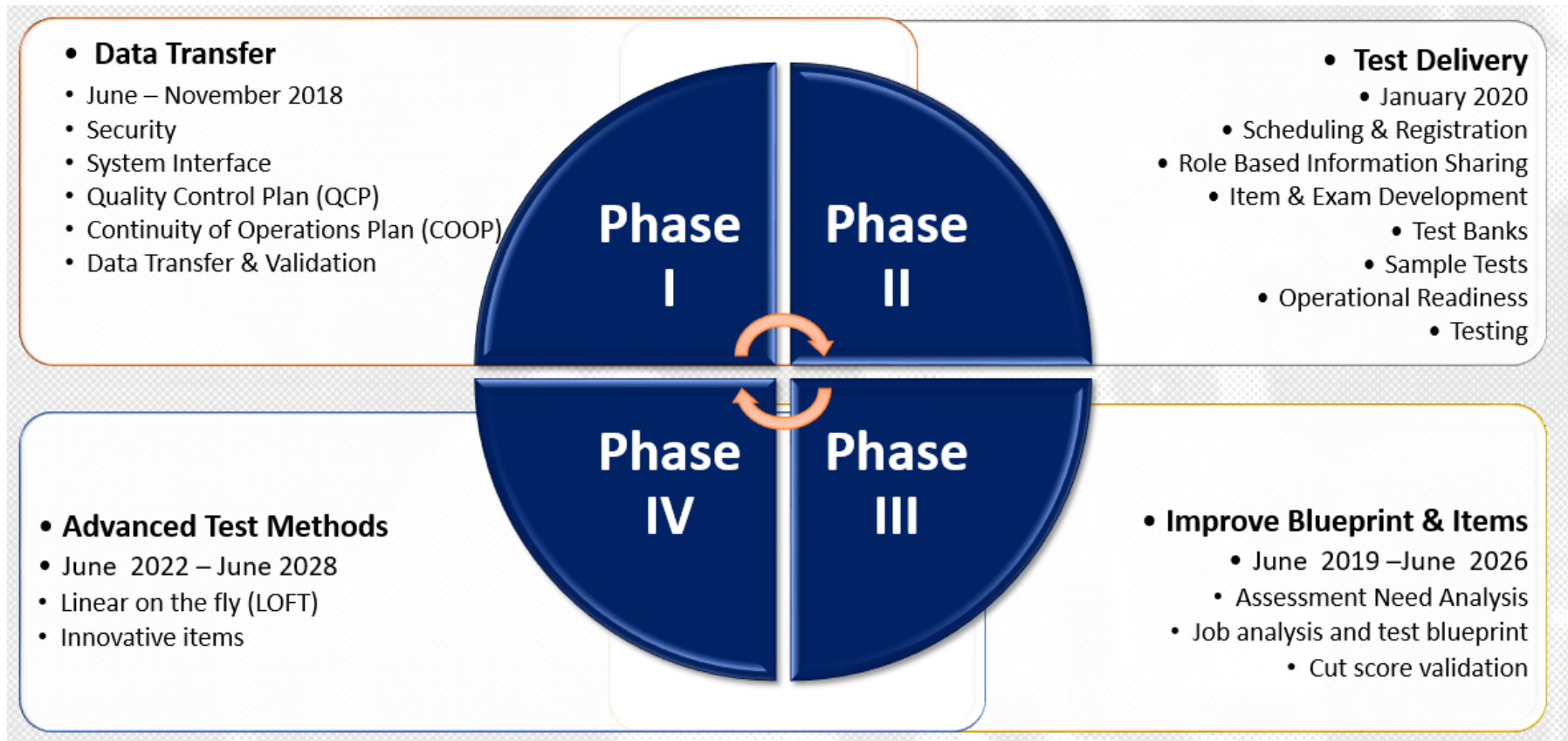
# Goals & Benefits of ACTS (cont.)

- Test development continuous improvement capabilities
- Implement advanced testing methods such as
  - Linear-on-the-Fly testing
  - Drag-and-Drop
  - Video and audio capabilities
  - Scenario-based testing and other advanced methods
- Provide enhanced quality performance metrics and reporting of system health to internal and industry stakeholders
  - Certification standard performance, question performance, test performance, topic performance
  - Identification of weak and strong areas of performance
- Utilize a systems approach to airman certification



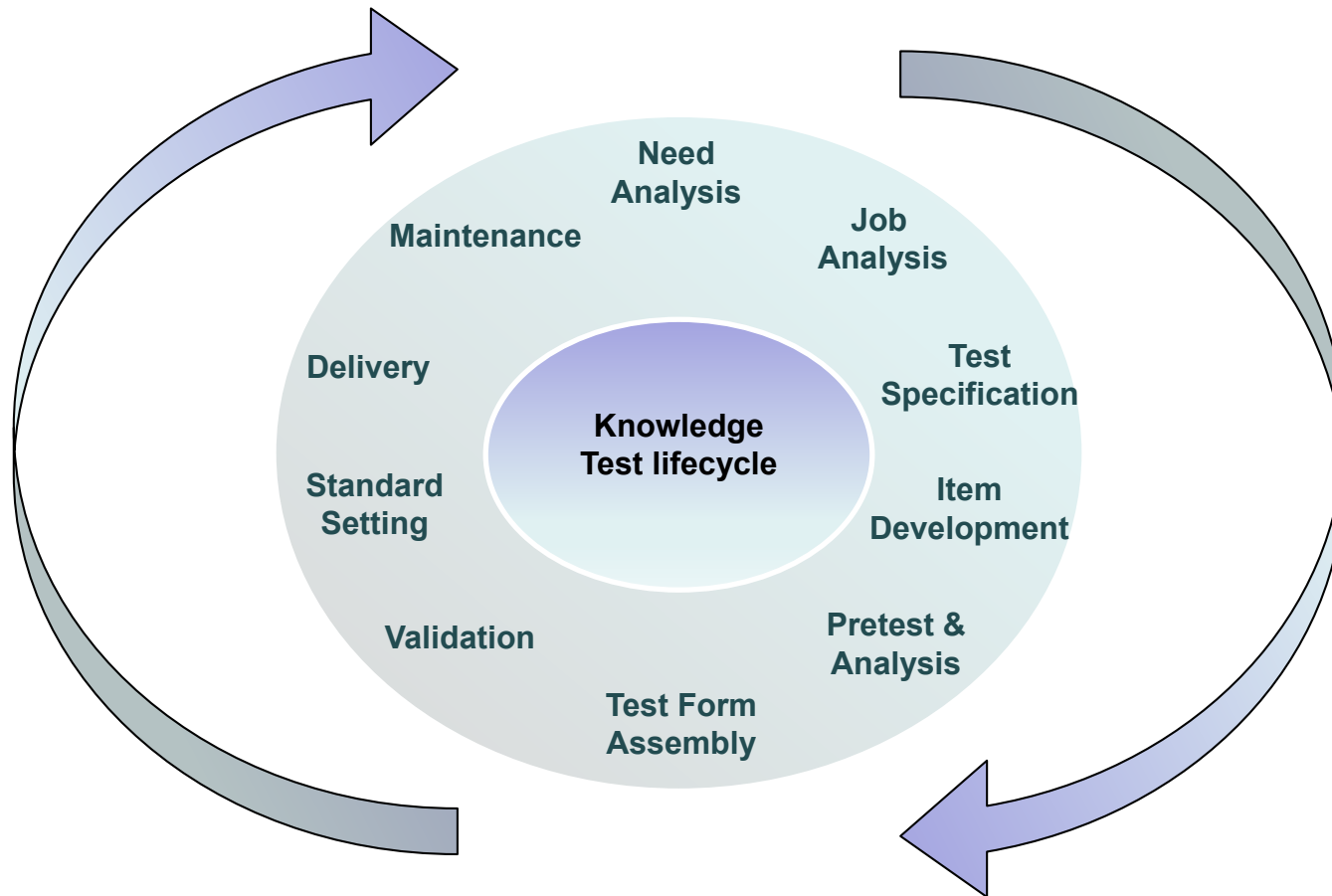


# ACTS Transition Phase Overview





# PSI Test Assessment Process





# FAA Airmen Knowledge Testing Matrix

## AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN: AIRFRAME, GENERAL, & POWERPLANT

*Airman Knowledge Testing Supplement for Aviation Maintenance Technician - General, Airframe, and Powerplant;  
and Parachute Rigger, FAA-CT-8080-4G (2018)*

TEST CODE	TEST NAME	NUMBER OF QUESTIONS	AGE	ALLOTTED TIME	PASSING SCORE
AMA	Aviation Maintenance Technician Airframe	100	N/A	2.0	70
AMG	Aviation Maintenance Technician General	60	N/A	2.0	70
AMP	Aviation Maintenance Technician Powerplant	100	N/A	2.0	70

[https://www.faa.gov/training\\_testing/testing/media/testing\\_matrix.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/media/testing_matrix.pdf)





# Who Does What in FAA Testing?

## What Does the FAA Do?

- **Test Development**
  - Write test questions
  - Manage, analyze, revise test questions
  - Create & manage test forms
  - Create & manage Airman Certification Standards (ACS) & Practical Test Standards (PTS)
  - Create & manage handbooks & supplement books
- **Test Delivery**
  - Manage all military testing centers
  - Oversee PSI's administration of knowledge tests at PSI testing centers





# Who Does What in FAA Testing? (cont.)

## What Does PSI Do?

- **Test Development**
  - Provide item banking technology & processes
  - Provide Psychometric expertise and leadership
  - Facilitation of test assessments
  - Provide advanced testing methods based on FAA needs and industry best practices.
- **Test Delivery**
  - Provide test registration, scheduling, and delivery technology used by testing applicants.
  - Provide testing center administration technology utilized by PSI personnel and FAA personnel managing military testing centers
  - Provide a network of testing centers and authorized personnel who administer FAA Airman Knowledge Tests.





# How ACTS Impacts Mechanics

- **Applicants must have a FAA Tracking Number (FTN) before taking any FAA knowledge test**
- **IACRA is only used for acquiring FTN**  
(Integrated Airmen Certification and Rating Application)
- **DMEs continue to send certification packages to Airman Certification as always.**
- **No Embossment on Knowledge Test Report**





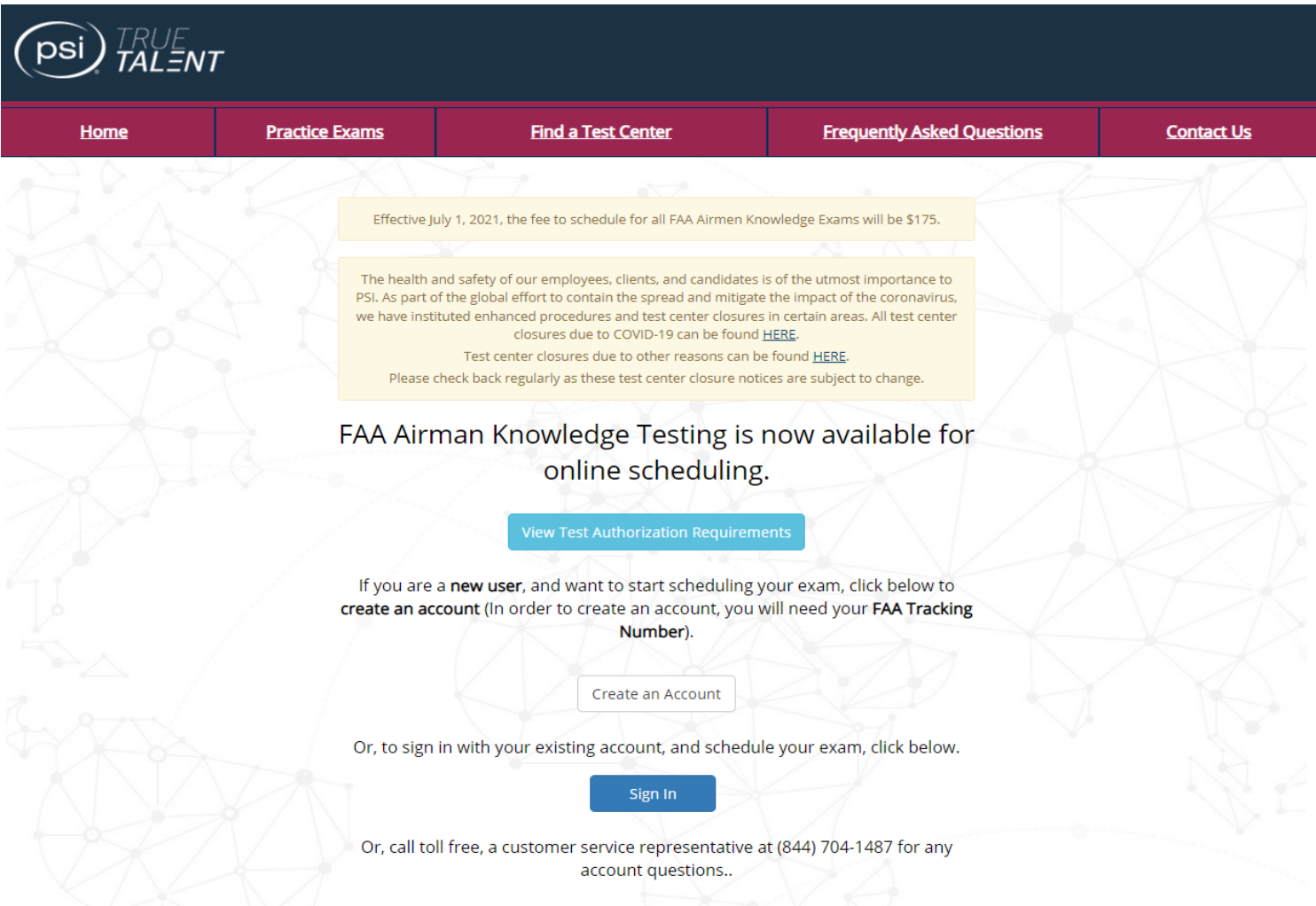
# Knowledge Test Scheduling Key Points

- 1. Create an account in IACRA to obtain an FTN.**
- 2. Create an account with PSI.**
- 3. Select test and testing center.**
- 4. Select an available time slot.**





# Test Registration & Scheduling



The screenshot shows the PSI True Talent website interface. At the top is a dark blue header with the PSI True Talent logo. Below it is a maroon navigation bar with links: Home, Practice Exams, Find a Test Center, Frequently Asked Questions, and Contact Us. The main content area has a light gray background with a network diagram. It features two yellow informational boxes. The first box states that as of July 1, 2021, the fee for all FAA Airmen Knowledge Exams is \$175. The second box discusses COVID-19 safety measures, including enhanced procedures and test center closures, with links to 'HERE' for more details. Below these boxes, a large heading announces that FAA Airman Knowledge Testing is now available for online scheduling. A blue button labeled 'View Test Authorization Requirements' is positioned below the heading. Further down, text instructs new users to create an account, noting that a FAA Tracking Number is required. A white button labeled 'Create an Account' is provided. Below this, text offers an alternative for existing users to sign in, with a blue button labeled 'Sign In'. At the bottom of the main content area, text provides a toll-free number (844) 704-1487 for customer service questions.

psi TRUE TALENT

Home Practice Exams Find a Test Center Frequently Asked Questions Contact Us

Effective July 1, 2021, the fee to schedule for all FAA Airmen Knowledge Exams will be \$175.

The health and safety of our employees, clients, and candidates is of the utmost importance to PSI. As part of the global effort to contain the spread and mitigate the impact of the coronavirus, we have instituted enhanced procedures and test center closures in certain areas. All test center closures due to COVID-19 can be found [HERE](#).

Test center closures due to other reasons can be found [HERE](#).

Please check back regularly as these test center closure notices are subject to change.

FAA Airman Knowledge Testing is now available for online scheduling.

[View Test Authorization Requirements](#)

If you are a **new user**, and want to start scheduling your exam, click below to **create an account** (In order to create an account, you will need your **FAA Tracking Number**).

[Create an Account](#)

Or, to sign in with your existing account, and schedule your exam, click below.

[Sign In](#)

Or, call toll free, a customer service representative at (844) 704-1487 for any account questions..





# Test Registration & Scheduling (cont.)



## Privacy Act Statement (5 U.S.C. § 552a, as amended):

**Authority:** Information solicited by Assessment Technology and License Administration System Aviation (ATLAS) is under the authority of [49 U.S. Code § 44703](#) and [14 CFR Part 61.35](#).

**Purpose:** The ATLAS is used to support the scheduling and administration of the Airman Knowledge Test (AKT) to aviation industry individuals e.g., pilots, parachute riggers, drone operators, airline engineers and inspectors) seeking a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification. ATLAS collects the name, FAA Tracking Number, email address, date of birth, phone number, city, state, zip code, and country, citizenship. The information is used to create an ATLAS Aviation account in order to schedule and administer the AKTs to individuals seeking a FAA certification. The date of birth is used to determine if an examinee is age eligible for the AKT they are selecting to take. Additionally, ATLAS scans and maintains a copy of government issued photo identification that is used to verify the identity of the examinee. Additionally, the government issued photo identification may be shared internally upon request to investigate potential fraudulent activities.

**Routine Uses:** The information collected by ATLAS is shared in accordance with the Privacy Act system of records notice [DOT/FAA 847 - Aviation Records on Individuals - 75 FR 68849 - November 9, 2010](#). The Department has also published 14 additional routine uses applicable to all DOT Privacy Act systems of records. These routine uses are published in the Federal Register at 75 FR 82132, December 29, 2010, and 77 FR 42796, July 20, 2012, under "Prefatory Statement of General Routine Uses" (available at <http://www.transportation.gov/privacy/privacyactnotices>).

**Disclosure:** Submission of this data is voluntary. Incomplete submission may result in delay or denial of your request.

## Verify Your Eligibility

An Integrated Airman Certification and Rating Application (IACRA), which includes your FAA Tracking Number (FTN), is required, in order to continue. The information entered must be an exact match with the information in IACRA.

The IACRA Website is the only source for creating or locating your FAA Tracking Number. [Click here to go to the IACRA website.](#)

FAA Tracking Number *required*

First Name *required*


Last Name *required*

Continue





# Find a Test Center



[Home](#)[Practice Exams](#)[Find a Test Center](#)[Frequently Asked Questions](#)[Contact Us](#)

## Find a Test Center

Postal Code required

Country required

Distance  
 Mi Km

Exam required

Search


Definitions M - Military Test Site

Test Site	Distance	Address	
PSI Examination Services-Arlington (Dallas)	5 Miles	<a href="#">2401 East Randol Mill Road, Suite 160 Arlington, TX 76011</a>	<a href="#">Directions</a>
Jet Test	5 Miles	<a href="#">2300 Valley View Lane - Ste 250 Irving, TX 75062</a>	<a href="#">Directions</a>
Aviation Institute of Maintenance-Irving	5 Miles	<a href="#">400 E. Airport Freeway Irving, TX 75062</a>	<a href="#">Directions</a>
A.T.P. Jet Simulation, Inc.	5 Miles	<a href="#">2800 Valley View Suite 180B Irving, TX 75062</a>	<a href="#">Directions</a>
PSI Examination Services-Dallas	10 Miles	<a href="#">1140 Empire Central Dr, Suite 610 Dallas, TX 75247</a>	<a href="#">Directions</a>
CRB Testing Center	11 Miles	<a href="#">3240 South Great Southwest Parkway Grand Prairie, TX 75052</a>	<a href="#">Directions</a>
Aviator Air Flight School	11 Miles	<a href="#">3122 S Great Southwest Parkway Grand Prairie, TX 75052</a>	<a href="#">Directions</a>
A.T.P. Inc. - DFW	12 Miles	<a href="#">5400 South Collins Street Arlington, TX 76018</a>	<a href="#">Directions</a>
American Flyers South	16 Miles	<a href="#">4650 Airport Parkway Addison, TX 75001</a>	<a href="#">Directions</a>
American Flyers (Addison)	16 Miles	<a href="#">16151 Addison Road Addison, TX 75001</a>	<a href="#">Directions</a>
US Sport Aircraft	16 Miles	<a href="#">4700 Airport Parkway Addison, TX 75001</a>	<a href="#">Directions</a>
A.T.P., Inc. - ADS	16 Miles	<a href="#">4453 Glenn Curtiss Drive Addison, TX 75001</a>	<a href="#">Directions</a>
Marcair Inc	17 Miles	<a href="#">13825 Aviator Way Suite 100 Fort Worth, TX 76177</a>	<a href="#">Directions</a>
Pro Test	18 Miles	<a href="#">201 American Concourse, Suite L10 Fort Worth, TX 76106</a>	<a href="#">Directions</a>





# PSI Practice Tests



[Home](#)[Practice Exams](#)[Find a Test Center](#)[Frequently Asked Questions](#)[Contact Us](#)

Unsure of which exam you need to take? Please contact your local [FAA Flight Standards District Office \(FSDO\)](#) or [FAA International Field Office \(IFO\)](#) for more information.

Exam	Category	
Aircraft Dispatcher (ADX)	Aircraft Dispatcher, Airline Transport Pilot, & Flight Navigator	<a href="#">Select</a>
Airline Transport Pilot Helicopter (135) (ATH)	Aircraft Dispatcher, Airline Transport Pilot, & Flight Navigator	<a href="#">Select</a>
Airline Transport Pilot Multiengine Airplane (ATM)	Aircraft Dispatcher, Airline Transport Pilot, & Flight Navigator	<a href="#">Select</a>
Airline Transport Pilot Single Engine Airplane (135) (ATS)	Aircraft Dispatcher, Airline Transport Pilot, & Flight Navigator	<a href="#">Select</a>
Aviation Maintenance Technician Airframe (AMA)	Aviation Maintenance Technician	<a href="#">Select</a>
Aviation Maintenance Technician General (AMG)	Aviation Maintenance Technician	<a href="#">Select</a>
Aviation Maintenance Technician Powerplant (AMP)	Aviation Maintenance Technician	<a href="#">Select</a>
Commercial Pilot Airplane (CAX)	Commercial Pilot & Military Competence	<a href="#">Select</a>
Flight Instructor Airplane (FIA)	Instructor: Flight, Ground, & Sport Pilot	<a href="#">Select</a>
Fundamentals of Instruction (FOI)	Instructor: Flight, Ground, & Sport Pilot	<a href="#">Select</a>
Ground Instructor (Advanced) (AGI)	Instructor: Flight, Ground, & Sport Pilot	<a href="#">Select</a>
Inspection Authorization (IAP)	Inspection Authorization	<a href="#">Select</a>





# Mechanic School Data Collection

**School info is provided by the airman at the time of test registration**

**School Or Experience**

Choose either "School" if you have completed your training at a Aviation Maintenance Technician School, or "Other" if you have accomplished an appropriate ground-training or home-study course for the certificate or rating sought.

☒ **School**      ☐ **Other**


**Country**

United States ▼

**State**

Oklahoma ▼

**Pilot School**

o 

METRO-TECH AVIATION CAREER CENTER () (OKLAHOMA CITY, OK); Certificate Number: BE9T031R

TULSA TECHNOLOGY CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 18 (TULSA TECHNOLOGY CENTER) (TULSA, OK); Certificate Number: BF9T032R

GORDON COOPER TECHNOLOGY CENTER () (SHAWNEE, OK); Certificate Number: BG9T033R

SPARTAN EDUCATION LLC (SPARTAN COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS AND TECHNOLOGY) (TULSA, OK); Certificate Number: CB9T054R

CANADIAN VALLEY TECHNOLOGY CENTER () (EL RENO, OK); Certificate Number: VLT036R

SOUTHWEST TECHNOLOGY CENTER () (ALTUS, OK); Certificate Number: XW5T078K

CHERRY CREEK SCHOOLS () (OKC, OK); Certificate Number: 3R4T637P





# Test Question Display Example

When referencing resistance in a parallel DC circuit, which of the following statements is true?

- ☐ A. The current in amperes can be found by dividing the source voltage in volts by the sum of the resistors in ohms.
- ☐ B. The total current is equal to the sum of the currents through the individual branches of the circuit.
- ☐ C. The current is equal in all portions of the circuit.

Leave Comments

Submit Cancel



Exit

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Calculator

Comment

Time

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# Frequently Asked Questions





# Frequently Asked Questions #1

**Q: How does my organization become a testing center?**

**A:**

Business entities interested in partnering with PSI for the administration of FAA Airman Knowledge Tests can start by applying directly with PSI on their main PSI website.

<https://www.psionline.com/test-delivery/apply-now>





# Frequently Asked Questions #2

**Q: Does the FAA select and approve testing centers?**

**A:**

No, The FAA does not get involved with any testing center selections made by PSI.





# Frequently Asked Questions #3

**Q: What factors does PSI look for when selecting a testing center partner?**

**A:**

PSI will select testing center partners based on a variety of factors that help determine if the partnership is suitable and value-added to the aviation community. Factors that go into this include sustainable test volume projections, schedule/availability to offer testing, proposed testing room configuration, surveillance, specific testing needs in the area, as well as if PSI can adequately support and manage the proposed partnership.

\*Not an inclusive list of qualifications





# Frequently Asked Questions #4

**Q: What is the PSI voucher system and how do I sign up?**

**A:**

Test vouchers are designed to offer flexibility to larger organizations to purchase AKTs on behalf of its constituents. PSI implemented this program in 2018 as a strategy to help the aviation community.

Examples of organizations taking advantage of the voucher flexibility include aviation high schools and workforce development agencies (governmental and/or not-for-profit).





# Frequently Asked Questions #5

**Q: What is the cost to take an FAA Airman Knowledge Test?**

**A: Current cost is \$175.**

Regular price adjustments are evaluated every three years which last occurred in 2021. Non-scheduled price evaluations can occur when significant changes are made to the Contract Statement of Work resulting in the need to make an equitable adjustment in the contract.





# Frequently Asked Questions #6

**Q: Why are Airman Knowledge Tests so expensive?**

**A:**

The current testing fee for FAA Airman Knowledge Tests are significantly less than the national average for high-stakes proctored testing. Average national testing prices range from \$500 to \$715 per test depending upon the level of qualification.





# ACTS Contact Info & Additional Info

## PSI Main Webpage

- Applicant account creation
- Testing center search
- Sample tests
- On-line test scheduling
- Payment

<https://faa.psiexams.com/FAA/login>

## Airman Testing (AFS-630)

[https://www.faa.gov/training\\_testing/testing/](https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/)

## ACTS

[https://www.faa.gov/training\\_testing/testing/ACTS/](https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/ACTS/)

## Information for Mechanics

[https://www.faa.gov/training\\_testing/testing/acts/media/info\\_for\\_mechanics.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/acts/media/info_for_mechanics.pdf)

## IACRA

<https://iacra.faa.gov/IACRA/Default.aspx>

## Submit Questions To

[AirmanKnowledgeTesting@faa.gov](mailto:AirmanKnowledgeTesting@faa.gov)





# Questions

