



# Master Instructors LLC

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## MASTER INSTRUCTOR ACCREDITATION

### “The Master Instructor Continuing Education Program™”

#### Master CFI (MCFI), Master CFI-Aerobatic (MCFI-A), Master Ground Instructor (MGI)

The Master Instructor designation is a national accreditation recognized by the FAA that may be earned by outstanding aviation educators. The designation is based on a system of advanced professional standards and peer review. It is granted by the Master Instructors LLC, the international Master Instructor accrediting authority, and serves a dual purpose. First, it identifies and publicly recognizes those Teachers of Flight who are demonstrating an ongoing commitment to excellence, professional growth, and service to the aviation community. Second, it sets a professional standard to which all aviation educators can aspire. To date, more than 1300 Master Instructor designations have been granted to more than 700 aviation educators worldwide.

The designation requires a rigorous process of continuing professional activity and, like a flight instructor certificate, must be renewed biennially. Unlike one-time awards for past achievements (i.e., Flight Instructor of the Year or a “Gold Seal” certificate), the Master Instructor designation acknowledges an individual’s continuing professional growth and involvement in a broad spectrum of aviation endeavors. Candidates must accumulate a minimum of 500 hours in five different activity categories over the course of 24 calendar months. Examples of representative activities are provided in the application package. Visit [www.MasterInstructors.org](http://www.MasterInstructors.org) for details.

The five categories of activities in which time must be devoted are as follows:

**EDUCATOR** - A Master Instructor is first and foremost an aviation educator, a Teacher of Flight.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION** - A Master Instructor must also be a student.

**SERVICE TO THE AVIATION COMMUNITY** - A Master Instructor offers professional services freely by doing *pro bono* activities for the good of the aviation community.

**CREATOR OF MEDIA** - A Master Instructor authors and shares information, ideas, methods, and original research through the use of various media forms.

**PARTICIPANT** - A Master Instructor is always learning and increasing his/her knowledge base.

Candidates must accumulate a minimum of 500 creditable hours during the 24-calendar months prior to issuance of the Master Instructor designation. The required minimum of 500 hours must meet the following criteria: **A)** at least 250 hours must come from at least two different **EDUCATOR** category activities, **B)** at least 30 hours from at least two different activities must come from *each* of the **CONTINUING EDUCATION**, **SERVICE**, **MEDIA**, and **PARTICIPANT** categories, **C)** the remaining hours needed to equal 500 hours are considered electives and can come from any of the five categories. If applying for a MCFI-A designation, at least half of the 500 hours must be aerobatic in nature.

Initially, the designation was available only to certificated flight instructors (CFIs). The program has since been significantly expanded. For example, applicants may now earn a gold seal certificate and / or renew flight instructor certificates under *FAR 61.197 (a) (2) (iii)* by earning the accreditation. In addition, specific designations recognize aerobatic and ground instructors. To qualify for the Master CFI - Aerobatic (MCFI-A) designation, at least half of the minimum total hours must come from aerobatic activities and at least half of the minimum hours from each of the four categories must be aerobatic in nature. The MCFI-A candidate must be a member of the International Aerobatic Club (IAC). Applicants wishing to renew flight instructor certificates and/or Part 141 chief / assistant chief status using their accreditation should submit complete and properly documented portfolios at least 45 days in advance of their CFI expiration date.

### Minimum Eligibility Requirements

Candidates must meet the following eligibility requirements. A candidate must:

- subscribe to and abide by an aviation educator's Code of Ethics;
- be of good moral character [*i.e.*, FAR 61.153(c)];
- have demonstrated involvement and leadership in the local aviation community;
- have Internet and e-mail access;
- have held, **for a minimum of 48-calendar months (4 yrs)**, a valid FAA/ICAO-issued Ground Instructor Certificate, if applying for a MGI designation;
- have held, **for a minimum of 48-calendar months (4 yrs)**, a valid FAA/ICAO-issued Flight Instructor Certificate, if applying for a MCFI or MCFI-A designation ***OR***
- have held, **for a minimum of 24-calendar months (2 yrs)**, a valid FAA-issued Flight Instructor Certificate ***and*** a Gold Seal, if applying for a MCFI or MCFI-A designation.  
(*the Board of Review may make rulings outside these guidelines for good cause*)

At a press conference held during EAA's annual AirVenture convention in Oshkosh, FAA Administrator Barry Valentine offered the following endorsement of the Master Instructor program:

*"The FAA is pleased to see that industry is taking its own steps to raise the quality and professionalism within the flight instructor community. The Hills are to be commended for putting together a detailed program in the form of the Master Instructor designation that will truly enhance the abilities of dedicated instructors everywhere."*

The Master Instructor designation has grown from very humble beginnings to a nationally recognized - and highly coveted – credential. The following statistical analysis provides a sense of the quality and diversity of these aviation educators, these Teachers of Flight, who have earned the “Master” title.

- 72% participate in the FAA Wings program
- 55% are FAA Aviation Safety Counselors / FAAS Team reps
- 38% hold a Gold Seal flight instructor certificate
- 39% hold an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) certificate
- 13% are FAA or industry pilot examiners
- 74% hold one or more ground instructor ratings
- 52% hold advanced and instrument ground instructor ratings
- 15% are women (*compared to 6.0% of all pilots and 6.7% of all CFIs*)
- 49 different states and 7 foreign countries represented
- 5 hold all 7 flight instructor ratings
- 2 hold all 5 ATPs
- 2 National Seaplane Pilots of the Year
- 1 National Flight Instructor Hall of Fame inductee
- 17 National Flight Instructors of the Year
- 6 National Aviation Safety Counselors / FAAS Team reps of the Year
- 1 National AMT of the Year
- Dozens of local and regional CFIs of the Year
- Dozens of local and regional ASCs / FAAS Team reps of the Year

Master Instructors teach in high schools, colleges, universities, flight schools, and as independents. They instruct in single engine and multiengine aircraft, seaplanes, helicopters, gyroplanes, ultralights, gliders, aerobatic aircraft, home-builts, light sport aircraft, warbirds, simulators, and classrooms.

For additional information, please contact Master Instructors LLC at **303-485-8136** or [MasterInstrs@aol.com](mailto:MasterInstrs@aol.com) Application packets in **MS Word** format and in **PDF** “fill-in-the-blanks” format can be downloaded from [www.MasterInstructors.org](http://www.MasterInstructors.org)