

Aerobatics & Unusual Attitude Frequently Asked Questions

1: Q: Do I need a Private Pilot Certificate to take the Aerobatics or Unusual attitudes course?

A: No, you can take these courses anytime, although we think you would progress faster and gain more from the course if you already have at least a Private Certificate.

2: Q: Do you have aerobatic package deals at a fixed price?

A: While we do have courses in aerobatics, unusual attitudes, spin training and tail wheel training, we do not offer fixed-price training. Given the variations in weather conditions and pilot aptitude, we think it's best for each pilot to learn at their own pace.

3: Q: Do you provide parachutes for your training in the Decathlon?

A: Yes.

4: Q: Can you train me in my own airplane?

A: It depends, but usually yes. Please call us for specifics.

5: Q: How often should I schedule my aerobatic training.

A: Ideally, people learn best when their lessons are closely spaced, so we recommend scheduling no less than once a week. On the other hand, whilst aerobatics is not the physically challenging flying that many people think it is, pilots will become more fatigued learning aerobatics than other flying activities, so we recommend that you schedule no more than twice a day. In the final analysis, you need to balance your aerobatic training with the rest of your commitments, and we will train you as often or as seldom as you wish.

6: Q: What should I eat before an aerobatic flight?

A: Please eat a normal meal. Flying on too empty a stomach leads to low blood glucose levels, increasing your likelihood of disorientation, whereas flying on too full a stomach lowers your blood pressure, with much the same end result. Finally, we recommend you stay away from sodas immediately prior to your flight.

7: Q: Should I come early on my first lesson?

A: Yes, please arrive approximately 1/2 hour before the time you are scheduled to meet with the instructor, so you may complete our student application form and the watch Parachute Operations and Decathlon Preflight VHS videos.

8: Q: Do you offer aerobatic fun flights?

A: Yes, we most certainly do. This is an excellent way to be introduced to flying, or – for those who already fly – it's an excellent way to have fun and maybe even see if Aerobatics is for you. These also make a great gift, and we do offer gift certificates. For Aerobatic fun/intro flights, we schedule the aircraft and instructor for two hours; charge a flat rate equivalent to one hour of Decathlon flight training.

9: Q: Do you recommend any reading materials, and can these be obtained from you?

A: Yes, depending on which course you plan on flying, we recommend you read *Basic Aerobatics*, by G. Szurovy and M. Goulian, the *FAA Airplane Flying Handbook*, Section 13 (Tail wheel transition), *FAA Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge*, Sections 2 & 3 (Principles of flight).

10: Q: Can you email me a copy of your training syllabus and aircraft checklist?

A: Yes. Please specify which course, and we will happily email you an aircraft checklist and appropriate syllabus in PDF format.

11: Q: Do I have to go through TSA Alien Student Screening to take your Aerobatics/Unusual Attitudes, Spin and Tail wheel courses?

A: No. This is required only for those training for a certificate (e.g.: Private, Commercial) or rating (Instrument or multi-engine).