

CSP GROUND SCHOOL READING LIST, 2026

Session	Date	Subject	Machado	PHAK	Other
1	JAN 26	FARs	6	---	FAR/AIM
2	JAN 29	Principles of Flight Aircraft Components	--- 1	4 3, 6	
3	FEB 2	Aerodynamics of Lift	2	5	
4	FEB 5	Aerodynamics of Thrust & Drag	2	5	
5	FEB 9	Flight Instruments	5	8	
6	FEB 12	Airspace	9	15	
7	FEB 16	Airport Operations	7	14	
8	FEB 19	Charts	10	16	FAA Chart User Guide
9	FEB 23	Radio Navigation	11	16	
10	FEB 26	Weather Theory	12	12	
11	MAR 2	Weather Products and Briefings	13	13	
12	MAR 5	Aircraft Performance	15	11	
13	MAR 9	Weight and Balance	16	10	
14	MAR 12	Cross Country Flight Planning	14	16	
15	MAR 16	Flight Planning Exercise	---	---	
16	MAR 19	Engines Electrical Systems	3 4	7 7	
17	MAR 23	Aeromedical Factors Aeronautical Decisionmaking	17 17	17 2	
18	MAR 26	Bonus/Catch Up Becoming an AGI/CFI			Aviation Instructor Handbook

Note re: Machado textbook: The current version of Machado was released in January 2023 and is titled “Rod Machado’s Private and Commercial Pilot Handbook.” This supersedes his previous “Private Pilot Handbook Third Edition.” Helen has a few copies of the current edition in stock at CSP, but if you buy online you may find earlier versions offered. As far as I am concerned the PPL level content is practically identical so if you find a good deal go for it. The chapter numbering has not changed from the previous to the current edition.

There is no need to buy both Machado and the Pilot’s Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge (and no reason to buy a hard copy PHAK or FAR/AIM if you’re comfortable reading PDFs on a computer or mobile device). Choose the material that suits your learning style and preference. Aviation is expensive enough as it is!!