

FAA A&P; EXAM STUDY ROADMAP & CHECKLIST

A printable, step-by-step preparation path for the FAA Aviation Mechanic knowledge, oral, and practical examinations.

HOW TO USE THIS ROADMAP	Complete the boxes in order. Do not advance past a STOP GATE until the work above it is complete. Use the record fields to document scores, weak areas, appointments, and final readiness.
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SCOPE	Applicants preparing for General, Airframe, and/or Powerplant knowledge tests and the corresponding oral and practical examination.

DESTINATION

Arrive at the O&P; with passed knowledge tests, closed AKTR gaps, practiced oral explanations, rehearsed practical skills, and every required original document.

YOUR ROUTE AT A GLANCE

STEP	ACTION	OUTPUT
1	Confirm the test path	Required rating and test sequence identified
2	Map the ACS	Every applicable element assigned to the plan
3	Build knowledge	FAA source material studied by concept
4	Practice and test	Knowledge tests passed; reports secured
5	Close AKTR gaps	Every deficient ACS code reviewed
6	Rehearse oral work	Clear explanations delivered without notes
7	Rehearse practical work	Safe, data-driven tasks demonstrated
8	Complete final readiness	Documents, logistics, and exam standard confirmed

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- ☐ I understand that General must be taken first, followed by Airframe and/or Powerplant.
- ☐ I will use my full legal name consistently on identification, authorization, FTN, knowledge-test records, and DME paperwork.
- ☐ I will use FAA-S-ACS-1 as the controlling study map and verify that every reference is current.
- ☐ I understand that memorizing practice questions is not a substitute for knowledge, risk management, and skill proficiency.
- ☐ I will retain each original Airman Knowledge Test Report for the O&P; appointment.

STEP 1

CONFIRM THE TEST PATH

FINISH LINE: You know the rating sought, the tests required, and the documents that authorize you to test.

REQUIRED ACTIONS

- ☐ Select the rating sought: Airframe only, Powerplant only, or Airframe and Powerplant.
- ☐ Confirm the knowledge-test sequence: General (AMG) first, then Airframe (AMA) and/or Powerplant (AMP).
- ☐ Confirm your eligibility document: FAA Form 8610-2 authorization, qualifying AMTS document, or another form accepted by the current FAA testing matrix.
- ☐ Confirm that your identification and eligibility documents use the same full legal name.
- ☐ Review the current FAA testing matrix for identification, authorization, question count, time, and passing-score information.

RECORD YOUR PROGRESS

Rating sought	
Eligibility path	
Tests required	
Name match verified	

STOP GATE 1

Do not schedule a knowledge test until the required test path, identification, and authorization documents are confirmed.

STEP 2

MAP THE ACS AND SOURCE LIBRARY

FINISH LINE: Every applicable ACS element has a place in your study plan and an authoritative source.

REQUIRED ACTIONS

- ☐ Download the current FAA-S-ACS-1 Aviation Mechanic ACS and the FAA-G-ACS-1 Companion Guide.
- ☐ Mark every applicable knowledge, risk-management, and skill element for the rating sought.
- ☐ Create separate General, Airframe, and Powerplant study sections that follow the ACS sequence.
- ☐ Gather the current FAA-H-8083-30B, -31B, and -32B handbooks as applicable.
- ☐ Add current regulations, manufacturer instructions, maintenance manuals, service information, and advisory circulars used in your training environment.
- ☐ Mark which references may be used during practical work and remember that oral questions are answered without reference material.

RECORD YOUR PROGRESS

ACS edition checked

Companion Guide checked

Study sections created

Source library location

STOP GATE 2

Do not begin random question drilling. First connect each study subject to an applicable ACS element and a current source.

STEP 3

BUILD THE KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION

FINISH LINE: You can explain the major systems, regulations, inspection concepts, and maintenance decisions in your own words.

REQUIRED ACTIONS

- ☐ Study General subjects first, then the Airframe and/or Powerplant subjects required for the rating.
- ☐ For each system, explain purpose, components, normal operation, common faults, inspection points, and safety hazards.
- ☐ Practice calculations, drawings, charts, maintenance records, and regulatory scenarios instead of reading passively.
- ☐ Use the FAA handbooks for foundational concepts and current manufacturer data for product-specific procedures and limits.
- ☐ Keep a written weak-area log with the topic, missed concept, correct source, and corrective action.
- ☐ Teach difficult topics aloud without notes; inability to explain a concept identifies unfinished study.

RECORD YOUR PROGRESS

General completion date _____

Airframe completion date _____

Powerplant completion date _____

Weak-area log location _____

STOP GATE 3

Do not move to full practice tests until all required ACS subject areas have received an initial, source-based review.

STEP 4

PRACTICE, SCHEDULE, AND PASS KNOWLEDGE TESTS

FINISH LINE: Required knowledge tests are passed and each original AKTR is protected for the O&P.;

REQUIRED ACTIONS

- ☐ Complete timed, full-length practice tests under realistic conditions.
- ☐ Review every missed item against an FAA or other authoritative source; do not merely memorize the correct choice.
- ☐ Track scores by subject and continue focused review until performance is consistently strong.
- ☐ Schedule through the FAA/PSI portal and reconfirm the testing center, date, fee, identification, and authorization requirements.
- ☐ Bring the documents required by the current FAA testing matrix and follow the testing-center instructions.
- ☐ Pass each required knowledge test with at least 70 percent and inspect the AKTR for correct name, FTN, test code, date, and score.
- ☐ Retain every original AKTR and make secure backup copies.

RECORD YOUR PROGRESS

AMG date / score	
AMA date / score	
AMP date / score	
Original reports secured	

STOP GATE 4

Do not schedule or begin the O&P; until every required knowledge test is passed and the original AKTRs are available.

STEP 5

TURN EVERY AKTR CODE INTO A STUDY TASK

FINISH LINE: Every deficient knowledge area has been located in the ACS, reviewed, and explained correctly.

REQUIRED ACTIONS

- ☐ List every ACS code printed on each AKTR; combine duplicates without omitting any code.
- ☐ Locate each code in FAA-S-ACS-1 and record the associated subject, element, and reference.
- ☐ Return to the authoritative source and write a short explanation of the correct concept.
- ☐ Practice explaining each deficient area aloud without notes; the oral test includes these deficient areas plus additional randomly selected questions.
- ☐ Ask a qualified instructor or mechanic to challenge incomplete explanations and follow-up reasoning.
- ☐ Retain the completed AKTR remediation log with the rest of the O&P; preparation file.

RECORD YOUR PROGRESS

Number of unique codes	_____
Remediation completed	_____
Reviewer / instructor	_____
Final oral review date	_____

STOP GATE 5

Do not treat a passing knowledge-test score as completion. Every AKTR code must be closed before the oral examination.

STEP 6

REHEARSE THE ORAL EXAMINATION

FINISH LINE: You can answer directly, accurately, and without notes across every applicable subject area.

REQUIRED ACTIONS

- ☐ Practice oral questions from every applicable ACS subject area, not only the AKTR deficiencies.
- ☐ Answer in a complete sequence: identify the issue, state the governing principle, explain the reasoning, and name the controlling data when relevant.
- ☐ Use correct FAA and manufacturer terminology; define abbreviations instead of relying on shorthand.
- ☐ Practice limitations, inspection criteria, maintenance-record entries, return-to-service decisions, and risk controls.
- ☐ Say when information must be verified rather than inventing a number, limit, or procedure.
- ☐ Complete multiple uninterrupted mock oral sessions without notes and record weak areas after each session.

RECORD YOUR PROGRESS

Mock oral 1 date	_____
Mock oral 2 date	_____
Mock oral 3 date	_____
Remaining weak areas	_____

STOP GATE 6

Do not call oral preparation complete while answers depend on notes, memorized fragments, guessing, or unverified numbers.

STEP 7

REHEARSE PRACTICAL PERFORMANCE

FINISH LINE: You can plan, perform, inspect, and document practical work safely using acceptable data.

REQUIRED ACTIONS

- ☐ Practice locating applicable maintenance instructions, limitations, torque values, fits, clearances, and acceptable methods efficiently.
- ☐ Before each task, identify hazards, personal protective equipment, tool requirements, and product-protection measures.
- ☐ Follow the data step by step; control tools, hardware, parts, consumables, and foreign-object debris.
- ☐ Use measuring and test equipment correctly, including required setup, calibration awareness, units, and tolerance decisions.
- ☐ Inspect the completed work and determine whether an approval-for-return-to-service standard was achieved; explain when it was not.
- ☐ Practice complete and accurate maintenance-record entries for representative tasks.
- ☐ Use reference material during practical rehearsal while developing the ability to locate and apply it without delay.

RECORD YOUR PROGRESS

Hands-on review dates	
Data-location drill	
Record-entry review	
Instructor / reviewer	

STOP GATE 7

Do not rely on familiarity alone. Practical readiness requires safe execution, correct data use, inspection of the result, and defensible documentation.

STEP 8

COMPLETE FINAL READINESS AND EXAM-DAY PREPARATION

FINISH LINE: The DME has confirmed the appointment and you are ready to demonstrate the ACS standard.

REQUIRED ACTIONS

- ☐ Confirm with the DME the rating, date, start time, location, expected duration, fee, payment terms, cancellation policy, and retest policy.
- ☐ Obtain the DME's written list of original documents, identification, personal protective equipment, tools, and arrival instructions.
- ☐ Organize original FAA Form 8610-2 documents, each original passing AKTR, identification, and any supporting records requested by the DME.
- ☐ Confirm travel, lodging if needed, meals, medications, clothing, and contingency arrangements.
- ☐ During the final week, review weak areas and practice aloud; avoid replacing the study plan with last-minute cramming.
- ☐ On exam day, work safely and methodically, communicate clearly, use applicable data, and slow down to verify uncertainty.

RECORD YOUR PROGRESS

DME / contact	
Appointment date / time	
Fee / payment	
Documents confirmed	

STOP GATE 8

Do not travel to or begin the O&P; with missing originals, unresolved knowledge gaps, unclear logistics, or an unconfirmed examiner instruction.

FINAL READINESS CHECKLIST

Every box should be complete before the oral and practical examination begins.

- ☐ I know the rating sought and passed every required knowledge test in the correct sequence.
- ☐ My identification, FAA authorization, FTN, AKTRs, and DME paperwork use the same full legal name.
- ☐ I mapped every applicable FAA-S-ACS-1 element to my study plan.
- ☐ I studied current FAA handbooks, regulations, manufacturer information, and applicable maintenance data.
- ☐ I reviewed every missed practice item against an authoritative source.
- ☐ I retained each original passing AKTR and closed every listed ACS code.
- ☐ I can answer oral questions without notes across all applicable subject areas.
- ☐ I can locate and apply maintenance data efficiently during practical work.
- ☐ I can control hazards, use tools correctly, inspect the result, and document maintenance accurately.
- ☐ The DME confirmed the appointment, facility, fees, documents, equipment, and arrival instructions.
- ☐ My travel and contingency arrangements are complete.
- ☐ I am prepared to demonstrate safe judgment rather than guess when information must be verified.

STOP GATE FINAL

If any box is incomplete, stop and resolve it before committing to the examination.

FINAL RECORD

O&P; date _____

DME _____

Rating(s) tested _____

Result / follow-up _____

OFFICIAL LINKS & SCOPE

CLICKABLE FAA SOURCES

[FAA Aircraft Mechanic Oral, Practical, and Written Tests](#)

[FAA Airman Certification Standards and Aviation Mechanic Companion Guide](#)

[FAA-S-ACS-1 Aviation Mechanic ACS](#)

[FAA Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix](#)

[FAA Aviation Handbooks and Manuals](#)

[Electronic Code of Federal Regulations - Title 14](#)

[FAA/PSI Knowledge Testing Portal](#)

[FAA Designee Locator](#)

SCOPE AND DISCLAIMER

This roadmap summarizes public FAA requirements and testing guidance available on August 13, 2026. Regulations, current FAA policy, the current Airman Knowledge Testing Matrix, FAA-S-ACS-1, and examiner instructions control if this roadmap conflicts with an official source. Eligibility and authorization depend on the applicant's pathway. This educational checklist does not guarantee eligibility, testing availability, passing results, or certification.

Prepared by Jesse Hauch, FAA Designated Mechanic Examiner, for FAA-DME.com. Independent professional designee services. FAA-DME.com is not an official Federal Aviation Administration website.

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