

# WINGS Terminology

One of the challenges of using the WINGS program is understanding the terminology used.

The program is administered through the [FAASafety.gov](http://FAASafety.gov) website.

**Activity or task:** Activities (also referred to as tasks) are the individual knowledge or flight activities that you accomplish. Suitable activities can be searched for on the website.

Activities are segregated by up to three topic groups Knowledge topic 1, 2, & 3 and Flight topic 1, 2 & 3. Generally, you'll need one knowledge activity from each topic and one flight activity for each topic. Some activities can count for more than one, but many are specific as to which topic number they fall under. Knowledge-activities may consist of courses and/or seminars, either online or in person. One flight activity does not necessarily correlate to actual flights or hours, but the successful completion of the activity's contents to the standards of your certificate. See the next page for how subjects are assigned to activity numbers.

**Phase:** You'll see the term "a phase of wings." A phase of wings is a complete group of 3 knowledge and 3 flight topics. Your first time doing it will be called "phase 1." The number simply increases each time you complete it. In 10 years, if you've done it 13 times you'll be on phase 13.

Each activity is valid for 12 months. So, the activities to complete a phase of wings can be spread out over a year, and that is actually the preferred way to handle it, so that you are continually working on your skills.

Once completed, a phase of WINGS is valid for 12 months. This becomes a factor for a CFI renewing their certificate using WINGS activities, as they must have a current phase of WINGS when applying for CFI renewal on that basis. This is also a factor if you want to work on a higher *level* of WINGS, as the lower levels must be current to get credit for the higher ones.

One point that can be confusing here is that, when a phase of wings is completed – it is valid for **one** year. The completed phase also satisfies the requirements for a flight review under 61.56, and the flight review credit is good for **two** years.

**Wings Levels:** Basic, Advanced, Master: These are levels of WINGS.

- Basic items are directed at Private pilot skill level and cover many basics
- Advanced items It affords the pilot an opportunity, in concert with his/her instructor, to tailor a portion of the training to fit more specific needs of the individual while maintaining the requirement to demonstrate proficiency. These are done to commercial pilot standards
- Master is intended for more specialized training. These are done to ATP or CFI pilot standards.

Unfortunately, in the Glider world our choices of flight activities are quite limited compared to those for airplanes.

Everyone must start at the Basic level. Advanced and Master levels can not be credited unless the lower level(s) are also completed and are still current. There is no requirement to complete Advanced or Master levels.

All WINGS activities are tracked on the website. As a result, the My Wings page shows a history timeline and progress displays, as well as There's no need to dig through your logbook to see where you are.

Activities are assigned to topics numbers according to the following scheme:

**Basic Level:**

- ☐ Knowledge 1 - Aeronautical Decision Making
- ☐ Knowledge 2 - Performance and Limitations
- ☐ Knowledge 3 – Preflight Planning, Risk Management, and Fuel Management
- o Alternate - Other Subjects
- ☐ Flight 1 - Takeoffs and Landings
- ☐ Flight 2 - Positive Aircraft Control
- ☐ Flight 3 - Basic Flying Skills

**Advanced Level:**

- ☐ Knowledge 1 – Preflight Planning
- ☐ Knowledge 2 – Other Subjects
- ☐ Knowledge 2 – Other Subjects
- ☐ Flight 1 – Category/Class Specific causal factors
- ☐ Flight 2 – Category/Class Specific causal factors
- ☐ Flight 2 – Category/Class Specific causal factors

**Master Level:**

- ☐ Knowledge 1 - Preflight Planning and More
- ☐ Knowledge 2 - Other Subjects
- ☐ Knowledge 2 - Other Subjects
- ☐ Flight 1 - Category/Class Specific causal factors
- ☐ Flight 2 - Category/Class Specific causal factors
- ☐ Flight 2 - Category/Class Specific causal factors

The full list of activities shown as “other subjects” can be found in the Wings User Guide at:

[https://www.faa.gov/documents/Wings\\_Manual.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/documents/Wings_Manual.pdf)