

Advanced Drone Course – Sales FAQ

Quick answers for fielding client questions. Internal reference for the SSM sales and marketing team.

DURATION	FEE	AGES	INCLUDES
2 days, in person	\$750 / person	16+	Flight review + drones

What is the Advanced Drone Course?

A 2-day, in-person course that prepares students for the Transport Canada Pilot Certificate – Advanced Operations. It covers the full Transport Canada syllabus (TP 15263) with hands-on flying, and the required flight review is included.

Who is it for?

Anyone flying for work: construction, inspections, utilities, agriculture, real estate, media, safety professionals, agricultural professionals, search and rescue and first responders. Also, serious hobbyists who want to fly near cities and airports (and more).

Do students need experience or a Basic certificate first?

No. No experience or prior certificate is needed; the course covers Basic material too. Students must be 16 or older for advanced and 14 for basic.

Do students need their own drone?

No. Prairie Drone Academy provides the drones, including first-person view (FPV) and thermal models. Students are welcome to bring their own.

What does the Advanced certificate allow?

Flying in controlled airspace (near airports and in many urban areas) with NAV CANADA authorization and operating closer to or over people with eligible drones. It is the certificate clients and employers expect for professional drone work, and it is valid across Canada.

How is the certificate earned?

Students pass Transport Canada's online Advanced exam (50 questions, 80% to pass), then complete an in-person flight review with a Transport Canada-certified flight reviewer (our instructors). The flight review (\$250 value) is included in the course fee.

What does it cost?

\$750 per person, for the advanced which includes the flight review. Group and on-site pricing are quoted on request. A small exam fee (\$10.17) and certificate fee (\$25.43) is paid directly to Transport Canada. \$375 for the basic.

Where and when is it offered?

Courses will be held at SSM in Winnipeg (unless otherwise posted) and will be displayed on our website and advertised via the website, email and social media.

Can we book it for our company?

Yes. Both open group and closed group training options are available (minimum requirements for closed). Pricing depends on group size and needs. Contact Al or Stacey for a quote.

Does the certificate expire?

It does not expire, but Transport Canada requires pilots to complete a recency activity every 24 months. Prairie Drone Academy offers flight reviews (\$150 for alumni) and recurrent course training to keep pilots current.

What if a student needs BVLOS or heavier drones?

Beyond visual line-of-sight (BVLOS) work and drones up to 150 kg require the Level 1 Complex certificate. Prairie Drone Academy offers that course (\$1,500, 18+, Advanced exam required first).

Who teaches the course?

Al Gall and Stacey Pakula, both Professional RPAS Instructors, Certified Flight Reviewers and CASARA search-and-rescue crew. Al is a career RCAF Air Traffic Controller and private pilot; Stacey brings emergency management and OHS expertise. The school is Canadian veteran-owned and family-operated, with 30+ years in aviation and instruction.

When in doubt, refer to PDA: regulatory or legal questions, custom group quotes, funding or invoicing, and specific drone models. Please don't guess; our team will call the client back.