How to Get a Student Pilot Certificate (Power and Glider)
And
How to Get a Medical Certificate (Power Only)

Am I eligible for a student pilot certificate?

You are eligible if:

- You are at least 16 years old. If you plan to pilot a glider or balloon, you must be at least 14 years old
- You can read, speak, and understand English

When you fill out the application, you will also need to provide proof of identity, such as government-issued photo ID

Student Pilot Certificate:

In order to get a student pilot certificate, you'll need to complete an application through the Integrated Airman Certification and Rating Application (IACRA) website. Any FAA-designated pilot examiner, an airman certification representative associated with a part 141 flight school, or a certificated flight instructor can assist you with the application. Completion of the IACRA form will require you to complete basic information and provide verification data to one of the authorizing individuals mentioned above. The authorizer will verify the information and return the file electronically to you to complete. This is a 3 step process, and until all 3 steps are complete, the application is not finalized. A temporary certificate valid for 120 days will be available on line in less than a week after application. A permanent plastic student pilot certificate will be mailed to the address provided by you on the application thereafter. **A permanent student pilot certificate (which never expires) or an unexpired temporary certificate (valid for 120 days) is required in order to solo any aircraft.**

Step 1: Fill out the application:

- Register for IACRA and fill out the application:
  https://iacra.faa.gov/IACRA/Default.aspx

Step 2: Find someone to verify your identity and help you submit the application:

- Find a Part 141 flight school here: http://av-info.faa.gov/PilotSchool.asp
- Find a Part 61 flight school or individual flight instructor here:
  http://www.aopa.org/learntofly/school/schoolresults.cfm
- Find the nearest Designated Pilot Examiner here:
  http://av-info.faa.gov/DesigneeSearch.asp
- Find the nearest Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) here:
  http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/field_offices/fsdo/
- Any individual certified flight instructor (CFI) can also verify your identity and help you submit the application. There is surely a CFI in your Wing who can support you. This is likely the best and easiest avenue to use

Previously-held Student Pilot Certificates:
If you held a student pilot certificate prior to April 1, 2016, it will remain valid until it expires, either 24 or 60 months after the month of the date of issuance

Medical Certificate:
The process for getting a medical certificate is to make an appointment with the nearest Aviation Medical Examiner (AME). A database of AMEs is located here: http://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/medical_certification. Inform the Doctor that you are seeking an FAA Third Class Medical Certificate. You will be directed to make your application using the Med Express system prior to your appointment. Bring the Med Express file number with you to the appointment. Med Express is located at the same URL mentioned above. Make your appointment early as it could take up to 4 weeks to make an appointment. And if there is ANY questionable medical issue, the application could be deferred to a more senior Flight Surgeon, which will add even more time to your application. **Making an appointment 90 days or more in advance of Flight Academy start is certainly not too early to start!**

Take aways:

1. **Start the license and medical processes NOW**
2. **Contact a Flight Instructor in your unit or Wing to assist you**
3. **Do both NOW, its never too early but is frequently too late!**