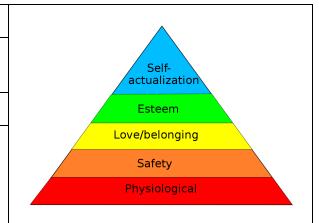
# **Human Behavior and Effective Communication**

# **Objective**

To ensure the applicant learns the elements of human behavior and effective communication.

## **Purpose**

Every time a CFI interacts with a student during a lesson, the elements of human behavior are at work. This lesson will teach aspiring CFIs to recognize some of the causes and motivations for student behavior, and help them understand strategies for communicating with students more effectively.



Schedule	Equipment

• Student Q&A: 10 minutes

Ground Lesson: 30 minutes

• Whiteboard / Markers (optional)

## **Student Actions**

- Ask any questions, receive study material for the next lesson.
- Watch linked video.
- Review listed references.

## **Instructor Actions**

- Deliver the ground lesson (below).
- Answer student questions.

## **Completion Standards**

- Student can explain the following concepts:
  - Human Behavior
  - Human Needs and Motivation, Maslow's Hierarchy
  - The Defense Mechanisms
  - Basic Elements of Communication, Barriers to Communication
  - How to Develop Communication Skills

#### References

- FLY8MA.com Flight Training "CFI ORAL EXAM: Part 1 | FOI"
  - YouTube <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lxiQeh0FFl">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lxiQeh0FFl</a>
- FAA-H-8083-9A (Aviation Instructor's Handbook) Chapter 1 [Human Behavior], Chapter 3 [Effective Communication]
- FAA-S-8081-6D (CFI PTS) Area I Task A

#### **Ground Lesson Outline**

- Human Behavior
  - Product of factors that lead people to act in predictable ways, attempts to satisfy certain needs
- Human Needs and Motivation
  - Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs
    - Physiological, Safety/Security, Love/Belonging, Esteem, Self-Actualization
- Defense Mechanisms
  - Denial, Repression, Displacement, Rationalization, Compensation, Projection, Reaction Formation, Fantasy
- Student Emotional Reactions
  - Anxietv
  - Stress
  - Normal and Abnormal Reactions to Stress
    - Stress, Anxiety
    - Abnormal Reactions
      - Flight Instructor Responsibilities
- Basic Elements of Communication
  - Source, Symbol, Receiver
- Barriers to Effective Communication
  - Confusion (symbols/symbolized object), Lack of common experience, Interference, Overuse of Abstractions
- Developing Communication Skills
  - o Listening, Questions, Instructional Communication, Instructional Enhancement, Roleplaying
  - o Instructional Communication
    - Subjects the instructor knows well, use past experiences, ensure student knows the how and the why

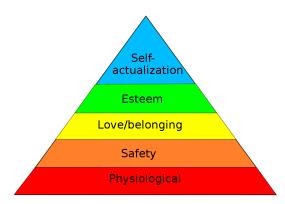
# **Ground Lesson Content**

#### Human Behavior

- Product of factors that lead people to act in predictable ways
- Attempts to satisfy certain needs

#### Human Needs and Motivation

 Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs - Needs must be met in order of importance. Can impede learning if basic needs are not met.



- **Physiological** Hunger, thirst, need to use restroom, etc.
- Safety/Security Not feeling physically threatened, out of work, homeless, etc.
- **Love/Belonging** Both at home and in the flight instructing environment, students need to feel a sense of belonging.
- Esteem Many things students do is aimed at satisfying the need for self-esteem or group esteem. Learning to fly can impress friends, for example, or provide the student with a feeling of well being and accomplishment.
- **Self-Actualization** The pinnacle of all needs, the feeling that one is doing what they were meant to do, or serving some other higher purpose.
- **Defense Mechanisms** Used by students who want to avoid some uncomfortable realities
  - o **Denial** Denying what has occurred, e.g. "I don't think the landing was that bad"
  - Repression Repressing scary or stressful memories, e.g. the student causes a near-spin and fails to remember it after the lesson.
  - Displacement Redirecting negative feelings towards another, e.g. being angry at your friends or family because you're disappointed in your own purpose.
  - o Rationalization Making excuses, e.g. "Well ATC was just distracting me, so it was ok", etc.
  - Compensation Trying to compensate for negative performance by emphasizing positive performances
  - o **Projection** Attributing your own negative feelings towards another.
  - Reaction Formation Choosing to believe something that is the opposite of the truth to avoid facing an uncomfortable reality, e.g. "Who cares, I didn't care about that anyway"
  - Fantasy Psychological escape, daydreaming.

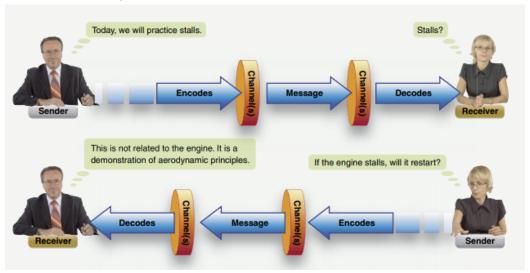
### Student Emotional Reactions

- o Anxiety Fear of an upcoming, uncertain event. Normal response during flight training.
- **Stress** Felt during periods of high demand, to a limited degree can improve performance, but can also hurt it at very high stress levels.

- Normal and Abnormal Reactions to Stress -
  - Normal Feelings of frustration, etc.
  - **Abnormal** Laughing, singing, extreme over-cooperation, painstaking self-control, morbid comments
    - Flight Instructor Responsibilities Some students are not cut out for flight training. If these are displayed, politely refuse to train, possibly refer to FSDO or authorities depending on severity

## • Basic Elements of Communication

- **Source** The person or object sending the message
- o **Symbol** The words, pictures, symbols, etc, used to convey the message
- Receiver The object of the communication.



# Barriers to Effective Communication

- o Confusion (symbols/symbolized object) e.g. "stall" like engine vs. "stall" like a wing stall
- Lack of common experience Metaphors are often used, rely on common experience
- o **Interference** Noisy environment, unmet physiological/basic needs, etc.
- Overuse of Abstractions Talking at too high of a level, e.g. "a bit high" versus "50 feet high", or "aircraft" versus "airplane".



- **Developing Communication Skills** Communication skills require development, they don't happen automatically
  - Listening Listen carefully to the student, don't just hear them. Observe their reactions and responses. Think before answering, do not interrupt. Look for underlying feelings.



- Questions Ask well-directed questions to discern student understanding, ask student about their feelings on the subject, try to get them to discuss how they are thinking about things
- Instructional Communication
  - Instructors are at their best when discussing things they know well.
    - Use past experiences as examples
  - Student should know the how *and* the why
  - Communication hasn't taken place unless the desired results have taken place
- Instructional Enhancement A good instructor is always learning, engaging in professional development, keeping up to date.
- Roleplaying It can be useful to pretend to be in an environment. For example, the instructor could pretend to be Air Traffic Control and talk to the student, etc.