

Getting a Driver's License in Louisiana

Before Getting Started!

The regulations in this guide are taken from Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) materials, and they may change at any time. For official state regulations, please consult www.expresslane.org.

Starting May 7, 2025, anyone 18 or older must have a REAL ID or other TSA-approved ID to fly domestically or enter certain federal facilities.

REAL IDs have a marking at the top of the card. If your license or ID doesn't have this, it won't be accepted for travel. A valid passport can still be used. For Louisiana details, visit the [OMV website](#).

Am I eligible to get a driver's license?

You must have at least 180 days left on your immigration document. You must also have one of the following:

- Certificate of completion of an approved driver's education course OR a valid, unexpired driver's license from another US state or territory, or from Germany, South Korea, Switzerland, or Taiwan (the OMV has reciprocal agreements with these countries only). If you have any of these, you may go directly to the OMV and apply for a Louisiana driver's license. If not, you must take a driver's education course.
- **New Students:** Your SEVIS record must be active before you can obtain a driver's license, state ID or Social Security letter. Before you go to the OMV, wait at least 10 days after your arrival to campus

Where can I take a driver's education course?

- You will need to attend a driving school and take a 14-hour pre-licensing course. Before taking the course, you will have to go to the OMV and get a [Temporary Instructional Permit](#). The course is 6 hours of class time and 8 hours of driving time, and the driving time is usually broken up into four 2-hour sessions.
- The school will provide the vehicle for the driving time, and some schools will pick you up at home. The average price for the course is about \$400, and many schools can also provide the driving skills test for an additional \$40.
- One of the driving schools in town is listed below, but you may find others online. The GCC does not endorse any driving school, so make sure you ask questions before paying any fees. For example, ask if they are familiar with license requirements for internationals, and ask how long it will take to complete the entire course.

Stop & Go Driving Academy

7568 Bluebonnet Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA
(225)-927-8120

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Step 1: Getting a temporary instructional permit

- Before taking driving lessons, you will have to go to the OMV and get a **Temporary Instructional Permit**.
- You will need:
 - Up to date I-20 or DS-2019 and I-94 with at least 180 days left in your program
 - Proof of residence (this can be a leasing document, bank statement, bill, etc.)
 - Passport
 - Social Security Card
 - If you do not have a SSN, you will need to request a letter of ineligibility from the Social Security Administration.



Step 2: Driving lessons

- Browse the web for a driving school in Baton Rouge that meets your needs. Some offer free pickup and drop off to their classes.
- The cost for a driving school can range from \$450-\$750.
- Louisiana State Law requires that you take 8 hours of behind-the-wheel training and a 4-6 hour class on US driving laws.



Step 3: Gather your documents

- Passport
- I-94 (Print from DHS [website](#))
- Immigration documents: I-20, DS-2019. F-1 students on OPT must present a valid EAD card. Dependents must present their own immigration documents and their primary visa holder's documents.
- Social Security Number
 - If you do not have SSN, get ineligibility letter from SSA Office.
- Proof of Residence: housing or rental lease, local utility bill in your name or your school fee bill.
 - REAL ID applications require two (2) separate, original documents each with your name and address as proof of residence.
- Certificate of completion of an approved driver's education course
- Proof of car insurance, if you are taking the driving test at the OMV with your own vehicle

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Step 4: Taking the Exams

- You can schedule an appointment, which is the recommended process, or you can visit the OMV during their business hours. Wait times can take many hours, be patient and go prepared
- You will need to pass a written exam with a score of at least 80%.
- After passing the written exam, you will take a behind-the-wheel driving test.
 - If you are taking the driving skills test at the OMV you will need to provide a vehicle. The vehicle may be yours or a friend's, but it must have a current safety inspection sticker (brake tag), current license plate validation sticker, a current certificate of registration, and proof of liability insurance for the vehicle.
- Once you pass, you will be given a sealed envelope, which you must bring back to the OMV. **Do not open this envelope yourself.**



Step 5: Getting your license

- Submit your sealed driving test results to the OMV.
- Return your temporary instructional permit and pay a fee of \$32.25 for your driver's license.

REMEMBER!

- If you need additional guidance, feel free to visit the GCC — we're happy to walk you through the process. You can also email us at icc@lsu.edu with any questions!
- You can print all your documents for FREE at the GCC Computer Lab.

CONTACT US

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