

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT & SCHOLAR SERVICES

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How to Get a CT Driver's License or Non-Driver's Identification (State ID)

Step 1. ISSS Check In

- New students and scholars must complete ISSS online check-in and register for classes before applying for a license or state ID. Continuing students or dependents of students may go to step 2.

Step 2. Social Security Number Application

- Visit the Social Security Administration to apply for a Social Security Number (SSN). F-1 and J-1 students must have legal employment to be approved for the SSN. If you are an F-1/J-1 student and you do not work, you will be issued a Social Security denial letter confirming that you are not eligible for the SSN. You will need either the SSN or the denial letter for your DMV application. Bring the following to Social Security office:
 - ❖ Passport
 - ❖ I-94 admission printout
 - ❖ Form I-20 or DS-2019
 - ❖ F-1 and J-1 Students with employment: Job offer letter, and letter confirming employment from ISSS.
- ✓ **NOTE:** If you are applying for a State ID, go directly to DMV after completing this step to obtain your ID card, and bring the documents listed in **Step 4**.

Social Security office locations can be found at www.ssa.gov > Contact > Find an Office

Step 3. Safe Driving Program course

- Complete a mandatory 8-hour Safe Driving Course. Obtain certificate of completion when done. **Please note that you can take this course at any point before the road test (Step 5).**

AAA offers a Safe Driving Course on the UConn Storrs campus. www.aaa.com/drivingschool For courses in other towns, visit the DMV website www.ct.gov/dmv/. Search "Commercial School Locations".

Step 4. Written Test and Adult Learner's Permit

- Schedule an appointment with the Department of Motor Vehicles for a written test and Adult Learner's Permit. You must hold the learner's permit for 90 days before you can move on to the next step (road test).
- If you have a current or previous license from your home country, or a previous U.S. license, the 90-day waiting period may be waived. You must provide that license (even if expired) in order to be waived.
- Schedule your appointment online at <https://www.dmvteen.ct.gov/dmv/do-it-online>, or visit www.ct.gov/dmv/ and search term "Adult Learner's Permit"
- Bring the following to your appointment:
 - ❖ Passport
 - ❖ I-94 admission printout
 - ❖ Form I-20 or DS-2019
 - ❖ Social Security Card or Social Security office denial letter (from Step 2)
 - ❖ Certified school transcript or Marriage Certificate (if you don't have a Social Security card). Must be translated by an approved translation company if not in English.
 - ❖ Two documents to show proof that you live in CT ([refer to list](#)).
 - ❖ Fees: \$40 Testing Fee, \$19 for Learner's Permit
- ✓ **NOTE:** When you apply for a driver's license or state ID, the DMV must verify your immigration status to complete the application. To do this, they use a program called the SAVE Program. If they cannot verify your status they will advise you that your request cannot be completed. They should give you a 15 digit verification number that you can use to check the progress of your case online. You can use that number to check your case here <https://www.uscis.gov/save/casecheck> and wait until the status has been verified to return to the DMV for your learner's permit. You may also be advised to visit your school – visit ISSS during Walk-In hours to check that your SEVIS record is active, which is required for SAVE.

Step 5. On the Road Skills Test

- After you have had the learner's permit for 90 days, you can schedule an appointment online to take a road (driving) test. You will need to bring a car for the road test. The DMV website lists documents to bring, and resources to prepare for the Road Test. Visit www.ct.gov/dmv/ and search "Road Test". Cost: \$40. Schedule the appointment online here: <https://www.dmvroadtest.ct.gov/dmv/do-it-online>
- **Step 6. Get your license!** Your license will be mailed to you. Please be sure you can receive mail at the address indicated on your application. Cost: \$84. Cost of Non-Driver Identification card: \$26.

Transferring your License from Another U.S. State, or France, Germany and Canada

If you have a license from another U.S. state, or if you have a valid French, German or Canadian driver's license, you may "transfer" this license to a CT license.

- Licenses should be transferred within 30 days of establishing residency in Connecticut and must be valid, or recently expired (within two years). If your out-of-state license expired more than two years ago, you must obtain the Learners Permit and take the 8 Hour Safe Driving Course.
- Full time students living in Connecticut but maintaining out of state or out of country permanent residency are not required to transfer the license to Connecticut, provided full time student status is maintained.

Bring to the DMV the following:

- Your current driver's license.
- Complete the application for the Non-Commercial Driver's License (Form R-229).
- Passport
- I-94 admission printout
- Form I-20 or DS-2019
- Social Security Card or Social Security office denial letter (from Step 2)
- Certified school transcript or Marriage Certificate (if you don't have a Social Security card)
- Two documents to show proof that you live in CT (refer to list)
- Application fee = \$40. License Fee: \$84. Cards are accepted for payment.

If paying by check, bring two separate checks.

Learning to Drive

If you are over the age of 18, you are not required to attend formal driving lessons. However, if you have never driven an automobile, we strongly recommend that you take driving lessons. Many of the same schools that offer the 8 Hour Safe Driving course also offer driving lessons. The DMV webpage lists Commercial Schools with Driver Education on their webpage. Visit www.ct.gov/dmv/ and search for Commercial Schools.

Other Resources

The CT DMV website is full of useful information for new drivers, including study guides to help you prepare for your learner's permit and road tests. It can be difficult to navigate all of the information available – please visit ISSS if you need help navigating the webpages to find the information you need.