

Maryland's Graduated Licensing System

A learner's permit allows a new driver to begin the learning process of operating a motor vehicle.

Requirements:

Minimum age for applicants is 15 years and 9 months.

If under 16, you must provide a completed verification of identity and/or school attendance, form (DL-300) to an MVA official during the learner's permit application process. The attendance form must be presented to the MVA in a sealed, unopened envelope provided by the applicant's school or county home school coordinator, if home schooled.

A parent or guardian must co-sign the learner's permit application if the applicant is under 18.

All applicants are required to submit sources of proof of age and identity, lawful status, social security number or proof of ineligibility, and Maryland residence.

Applicants must successfully pass a vision screening and a knowledge test prior to obtaining a learner's permit. Applicants need to study the Maryland Driver's Manual and can also practice with the Maryland Online Driver Test Tutorial to prepare for the knowledge test.

While driving, learner's permit holders must be accompanied by a qualified supervising driver who is 21 years or older, and has held a license for a minimum of 3 years. The person must be seated beside the new driver at all times, with no other front seat occupants.

A qualified supervising driver (parent, guardian, or mentor) must complete a practice skills log for the learner's permit holder, which is issued by the MVA along with every learner's permit.

Applicants must obtain a valid learner's permit before any behind-the-wheel driver education training or driving on Maryland's roadways.

Learner's permit holders under 18 are prohibited from using a wireless communication device (with a blue tooth or hands free) while operating a motor vehicle, except to make an emergency 911 call. Violations may result in a suspension of your driving privilege.

Learner's permit holders under the age of 25 must:

- Hold the learner's permit for a minimum of nine (9) months,
- Maintain a conviction-free driving record, and
- Complete a standardized Maryland MVA approved driver education course consisting of:
 - A minimum of 30-hours of classroom instruction and 6-hours behind the wheel instruction training.
- The Maryland driving school will electronically submit verification of completion to the MVA.

New drivers must also present the completed certification page from the practice skills log (with a minimum of at least 60 hours of supervised behind-the-wheel driving and 10 of the practice hours occurring at night) and their unexpired Maryland learner's permit when they arrive for their driving skills test appointment.

If a driver with a learner's permit is convicted of or given a probation before judgment (PBJ) for a moving violation, they are required to hold the permit for a minimum of 9 months following the date they were convicted of a moving violation, or granted the PBJ. They must also meet all of the requirements for a provisional license before they are eligible to take a driving skills test. Anyone at least 25 years old who holds a learner's permit and has not been convicted of, or granted a PBJ for a moving violation, is eligible to take a driving skills test after holding the permit for a minimum of 45 days if they:

- Have completed a Maryland MVA approved standardized driver education program consisting of at least 30 hours of classroom instruction and at least 6 hours of behind-the-wheel instructional training.
- Have completed a practice skills log (with a minimum of at least 14 hours of supervised behind the wheel driving). Three of the practice hours of driving must occur at night.
- Have a completed certification page from the practice skills log.

If an applicant is under 25 years old when a first Maryland learner's permit is obtained and then turns 25 afterwards, the MVA will permit the applicant to take a driving skills test if the permit has been held for at least 45 days (the 45 days may include the days the applicant held the permit before turning 25). The applicant must have completed at least 14 hours of supervised driving and the required driver's education program. An eligible supervising driver must have completed the certification page from the practice skills log.

Out-of-state driver's education certificates are not typically accepted by the MVA. Currently, the MVA has only approved certificates that are issued by the Delaware Board of Education that actually state that the certificate has been approved by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration. No other out-of-state certificates are currently accepted.

Parents Please Note:

- If a new driver under 18 is cited for a moving violation, the MVA will notify the co-signer.
- Drivers under 18 may have their licenses suspended if the parent, guardian, or co-signer withdraws their consent. Contact the MVA for details.

Things to Remember:

- To obtain a learner's permit, please visit any of the MVA's full-service offices. Your permit will be mailed to you.
- Your driving skills test for a provisional license must be scheduled in advance. Go to mvascheduling.mdot.state.md.us to schedule an appointment.

Maryland requires all registered vehicle owners to carry liability insurance, uninsured motorist, and personal injury protection (PIP) coverage.

Please note that if your learner's permit expires, or you are not able to complete or pass the required skills tests before it expires, you will be required to reapply for a new permit. To do so, please:

- present your learner's permit (if expired less than 1 year) and
- pass the vision and knowledge tests and
- pay the required fees
- have your parent/guardian co-sign the application if you are a minor