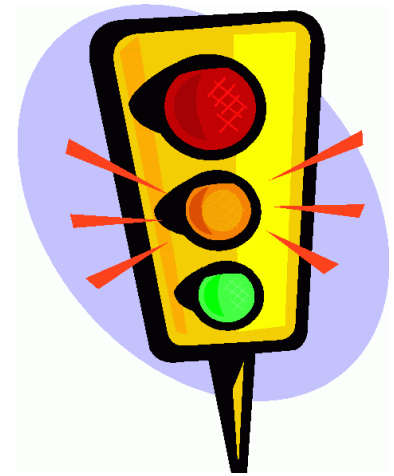


# How to Obtain a Colorado Driver's License

(Rev. 08/30/2018)



## CO Driver's License Eligibility Requirements

If you will be in the U.S. longer than 90 days and intend to drive, you are required to get a Colorado driver's license, even if you already have an International Driver's License. You must get an instruction permit before you are eligible to get a driver's license, unless you have a valid driver's license from another state.

The Colorado Department of Revenue, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) WILL NOT issue you a license if you:

- Have any suspensions, revocations, or denials of your driving privileges in ANY state
- Are in violation of federal immigration laws
- Have been deemed mentally incompetent
- Have been deemed an alcoholic or habitual narcotics user
- You have any outstanding debts or fines for traffic violations

## Steps to Obtain a New Colorado Driver's License

### PASSING THE WRITTEN TEST

- The Basic Written Test covers various aspects of driving knowledge and safety. The test questions will cover contents of the handbook including road signs, driving under the influence, as well as other driving rules, safety rules and legal items. No appointment is necessary for the written exam. Study driver manual before taking written test. [View/download the driver manual](#). You will be required to successfully pass the written test before an instruction permit can be issued.
- Applicants may work with a [driving school](#) to complete testing. If you completed your written test with a driving school, bring the original "Test Completion Form" with you to the DMV office to obtain an instruction permit.

### OBTAINING AN INSTRUCTION PERMIT

During your driver license office visit, expect the following:

- Present your [required identification documents](#) (a valid Foreign Passport, [I-94](#), original I-20/DS-2019, work authorization document (if applicable), and any other relevant document). Photocopies or notarized copies are not accepted.
- Present [Proof of current physical Colorado address documents](#). Supply two documents that prove Colorado residence address. Proof of address can be given in the form of a hard or electronic copy of one of the following: official transcript, pay stub, lease or rent

receipt for an apartment or house, utility bill, telephone bill, credit card statement, bank statement, or other item with an address (dated within the past 12 months).

- Pass the vision screening/eye test: Your vision will be tested to determine if you see well enough to drive safely. If the test discloses that you need corrective lenses to meet the minimum visual standards, your permit will show this restriction. Failure to meet established vision standards will result in initial rejection and referral to a vision specialist for correction and recommendations at the applicant's expense. The minimum vision standard is 20/40.
- Take the written exam or show proof obtained from a [driving school](#) that you have taken and passed the written test there.
- Pay the [Instruction Permit fee](#) (\$16.80 as of 08/30/2018). Fees may be paid with cash, personal check or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover Card).

### PASSING THE DRIVING TEST

- Pass the Driving Test is the most important part of the examination because it provides you with the opportunity to demonstrate that you can drive safely.
- If taking your drive skills test at a driver license office, Temporary lawful present applicants may visit any driver license office during regular business hours, but also have the option of scheduling a [new license appointment](#) to take the written exam. Drive skills tests require a [drive test appointment](#).
- If you plan to take the test at the DMV office, you need to supply your own licensed vehicle in order to take the driving test. You need a scheduled appointment for the driving test. You can schedule an appointment [here](#). Valid vehicle registration and valid insurance for the vehicle used during drive test is required. Rental cars may be used for drive skills test if the driver taking the test is listed as a driver on the rental car contract. Some rental car agencies specifically state that their vehicles cannot be used for drive tests. If using a rental car for the drive skills test, you must bring the contract with you.
- Applicants may work with a [driving school](#) to complete testing. If you completed your drive skills test with a driver education instructor/school, bring the original "Drive Test Completion Form" with you to the DMV office to obtain a Colorado Driver's License

### OBTAINING A NEW COLORADO DRIVER'S LICENSE

During your driver license office visit, expect the following:

- Present your [required identification documents](#) (a valid Foreign Passport, [I-94](#), original I-20/DS-2019, work authorization document (if applicable), and any other relevant document). Photocopies or notarized copies are not accepted.
- Present [Proof of current physical Colorado address documents](#). Supply two documents that prove Colorado residence address. Proof of address can be given in the form of a hard or electronic copy of one of the following: CSU official transcript, pay stub, lease or rent receipt for an apartment or house, utility bill, telephone bill, credit card statement, bank statement, or other item with an address (dated within the past 12 months) to be reviewed by the Division of Motor Vehicles official.

- Pass all required examinations
  - + Driving Record Analysis: DMV examines your driving record and current driver's license status to determine eligibility before issuing a new license.
  - + Physical Aptitude Analysis: This is a determination, by the driver license employee, of any physical ailment or disability that may have an effect on your driving. A Confidential Medical Examination Report is required for many physical ailments or disabilities such as epilepsy or paralysis.
  - + Vision Screening: Your vision will be tested to determine if you can see well enough to drive safely. If the test indicates you need corrective lenses to meet the minimum visual standards, your license will show this restriction. Failure to meet the minimum vision standard of 20/40 will result in initial rejection and referral to a vision specialist for correction and recommendations, at your own expense. Please bring your glasses or contact lenses with you to the DMV.
  - + Written Test: See above "passing the written test" section
  - + Driving Test: See above "passing the driving test" section
- Be fingerprinted and photographed
- [Pay the required fee](#) (\$28.00 for a Driver's License as of 08/30/2018). Fees may be paid with cash, personal check or credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover Card).

Once you've successfully applied for your license, the Colorado DMV will issue you a temporary license to drive legally. You'll receive your permanent driver's license in the mail within 30 days.

Please note: Your new Driver's License will display a notification stating "Not valid for federal identification, voting or public benefit purposes". A Colorado driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card cannot be used for federal ID purposes, such as for entering a federal building or travelling on an airplane. You will still need to use your passport for federal ID purposes.

### **Important Recent Changes to Colorado Driver's License Policy**

- Students cannot use their Colorado driver's license as federal ID, so international students will need to use their passports to travel on an airplane or enter a federal building.
- Please wait 10 days after entering the U.S. before applying for a Colorado driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card.
- Students no longer need a SSN or rejection letter before going to the DMV, but the DMV will still be verifying their status in SAVE so they should wait at least 10 days after arriving in the U.S. before applying for a license. Applicant's status will be verified by the DMV through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE). Student must be registered in SEVIS and allow time for port of entry data to transfer to SAVE.
- Students on Optional Practical Training (OPT) will need to get a new I-20 stating their OPT status has changed from "pending" to "approved." Students who transfer from another school must bring both their "transfer pending" and "continued attendance" I-20s.

- If you are renewing a Colorado driver's license or transferring your driver's license from another state, you do not need to retake the written or driving tests as long as your current license is still valid.
- A Colorado driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card is valid for 3 years (or until your 21st birthday), regardless of the dates on your I-20 or DS-2019.
- Students do not need an appointment for the written test. They can bring an interpreter to the appointment and to the written test. The interpreter must be over the age of 16 and have a valid license. They cannot come to the driving test.
- Students do need to make an appointment for the driving test and should use the blue buttons on the DMV website to make their appointment (the blue buttons are for people who can prove lawful presence, and the orange buttons are for people who cannot).
- This information applies to any resident alien, not just "students" who will be in Colorado for longer than 90 days.
- Students with a driver's license from South Korea, Canada, Germany, or France are not required to take the written and driving tests in order to get a Colorado driver's license.
- If you purchase a vehicle it must be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles. For additional information on how to register your vehicle visit: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dmv/registration-requirements>.
- Vehicle insurance is mandatory in the state of Colorado. You must provide proof of insurance to your county clerk and recorder before you can register your vehicle. You may use your insurance card, copy of your insurance policy, or a letter from your insurance company (on the company's letterhead paper) as proof of insurance.
- Colorado law prohibits a person from holding both a valid CO driver's license and a CO State identification card. You cannot be issued an identification card if you hold a valid driver's license.

*More information can be found on the Colorado Department of Revenue, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) here <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dmv/licenses>*