



Obtaining your Connecticut Driver's License

Obtaining an Adult Learner's Permit (for 18 years of age or older)

AVOID LINES. SCHEDULE AND PAY ONLINE: Use DMV's online service (<http://ct.gov/dmv/do-it-online>) to schedule the Adult Learner's Permit test and make payment. Note: Customers also have the option of visiting a DMV's Wethersfield Office on a walk-in basis for the Learner's Permit knowledge test.

Anyone 18 years of age or older must obtain an adult learner's permit before obtaining a driver's license.

The adult learner's permit must be held for at least 90 days prior to taking the on-the-road skills test and is required to practice driving on the road. Individuals exempt from this 90 day requirement are as follows:

- Active duty military - stationed out-of-state - must provide orders and military ID card.
- Any teen permit holder that held a Learner Permit for more than 90 days that expired on their 18th birthday and now is applying for an adult Learner Permit.
- Any customer that held a Connecticut driver's license in the past. This includes individuals who have held an out-of-state driver's license or out-of-country credential whom we have reciprocity (Germany, France and Canada), and US territories. Must provide expired license or abstract from previous state or country.

What to do:

- Study Connecticut Driver's Manual to prepare for 25-question knowledge test.
- Collect all documents required as acceptable forms of identification.
- Use online service to schedule test appointment and make payment or visit a DMV Hub Office. Complete Application for Non-Commercial Learner's Permit and/or Driver's License (Form R-229).
- Present required documents and pay testing fee to DMV staff member.
- Pass a vision test and 25-question knowledge test.
- An adult learner's permit is valid for two years.

What it will cost (may be subject to change by the DMV):

- \$40 testing fee – covers vision, knowledge and road tests.
- \$19 for learner's permit.

After you receive your learner's permit, please complete the following steps to obtain a driver's license:

- The learner's permit must be held for at least 90 days prior to taking the on-the-road skills test unless you fall under the exemption.
- When driving, the permit holder must be accompanied by a qualified trainer. A qualified trainer is defined as a person 20 years of age or older who has been licensed to operate a motor vehicle for at least four consecutive years with no suspensions.
- Applicants must complete the **8-hour Safe Driving Practices Course** prior to taking the on-the-road skills test. This course can be taken through a commercial or secondary driving school. The American Automobile Association,

located at 815 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT 06119 (860- 236-3261) is the closest location to take this course (cost is \$125)

- Proof of course completion (Form CS-1) must be presented at time of road test.
- Contact DMV Phone Center (860-263-5700) to schedule your road test when you feel prepared to take it.

Requirements for Naturalized and Non-U.S. Citizens

Non-U.S. Citizens seeking a first-time Connecticut Learner's Permit, Driver's License or Non-Driver ID Card or seeking a SelectCT ID (verified identity) must go to a DMV Hub Office (Wethersfield is the closest location to the University).

To be eligible, you are required to prove:

1. **Identity:** Please refer to The Document Checklist for Identity Verification for acceptable forms of identification;
2. **Legal presence** in the United States. If you were not born in The United States, and you do not provide the DMV with a valid US Passport, then your immigration status will be verified through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement Program (SAVE). This includes applicants with Certificates of Citizenship and Naturalization. Verification of legal status with USCIS may take ten days or more and applicants may be asked to return to the same DMV office when the immigration results have been approved; **and**
3. **Connecticut Residence:** Please refer to The Document Checklist for Identity Verification for required forms of proof of Connecticut residency.

International Driver Permit Holders:

- **Visitors** from another country are permitted to use their valid out-of-country license here in Connecticut for a period of one year with an International Driver Permit (IDP) obtained from your home country.
- Out of country licenses are not acceptable as a form of identification.
- **Full time students**, on a valid student visa, maintaining an out-of-country residency do not have to obtain a Connecticut license. As long as full-time student status is valid, such students are permitted to use their valid out-of-country license here in Connecticut with an International Driver Permit obtained from the home country. **Keep in mind that you may be charged higher monthly insurance premiums without a CT driver's license.**

Diplomats:

Diplomats must obtain a license from the U.S. Department of State, Office of Foreign Affairs, 866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 265, New York, N.Y. 10017. For more information, please call the Office of Foreign Affairs at 212-826-4500

Applicants with an A1, A2 or G1 immigration classification must provide a letter from the Department of State indicating that he or she is not eligible to participate in the U.S. Department of State's driver licensing program.

License Holders from U.S. Territories:

A license from American Samoa, Guam or U.S. Virgin Islands is the same as an out-of-state license. However, you must obtain an abstract of your driver record from your home territory prior to transferring your license to Connecticut.

The Marshall Islands are no longer a territory of the U.S. Residents of the Marshall Islands must provide proper immigration documents to be eligible for a Connecticut DMV issued credential.

The DMV will waive the requirement for an applicant to present an abstract when transferring a non CDL license from Guam for active duty military personnel and their family members. The applicant's military identification or the family member's dependent identification must be shown.

Note: A license from Puerto Rico is the same as an out of state license (same requirements as above), however the DMV office you visit will verify your Puerto Rico license with your home territory prior to transferring your Puerto Rico license to Connecticut. The DMV will notify you via mail of your Puerto Rico license status. The letter that you receive from the DMV will provide you with information on how to proceed with the licensing transaction.

The State of Connecticut has reciprocity agreements with **Canada, Germany and France**. Under those agreements, valid driver licenses from those countries can be transferred to Connecticut using the same procedures for an out-of-state license.

Taking the Road Test

Road tests are scheduled in advance and are only offered at DMV Hub Offices (except Norwalk).

This test is given after the applicant has successfully passed the eye and knowledge tests. The road test must be taken no more than 2 years after passing the knowledge test. **A non-licensed operator cannot drive to the test location unless accompanied by a licensed operator.**

You must supply a vehicle for the road test.

This vehicle must:

- Be appropriate for the license class for which you are applying.
- Be mechanically safe.
- Have a valid registration
- Have proof of insurance.
- Be in compliance with Connecticut's limits if the vehicle has tinted windows.

If you do not have a valid driver's license **you cannot test in a rented vehicle.**

PLEASE NOTE: If the test vehicle is found to be in an unsafe operating condition, the behind the-wheel evaluation will NOT be conducted and the applicant will be given a no fee card for a re-test at a future date. Road tests may be conducted if minor defects are found.

On the date of your road test, **you must bring the following:**

- A properly registered and insured vehicle appropriate for the type of test you are taking.
- Valid Motor Vehicle Registration Certificate. **Please verify that you have the current registration in the vehicle before you leave home and bring it into the office when you arrive for your test.**
- Connecticut Insurance card. The required proof of insurance must be in the same name as on the registration, with the exception of leased vehicles which may be in the name of the lessee. **Please verify that you have the current proof of insurance in the vehicle before you leave home and bring it into the office when you arrive for your test.**
- **Applicants 16-17 years of age must present the CS1 certificate at the time of testing.**
- **Out-of-State Vehicles:** Individuals using an out-of-state registered vehicle must bring proof of the vehicle's insurance (declaration page or insurance policy). Liability limits meeting Connecticut minimum requirements of 20/40/10 are required.
- **License Fee:** The fee for your license, will be either \$72 or \$84, depending on the number of years the license will be valid (from five and one-half to seven years), which depends on your date of birth. See acceptable forms of payment.

The road test evaluates:

- Safe condition of the test vehicle.
- Ability to properly adjust seat, mirror, seat belts ("preparing to drive").
- Response to traffic control signs and signals, signaling, interaction with other motorists (yielding right-of-way, response to emergency vehicles).
- Backing and parking.
- Proficiency in basic driving skills such as turns.
- Other driver maneuvers at the direction of the inspector/license agent.

The road test generally takes 15 to 20 minutes.

Failing the Driver's Test:

- If you fail the vision test you will not be allowed to proceed to the other portions of the test until your vision has been corrected.
- If you fail the knowledge test portion you must wait one week (7 days) before you can take the test again and must pay another \$40 testing fee.
- If you fail the road test you must wait a minimum of two weeks (14 days) before taking the road test again and must pay another \$40 testing fee.
- Test results are valid for 2 years.

Connecticut Insurance Identification Card

Connecticut law requires all registered owners to maintain liability insurance on their vehicles. Insurance must be maintained at all times when there is an active registration on a vehicle.

Note: Insurance companies are required to provide you with an automobile insurance identification card for each vehicle. This card must be presented for registration of the vehicle and must be carried in the vehicle at all times.

A permanent insurance card must include the following information:

- Name of the insurance company.
- At least one name on the registration must be indicated as a policy owner, policy holder or named insured on the insurance card. If a vehicle owned by a leasing company, the name of the leasing company and/or the lessor may be listed.
- Policy number.
- Effective date of coverage (must be valid when the vehicle is registered) and expiration date (not to exceed one year).
- Vehicle year, make or model, and complete vehicle identification number.

A temporary insurance card may be obtained from your insurance agent. **A temporary insurance card must include the following information:**

- Name of the insurance company or agency.
- At least one name on the registration must be indicated as a policy owner, policy holder or named insured on the insurance card. If a vehicle owned by a leasing company, the name of the leasing company and/or the lessor may be listed.
- Binder number, policy number or the agent's code number.
- Effective date of coverage (must be valid when the vehicle is registered) and expiration date (not to exceed 60 days).

- Vehicle year, make or model, and complete vehicle identification number.
- Printed name and signature of the agent or authorized representative.

Limits of liability as required by law are as follows:

- \$20,000 bodily injury per person.
- \$40,000 bodily injury per accident.
- \$10,000 property damage per accident.

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST for Identity Verification (Acceptable Forms of Identification)

To obtain a new learner permit, driver license or ID card, or to obtain a verified driver license or ID card you will need to provide valid/unexpired, original documents, or certified copies.

Photocopies, notarized photocopies and non-certified copies are not acceptable. DMV will scan and store images of all documents.

Two (2) forms of the same identification will not be accepted. If any document presented is in a language other than English, it must be translated by a DMV approved translator.

You must satisfy items 1, 2, 3 and if applicable, 4 and 5:

1. IDENTITY:

You must present two (2) forms of identification; at least one of the documents must be from the Primary document list.

PRIMARY document list

US born

- US Birth Certificate or Registration of Birth (Hospital issued not acceptable; foreign place of birth see Non-US Born)
- US Passport or Passport Card

Non-US born

- Foreign Passport w/ supporting documents (I-20 or DS2019 and I-94 (if available))
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Certificate of Citizenship
- Permanent Resident Card
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad

FULL LEGAL NAME

By law, the full name shown on the Primary document is your legal name and will be printed on your card. If your name is different than the Primary document, see Name Change Documents section below.

* Subject to Verification using SAVE

SECONDARY document list

- Out of State US photo driver license
- US Territory or Canadian photo driver license
- Out of State US or Canadian issued photo learner permit

- Connecticut issued non-driver identification card, driver license or learner permit (Your driver license or ID may be required to be surrendered)
- US Military ID or dependent card with photo
- Connecticut State Permit to Carry Pistols or Revolvers
- Military discharge/separation papers (DD-214)
- Court Order: Must contain full name and date of birth (i.e. name change, adoption, marriage or civil union dissolution) Does not include abstract of criminal or civil conviction
- Marriage or Civil Union Certificate (certified copy issued by town/city)
- Pilot's license (issued by the US DOT Federal Aviation Administration)
- Certified school transcript (school photo ID not acceptable)
- Social Security Card (Not laminated or metal. 16 and older must sign)
- CT State Department of Social Services issued photo public assistance card
- CT Department of Corrections original certificate of identification (not available from DOC unless issued when discharged)
- Baptismal certificate or similar document
- State or Federal Employee Identification with signature and photo and/or physical description with or without date of birth
- Employment Authorization card

2. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:

By law, you must present one of the following to prove your Social Security number. The 1099 or W-2 must show your full Social Security number and is only for proof of Social Security number, not identity.

- Social Security card
- W-2 form (issued within 5 years)
- 1099 (issued within 5 years)

Non-US Citizens not eligible for a Social Security number must present proof of ineligibility from the Social Security Administration. This is in the form of a **"letter of Denial,"** issued by the SSA. You must obtain a *letter of non-employment status* from the International Center prior to visiting the local SSA office (960 Main St, Hartford, CT).

3. CONNECTICUT RESIDENCY:

You must provide two (2) different pieces of mail or electronic mail from two different sources to prove your home is located in Connecticut. The documents do not need to include a postmarked envelope and may have been sent to a P.O. Box or by email. Both documents must:

- Show your name and your Connecticut residence address
- Be dated within 90 days (unless stated otherwise below)
- Be computer generated (typed)

- Bill from a bank or mortgage company, utility company, credit card company, doctor or hospital
- Bank statement or bank transaction receipt showing the bank's name and mailing address
- Pre-printed pay stub showing your employer's name and address
- Property or excise tax bill, or Social Security Administration or other pension or retirement annual benefits summary statement and dated within the previous 12 months
- Medicaid or Medicare benefit statement
- Current valid homeowner's, renter's policy or motor vehicle insurance card or policy dated within the previous 12 months
- Current valid Connecticut motor vehicle registration
- Current motor vehicle loan statement for a motor vehicle registered in your name
- Residential mortgage or similar loan contract, lease or rental contract showing signatures from all parties needed to execute the agreement and dated within the previous 12 months
- Postmarked mail (If postmarked, address may be handwritten)

- Connecticut voter registration card
- Change-of-address confirmation from the United States Postal Service showing your prior and current address (Form CNL107)
- Survey of your Connecticut property issued by a licensed surveyor
- Official school records showing enrollment
- Parents or legal guardian of minor may provide any two of the foregoing documents addressed to the parent residing at same address to prove minor residency, or use their own CT driver license or ID which shows the same address as one of the two required.

4. LEGAL PRESENCE in the UNITED STATES (Non-US born): Legal status will be verified using Systematic Alien Verification of Eligibility (SAVE) which may take 10 business days or more.

- I-94 and US Visa
- I-551 Stamp in foreign passport
- Permanent Resident card or Resident Alien card
- Employment Authorization card
- Refugee Travel document
- B1/B2 requires Employment Authorization Card and verified Adjustment of Status Application
- F1 requires I-20 or Employment Authorization Card
- J1 requires DS2019

• Non-US Citizens not eligible for a Social Security number must present proof of ineligibility from the Social Security Administration and are not qualified for a verified driver license or ID card (*Letter of Denial*).

• If length of legal presence is unknown or expires before a full six (6) year term, the applicant is not qualified for a verified driver license or ID card.

5. NAME CHANGE DOCUMENTS (if applicable):

- Marriage or civil union certificate (certified copy issued by town/city)
- Marriage or civil union dissolution
- Probate court name change document

If there have been multiple name changes, you must provide documentation to prove the continuity of the names.

NOTE: Your new name must verify with Social Security Administration (SSA). Visit the SSA first to change your name. Allow at least 48 hours for SSA update.

If you have a question regarding acceptable documents, please phone the DMV Call Center 860.263.5700.

Requirements to Transfer Your Out of State Registered Vehicle

Once you have established residency in Connecticut, you have 60 days to transfer your vehicle registration to this state.

An Emissions **Test** and vehicle identification number (VIN) verification is required, which are performed at the emissions station. Please bring your vehicle, registration and driver’s license to your local emissions test station.

Vehicles that are exempt from emissions testing will require a VIN verification at the DMV offices in Bridgeport, Danbury, Hamden, Norwalk, Waterbury, Wethersfield or Willimantic, or at a VIN Verification Emissions Station.

A Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR) will be completed by the emissions technician and a copy of the report will be given to you. The VIR must be presented to the DMV when applying for a permanent registration.

Once you have had your emissions test and VIN verification completed, you will need to:

- Proceed to your local DMV Hub Office or Limited Service Office and submit your out of state Certificate of Title and motor vehicle registration certificate. If there is a change of ownership the title must be assigned to the new owner(s). Please see information on vehicles purchased from out of state.
Note: If your Title is being held by a leasing company or lien holder, a valid out of state registration certificate will suffice, with the exception of vehicles registered in New York and Maryland. If the registration certificate has expired, a photocopy of the title will also be required. No change of ownership is allowed when presenting a photocopy of the title and registration. Applicants with vehicles registered in New York or Maryland must present the Certificate of Title for the vehicle, or a photocopy if held by the lienholder or leasing company. Registration certificate alone is not acceptable.
- Present the VIR (emissions report) or VIN verification report.
- Complete the *Application for Registration and Certificate of Title* (form H-13). The form H-13 can be ordered online or is also available in DMV offices.
- Provide your current Connecticut Insurance Identification Card, which can be obtained from your insurance company. The insurance card must be in the name of registered owner(s) of vehicle. If vehicle is being leased, the insurance card may be in the name of the lessee.
- Identification will be required to register a vehicle. Please see list of Acceptable Forms of Identification.

Vehicles cannot be registered if delinquent property tax or parking tickets are owed or if the registrant has had their registration privilege suspended.

Note: As a new Connecticut resident you have 30 days to transfer your out of state driver's license to Connecticut. Please see License Requirements for New Residents for detailed information.