

Getting a Driver's License in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

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INTRODUCTION

Getting a drivers' license in Illinois is a multi-step process involving eligibility requirements, insurance and several tests. It is our hope that this guide will make the process understandable for new arrivals and will show you how to successfully obtain a license.

Illinois drivers' licenses are issued by the Office of the Illinois Secretary of State. This office is commonly called "the DMV" (Department of Motor Vehicles) or Driver Services Facility. It also issues license plates for cars. In order to register and get a license plate for a car, you must have a driver's license. This guide explains how to get a driver's license in our community. Please read carefully as it is a somewhat complicated process.

SUMMARY REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A DRIVER'S LICENSE

1. Be at least 16 years old and have proper identification
2. Have automobile insurance
3. Pass a vision test
4. Pass a written test
5. Pass a driving test (this is usually taken immediately after passing the written test)
6. In addition, you may be required to take a six-week Adult Driver Education Course. To find out if this requirement applies to you, see https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/driver_education/adefaq.html
7. [Additional paperwork is required if you are undocumented or have DACA status \(see below\)](#)

*****Please note that anyone presenting fraudulent or fake paperwork in an attempt to obtain a license will be turned over to the fraud department, which may contact ICE.***

IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

What you need to bring to obtain a driver's license:

- Vehicle insurance card
- Proper identification to prove the following:
 - Name
 - Date of Birth
 - Signature
 - Illinois Residency
 - Social Security Number

See attached printout or click on this link

https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_x173.pdf for acceptable forms of identification in each of the above categories

IF YOU ARE UNDOCUMENTED AND/OR HAVE DACA STATUS

You may apply for a Temporary Visitor Driver's License (TVDL) for Undocumented (Non-Visa Status) Individuals. Please note that you can only apply for a TVDL on weekdays, NOT Saturday or Sunday. In addition to all the regular requirements, to be eligible for a TVDL, you must also:

- Present two (2) forms of acceptable documentation to show proof of Illinois residency for the past year:
 - one must prove residency 12 months prior to applying for a TVDL, and a second must prove current residency
- Be ineligible for a Social Security Number
- Provide acceptable documentation that proves date of birth and verification of written signature
- Provide a valid passport or Consular Identification Card
- Provide a completed Verification of Residency form

TVDL Restrictions:

- A TVDL only authorizes the license holder to operate a personal car, motorcycle or or motor-driven cycle
- It is only valid for three (3) years
- Anyone between the ages of 18-20 must present proof of successful completion of a six-hour adult driver education and training course.

GETTING AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

You must have automobile insurance, or be covered under another person's automobile insurance policy, to be eligible to take a driving test.

In the US, automobile insurance is issued by private companies. There are about 20 offices in Champaign-Urbana where you can purchase auto insurance. To find out the names and locations of these businesses, go to google.com/maps and search for "auto insurance champaign". Prices and levels of service and coverage can vary significantly from one company to another.

PASSING THE WRITTEN TEST

Read the "Illinois Rules of the Road" very carefully. It is online in English at:

https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_a112.pdf

A physical copy of this booklet is available without cost at the DMV office. It is also available in Polish and Spanish online, along with many other publications about driving cars, bicycles and motorcycles in Illinois: <https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/motorist/rorts.html>.

All the requirements for obtaining a driver's license are in "Illinois Rules of the Road." In addition to meeting the requirements, you will need to take a written test assessing your knowledge of the rules of the road. All the rules that you will be tested on are contained in this booklet. If you remember the information in "Illinois Rules of the Road," you will be able to answer all the questions in the written test correctly.

PASSING THE DRIVING TEST

You have several ways to learn how to drive. You can be taught by a friend or relative who has a driver's license and knows the rules of the road, or you can take a course from a driving school. Even if you know how to drive, it is a good idea to become familiar with driving in the U.S. In order to successfully pass the driving test, you will need to follow all the rules of the road in Illinois. For example, if you fail to signal properly before you turn, or if you turn from an improper lane, you may fail the test.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE DRIVER SERVICES FACILITY

After you have completed your preparation for the written test and the driving test (which may include a six-day Driver Education Course), and have obtained auto insurance, you are now ready to apply for your driver's license. Normally you will take the written test, the vision test, the driver's test, and--assuming you successfully pass all three--apply for a license, all on the same day. In general, you should plan to spend *at least* two hours at the facility to complete all the tests and apply for your license.

If you are obtaining an Illinois driver's license for the first time you must do the following:

1. Successfully pass a vision exam
2. Successfully pass a written exam (the exam is given in English, Spanish, Korean, Mandarin or Polish)
3. Successfully pass a driving exam. Driving exams are done using the vehicle you own or bring. Driving exams will not be given less than 30 minutes before the Driver Services Facility closes, so please plan to arrive *at least* two hours ahead of closing time.
4. Pay the appropriate fee. The cost to obtain a driver's license for people between the ages of 21-68 is \$30. The cost is less for those younger than 21 or older than 68. Acceptable forms of payment are:
 - Cash
 - Check (cannot be starter checks)
 - Credit or Debit card (there is a 2.25% convenience fee for using a credit or debit card):
 - American Express
 - MasterCard
 - Visa
 - Discovery

OFFICE HOURS AND DIRECTIONS TO THE DMV IN CHAMPAIGN

If you live in Champaign or Urbana, the closest place to obtain a license is at the Driver Services Facility (also known as the DMV) located in Champaign. The address, open hours and photos of the facility can be found below:

Driver Services Facility/DMV:

Address: 2012 Round Barn Rd., Champaign, IL 61821

Phone: 1-217-278-3344

Website: <https://www.ilsos.gov/facilityfinder/facilityfinder?command=getFacilityDetails&facilityId=151>

Service Hours: *(last updated 6/5/2019)*

Sunday: Closed
Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The office is closed on the following Federal and Illinois state holidays:

Federal and State Holidays of Illinois in 2020

Day	Date	Holiday	Comments
Wednesday	January 01	New Year's Day	
Monday	January 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	3rd Monday in January
Wednesday	February 12	Lincoln's Birthday	
Monday	February 17	Washington's Birthday	
Monday	February 17	Presidents' Day	3rd Monday in February. Not all states
Monday	May 25	Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Friday	July 03	Independence Day Holiday	
Saturday	July 04	Independence Day	
Monday	September 07	Labor Day	1st Monday in September
Monday	October 12	Columbus Day	2nd Monday in October
Tuesday	November 03	General Election Day	
Wednesday	November 11	Veterans Day	
Thursday	November 26	Thanksgiving	4th Thursday in November
Friday	November 27	Day after Thanksgiving	Day after 4th Thursday in November
Friday	December 25	Christmas	

Bus routes that stop close to this location are:

- 4 Blue
- 5 Green
- 5 Green Express
- 6 Orange
- 9A Brown
- 9B Brown
- 16 Pink

To find out what bus you need to take to get to the DMV, fill out the online MTD Trip Planning Form at <https://mtd.org/maps-and-schedules/plan-trip/>

Please note: When you are ready to take the written test and the driving test, you will need to bring your own car or a car belonging to someone. Since you don't have a driver's license, someone will have to drive you.

View looking east down Round Barn Road from Driver Services Facility parking lot:



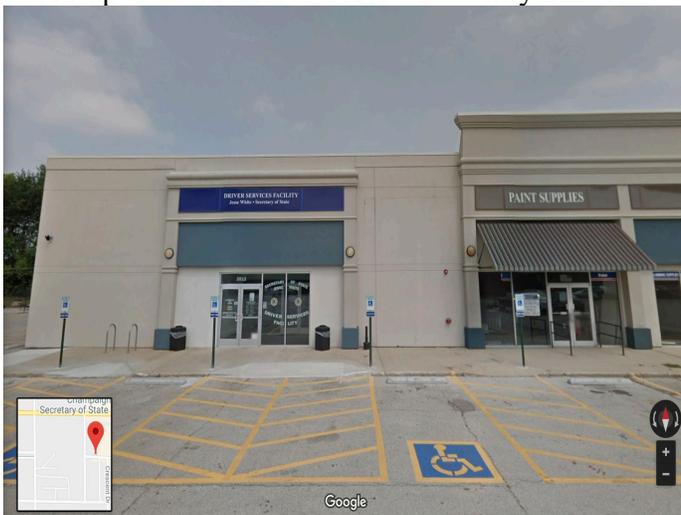
View looking west down Round Barn Road from Driver Services Facility parking lot:



Looking north from Round Barn Road at the shopping plaza where the Driver Services Facility is located. The Driver Services Facility office is on the far left:



Close-up view of Driver Services Facility office:



ONLINE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES

Document Requirements for Obtaining Driver's License/State ID Card:

https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_x173.pdf

Requirements for Temporary Visitor Driver's License (TVDL) for Undocumented (Non-Visa Status) Individuals:

<https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/TVDL/tvdl.html>

Guide for International Students:

https://iss.illinois.edu/download_forms/students/App_drivers_license.pdf

State Resources and Publications for Those New to Illinois Driving:

<https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/services/newresidents.html>

Frequently Asked Questions for Those New to Illinois Driving:

<https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/services/newresidentshowdoi.html>

Driver's License Cost:

<https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/basicfees.html>

Champaign Driver Services Facility Information:

<https://www.ilsos.gov/facilityfinder/facilityfinder?facilityId=151&command=getFacilityDetails>

Automated I-94 (Lawful Record of Admission) Stamp on Foreign Passports:

https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/drivers_license/autoi94.html

I-94 (Lawful Record of Admission) Official Website:

<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>