If you are 16 or 17-years old, you must obtain a learner permit before you can practice driving. The permit must be held for 180 days if you are home trained and 120 days if completing a commercial or secondary driver training course prior to your appointment for the on-the-road exam.

Learner Permit Requirements

Applicants must pass a vision and knowledge test in order to obtain the learner permit. The permit allows the student to practice with a licensed driver who is at least 20 years old, has held a license for a minimum of four consecutive years and who has not been suspended in the four years prior to training. Driving without a permit is a violation of state law and could extend the waiting time necessary to apply for a Connecticut operator's license.

Required Consent

A parent, court-appointed legal guardian, or spouse over 18 years of age, must accompany the applicant in person or provide him/her with a notarized certificate of parental consent (form 2-D). The test will NOT be given without consent.

Required Documents

To acquire the learner permit, the applicant must provide resident address verification such as a postmarked letter, magazine, report card, etc. A post office box will not be accepted.

You must bring your certified birth certificate or valid U.S. Passport, in addition to one form of identification from the list of acceptable identification (Photocopies of documents are not acceptable).

Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 666(a) (13)], requires that the Social Security number of any applicant for a driver's license or learner permit be recorded on the application.

List of Acceptable Identification

- Military ID or Dependent Card with photo
- Military Discharge/Separation Papers
- Certified Birth Certificate or Registration of Birth
- Valid Passport
- Certified Adoption Papers
- U.S. Territory or Canadian Photo License (valid or expired)
- Valid Out of State or Canadian learner's permit with photo
- Connecticut Non-Driver ID issued 10/2001 or later
- Connecticut Pistol Permit with photo
- Naturalization Certificate
- Valid Foreign Passport with supporting documents as required by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
- Baptismal Certificate or similar document
- Marriage License
- Foreign Birth Certificate (translation may be required)
- Permanent Resident Alien Card (I-551)
- Pilot's License (Issued by U.S. DOT)
- Expired U.S./U.S. Territory or Canadian Photo License
- Connecticut State (DSS) Issued Public Assistance Card with photo
- Employee ID from State or Federal Government with Signature and Photograph
- Social Security Card with signature
- Certified School Records
- Court Order
- Divorce Decree
- Expired Passport
- Civil Union Certificate

All Non-US Citizens Applying for a Connecticut Operator License or Learner Permit

- If you are not a citizen of the United States, you will be required to show proof of your legal status in this country.
- Holders of B1/B2 Visitor's Visa are not eligible for a driver's license or learner's permit unless a valid Employment Authorization Card (EAC) and verification of an application pending for Lawful Permanent Residence is provided.
- Foreign Students with an F1 Visa status must show USCIS document I-20 and verification of current enrollment in a Connecticut school.
- J1 Visa holders are required to show USCIS document DS 2019.
- H-1B Visa holders are required to show a valid USCIS Employment Authorization Card and an employee verification letter from a Connecticut employer.
- All applicants will be verified through USCIS for legal status before the test will be issued and may be required to submit additional documentation.

Test Requirements

You must pay the $40 test fee and pass a vision test and knowledge test to earn your learner permit. DMV has consolidated the learner permit knowledge test and the driver license knowledge test into one comprehensive 25-question test. This test will be administered before issuing a permit.

Below is an explanation of the tests:

Vision Test

Minimal vision is evaluated for at least 20/40 in the better eye with or without glasses or contact lenses. Peripheral vision (sight to either side while looking straight ahead) must be 140 degrees or 100 degrees for persons with one eye.

Knowledge Test

In order to pass the knowledge test, you must answer at least 20 of 25 questions correctly. The test is based on the latest edition of the "Connecticut Driver's Manual for New Drivers."

Applicants that fail the knowledge test must wait seven days before retesting and will be required to pay $40 for each retest.

Locations to Take Knowledge Test

The knowledge test is offered at all full-service DMV branch offices and is given on a walk-in basis up to one hour before the office closes. Tests are NOT given at satellite offices, mobile units, or AAA offices.

Training

Before taking the final on-the-road exam, you must have at least 30 hours of driver's education, including the state-required eight-hour driving safety course (which includes two hours of parent training). These hours of education are designed to teach the applicant how to become a good driver.

The student driver must also be given at least 40 hours of behind-the-wheel, on-the-road instruction.

If you plan to be home trained, you must also complete an eight-hour approved course through either a commercial or secondary school covering safe driving practices, including the effects of alcohol and drugs on a person operating a motor vehicle, as well as the penalties for alcohol/drug related motor vehicle violations. Your parent or legal guardian will be required to attend a two-hour class with you concerning teen driving laws.

For those trained in a commercial or secondary driver education program, the original certificate of completion is required to be shown when you appear for the road test. All training requirements must be met before a student can be given the on-the-road exam.

Passenger Restrictions for Learner Permit Holders

Connecticut has passenger restriction laws for learner permit holders except when the permit holder is receiving instruction by a licensed instructor during a driving school or driver education lesson.

Permit holders may not have any passengers in the vehicle except for a qualified trainer.

The qualified trainer:

• Must be 20 or older and held a driver's license for at least 4 years with no suspensions during the last 4 years.

Possible trainers include:

• Spouse of a married minor applicant, or

• Parent, grandparent, foster parent, or legal guardian, or

• If the applicant has no spouse, parent, grandparent, foster parent, or legal guardian qualified and available: Step-parent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt, by blood or marriage.

The On-The-Road Test Appointment

After an applicant has held the permit for 120 days or 180 days they will be given a date to return for the on-the-road portion of the driver's test at the same office.

Restrictions for Newly Licensed Teen Drivers (16 and 17 years of age)

Once you earn your driver license, you must follow certain driving restrictions, such as:

During the first six months of holding a driver's license, the license holder may not have any passengers in the vehicle except for:

• The driver's parents or legal guardian, at least one of whom must have a valid motor vehicle operator's license, OR

• One person who is who is at least 20 years of age or older, has held a license for four or more consecutive years and whose license has not been suspended in the last four years.

During the second six months (months seven through 12), the license holder has the same passenger restrictions as in the first six months however, the license holder may also transport members of his or her immediate family.

In addition:

• Until their 18th birthday, teenage drivers may not transport more passengers than the number of seat belts in the vehicle.

• Until his or her 18th birthday, a driver may not operate any vehicle that requires a public passenger transportation permit, or a vanpool vehicle.

• Driving is prohibited between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless the individual is traveling for employment, school, religious activities or for a medical necessity, or if the individual is an assigned driver in a Safe Ride program.

• Until their 18th birthday, teenage drivers may not use cell phones (even if they are "hands-free") or mobile electronic devices while they are driving. A "mobile electronic device" includes any handheld computer or other device with any type of video display.

These restrictions do not apply to persons who are active members of a volunteer fire company or department, a volunteer ambulance service or company, or an emergency medical service organization who are responding to an emergency call or carrying out their duties as an active member.

Z-15 Rev. 8/08

What Is Required

The Learner's Permit

For 16- and 17-Year-Old Drivers

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Melody A. Currey
Commissioner

State of Connecticut
Department of Motor Vehicles
60 State Street
Wethersfield, CT 06161

ct.gov/dmv
ct.gov/teendriving