

U.S. LICENSING SYSTEMS FOR YOUNG DRIVERS

September 2007

New drivers have elevated crash rates. This is particularly true for drivers younger than 18. Young novice drivers are at significant risk on the road because they lack both the judgment that comes with maturity and the skill that comes with experience. Graduated licensing is a system designed to delay full licensure while allowing beginners to obtain their initial experience under lower risk conditions. There are three stages: a minimum supervised learner's period, an intermediate license (once the driving test is passed) that limits unsupervised driving in high-risk situations, and a full-privilege driver's license available after completion of the first two stages. Beginners must remain in each of the first two stages for set minimum time periods. Although only four states lack an intermediate stage (Arkansas, Kansas, Minnesota, and North Dakota), U.S. licensing systems vary significantly.

In an optimal system, the minimum age for a learner's permit is 16; the learner stage lasts at least 6 months, during which parents must certify at least 30-50 hours of supervised driving; and the intermediate stage lasts until at least age 18 and includes both a night driving restriction starting at 9 or 10 p.m. and a strict teenage passenger restriction allowing no teenage passengers, or no more than one teenage passenger (see "Graduated Licensing: A Blueprint for North America" by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and Traffic Injury Research Foundation).

The table beginning on page 2 lists licensing requirements in the United States. Since the 1990s, most states have improved their licensing systems by enacting some or all the elements of graduated licensing. Licensing systems differ not only with regard to the number and strength of the elements of graduated licensing they have adopted, but in enforcement. Some states prohibit police from stopping young drivers solely for violating night driving or passenger restrictions (secondary enforcement). The Institute has evaluated state licensing systems using criteria designed to estimate their strength and likely effectiveness in reducing injuries. In particular, the length of the learner's holding period, the duration and strength of restrictions in the intermediate license phase are credited. No state has an optimal graduated licensing system.

Points were assigned for the key components of graduated licensing. Good systems scored 6 or more points; fair systems scored 4 or 5; marginal systems 2 or 3; and poor ones scored less than 2 points. Regardless of point totals, no state was rated above "marginal" if intermediate license holders could be younger than 16 or if it allowed unrestricted driving before 16, 6 months. The following schedule was used to assign points.

Learner's entry age:	1 point for learner's entry age of 16
Learner's holding period:	2 points for ≥ 6 mo.; 1 point for 3-5 mo.; none for < 3 mo.
Practice driving certification:	1 point for ≥ 30 hr.; none for less than 30 hr.
Night driving restriction:	2 points for 9 or 10 p.m. 1 point for after 10 p.m.
Passenger restriction:	2 points for ≤ 1 underage passenger; 1 for 2 passengers; none for 3; where supervising driver may be < 21 , point values were determined including the supervising driver as a passenger.
Driver education:	Where completion of driver education changed a requirement, point values were determined for the driver education track.
Duration of restrictions:	1 point if difference between minimum unrestricted license age and minimum intermediate license age is 12 or more months; night driving and passenger restrictions were valued independently

Jurisdiction/ Evaluation	Learner Stage			Intermediate Stage Restrictions on Driving while Unsupervised			Minimum Age at Which Restrictions May Be Lifted	
	Minimum Entry Age	Mandatory Holding Period	Minimum Amount of Supervised Driving	Minimum Age	Unsupervised Driving Prohibited	Restriction on Passengers (family members excepted unless otherwise noted)	Nighttime Restriction	Passenger Restriction
<i>Optimal provisions</i>	16	6 mo.	30–50 hr.	16, 6 mo.	9/10 p.m.–5 a.m.	No more than 1 teenage passenger *	Until age 18	17
Alabama / F	15 ¹	6 mo.	30 hr. ¹ (none with driver education)	16	Midnight–6 a.m.	No more than 3 passengers (parents and guardians excepted)	17 ¹	17 ¹
Alaska / G	14	6 mo.	40 hr., 10 of which must be at night or in inclement weather (eff. 1/1/05)	16	1 a.m.–5 a.m. (eff. 1/1/05)	First 6 mo.: No passengers (eff. 1/1/05)	16, 6 mo. (eff. 1/1/05)	16, 6 mo. (eff. 1/1/05)
Arizona / F	15, 6 mo. ² (eff. 6/30/08)	6 mo. (eff. 6/30/08)	30 hr., 10 of which must be at night ² (eff. 6/30/08) (none with driver education)	16	Midnight–5 a.m. (eff. 6/30/08) S	First 6 mo.: No more than 1 passenger younger than 18 (eff. 6/30/08) S	16, 6 mo. (eff. 6/30/08)	16, 6 mo. (eff. 6/30/08)
Arkansas / M	14	6 mo. ³	None	There is no passenger or night driving restriction. The minimum license age is 16. ³				
California / G	15, 6 mo. ⁴	6 mo.	50 hr., 10 of which must be at night	16	11 p.m.–5 a.m. (eff. 1/1/06) S	First 12 mo.: No passengers younger than 20 (limited exception for immediate family) (eff. 1/1/06) S	17	17 (eff. 1/1/06)
Colorado / G	15 ⁵	12 mo.	50 hr., 10 of which must be at night	16	Midnight–5 a.m. S	First 6 mo.: No passengers Second 6 mo.: No more than 1 passenger (eff. 7/1/05) S	17	17
			Cell phones: A driver, regardless of age, may not operate a cell phone in the learner stage (eff. 8/10/05) S					
Connecticut / G	16 ⁶	6 mo. (4 mo. with driver education) ⁶	20 hr. ⁶ (eff. 10/1/05)	16, 4 mo. ⁶	Midnight–5 a.m. (eff. 10/1/05)	First 3 mo.: No passengers ⁶ other than a parent if there is a supervising driver present Second 3 mo.: No passengers (family members excepted) (eff. 10/1/05)	18 (eff. 10/1/05)	16, 10 mo. ⁶ (eff. 10/1/05)
			Cell phones: A driver may not operate a cell phone in the learner or intermediate stage (eff. 10/1/05)					
Delaware / G	16 (eff. 8/31/06)	6 mo. ⁷	50 hr., 10 of which must be at night (eff. 8/31/06)	16, 6 mo. ⁷ (eff. 8/31/06)	10 p.m.–6 a.m. ⁷	No more than 1 passenger ⁷ (eff. 8/31/06)	17 (eff. 8/31/06)	17 (eff. 8/31/06)
			Cell phones: A driver may not operate a cell phone in the learner or intermediate stage (eff. 4/14/05)					

Key: **G**=good, **F**=fair, **M**=marginal, **P**=poor; **S**=secondary enforcement

continued

Jurisdiction/ Evaluation	Learner Stage			Intermediate Stage Restrictions on Driving while Unsupervised			Minimum Age at Which Restrictions May Be Lifted		
	Minimum Entry Age	Mandatory Holding Period	Minimum Amount of Supervised Driving	Minimum Age	Unsupervised Driving Prohibited	Restriction on Passengers (family members excepted unless otherwise noted)	Nighttime Restriction	Passenger Restriction	
<i>Optimal provisions</i>	16	6 mo.	30–50 hr.	16, 6 mo.	9/10 p.m.–5 a.m.	No more than 1 teenage passenger *	Until age 18	17	
District of Columbia / G	16	6 mo. ⁸	40 hr. in learner's stage; 10 hr. at night in intermediate stage	16, 6 mo.	September–June: 11 p.m.–6 a.m. Su–Th, 12:01 a.m.–6 a.m. Sa–Su; July–August: 12:01 a.m.–6 a.m. ⁸	First 6 mo.: No passengers; Thereafter, no more than 2 passengers	18 ⁸	18	
	Cell phones: A driver may not operate a cell phone in the learner stage.			Cell phones: There is a prohibition on the use of hand-held cell phones that applies to drivers of all ages.					
Florida ⁹ / F	15	12 mo.	50 hr., 10 of which must be at night	16	11 p.m.–6 a.m. (age 16), 1 a.m.–5 a.m. (age 17)	None	18	—	
Georgia / G	15	12 mo.	40 hr., 6 of which must be at night (eff. 7/1/2006) ¹⁰	16 ¹⁰	Midnight–6 a.m. S	First 6 mo.: No passengers Second 6 mo.: No more than 1 passenger younger than 21 (eff. 7/1/2006) Thereafter, no more than 3 passengers ¹⁰ S	18	18	
Hawaii ¹¹ / G	15, 6 mo.	6 mo. (eff. 1/9/06)	None	16	11 p.m.–5 a.m. (eff. 1/9/06)	No more than 1 passenger younger than 18 (household members excepted) (eff. 1/9/06)	17 (eff. 1/9/06)	17 (eff. 1/9/06)	
Idaho / M	14, 6 mo.	6 mo. (eff. 5/29/07)	50 hr., 10 of which must be at night	15 ¹²	Sunset to sunrise	First 6 mo.: Licensees 16 and younger can have no more than 1 passenger younger than 17 (eff. 5/29/07)	16 ¹²	15, 6 mo. (eff. 5/29/07)	
Illinois / G	15 ¹³	9 mo. (eff. 1/1/08)	50 hr., 10 of which must be at night	16 ¹³	Starts 10 p.m. Su–Th, 11 p.m. Fri–Sat, ends 6 a.m. (eff. 1/1/08)	First 12 mo.: No more than 1 passenger younger than 20 (eff. 1/1/08)	17 ¹³	17 (eff. 1/1/08)	
	Cell phones: A driver younger than 19 may not operate a cell phone (eff. 1/1/08)								
Indiana / F	15 ¹⁴	2 mo.	None	16, 1 mo. ¹⁴	11 p.m.–5 a.m. Su–F 1 a.m.–5 a.m. Sa–Su,	First 90 days: No passengers	18	16, 4 mo.	
Iowa / F	14	6 mo.	20 hr., 2 of which must be at night	16 ¹⁵	12:30 a.m.–5 a.m.	None	17 ¹⁵	—	
Kansas ¹⁶ / M	14	6 mo.	25 hr., in learner phase; 25 hr. before age 16; 10 of the 50 hr. must be at night	There is no intermediate stage. The minimum license age is 16.				—	—
Kentucky ¹⁷ / G	16	6 mo.	60 hr., 10 of which must be at night (eff. 10/1/06)	16, 6 mo.	Midnight–6 a.m. (eff. 10/1/06)	No more than 1 passenger younger than 20 unless supervised by a driving instructor (eff. 10/1/06) S	17 (eff. 10/1/06)	17 (eff. 10/1/06)	

Key: G=good, F=fair, M=marginal, P=poor; S=secondary enforcement

continued

Jurisdiction/ Evaluation	Learner Stage			Intermediate Stage Restrictions on Driving while Unsupervised			Minimum Age at Which Restrictions May Be Lifted	
	Minimum Entry Age	Mandatory Holding Period	Minimum Amount of Supervised Driving	Minimum Age	Unsupervised Driving Prohibited	Restriction on Passengers (family members excepted unless otherwise noted)	Nighttime Restriction	Passenger Restriction
<i>Optimal provisions</i>	16	6 mo.	30–50 hr.	16, 6 mo.	9/10 p.m.–5 a.m.	No more than 1 teenage passenger *	Until age 18	17
Louisiana / F	15 ¹⁸	6 mo.	None	16 ¹⁸	11 p.m.–5 a.m. ¹⁸	None	17 ¹⁸	—
Maine / G	15 ¹⁹	6 mo. ¹⁹	35 hr., 5 of which ¹⁹ must be at night	16 ¹⁹	Midnight–5 a.m.	First 180 days: No passengers	16, 6 mo. ¹⁹	16, 6 mo. ¹⁹
Cell phones: A driver may not operate a cell phone in the learner and intermediate stages								
Maryland / G	15, 9 mo.	6 mo. (eff. 10/1/05)	60 hr., 10 of which must be at night (eff. 10/1/05)	16, 3 mo. (eff. 10/1/05)	Midnight–5 a.m. ²⁰	First 5 mo.: No passengers younger than 18 (eff. 10/1/05) S	17, 9 mo. (eff. 10/1/05)	16, 8 mo. (eff. 10/1/05)
Cell phones: A driver younger than 18 may not operate a cell phone in the learner and intermediate stages (eff. 10/1/05) S								
Massachusetts / G	16	6 mo.	40 hr. (eff. 9/1/07) ²¹	16, 6 mo.	12:30 a.m.–5 a.m. ²¹ (eff. 3/1/07)	First 6 mo.: No passengers younger than 18 S (Between 12:30 a.m.–1:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m.–5:00 a.m. the night driving and passenger restrictions are subject to secondary enforcement; enforcement is primary at all other times) (eff. 3/1/07)	18	17
Michigan / F	14, 9 mo. ²²	6 mo.	50 hr., 10 of which must be at night	16 ²²	Midnight–5 a.m.	None	17 ²²	—
Minnesota / M	15 ²³	6 mo. ²³	30 hr., 10 of which must be at night	A provisional license may be granted at 16. There are no passenger or nighttime restrictions.			—	—
Cell phones: A driver may not operate a cell phone in the learner stage and in the provisional stage, which lasts for 12 mo. or until age 18 (eff. 1/1/2006)								
Mississippi / M	15	6 mo. ²⁴	None	15, 6 mo. ²⁴	10 p.m.–6 a.m. ²⁴	None	16	—
Missouri / G	15	6 mo.	20 hr. (until 1/1/07) 40 hr., 10 of which must be at night (eff. 1/1/07)	16	1 a.m.–5 a.m.	First 6 mo.: No more than 1 passenger younger than 19 Thereafter: No more than 3 passengers younger than 19 (eff. 8/28/06)	17, 11 mo. (eff. 8/28/06)	17, 11 mo. (eff. 8/28/06)
Montana / M	14, 6 mo.	6 mo. (eff. 7/1/06)	50 hr., 10 of which must be at night (eff. 7/1/06)	15 ²⁵	11 p.m.–5 a.m. (eff. 7/1/06)	First 6 mo.: No more than 1 passenger younger than 18 Second 6 mo.: No more than 3 passengers younger than 18 (eff. 7/1/06)	16 (eff. 7/1/06)	16 (eff. 7/1/06)

Key: **G**=good, **F**=fair, **M**=marginal, **P**=poor; **S**=secondary enforcement

Jurisdiction/ Evaluation	Learner Stage			Intermediate Stage Restrictions on Driving while Unsupervised			Minimum Age at Which Restrictions May Be Lifted	
	Minimum Entry Age	Mandatory Holding Period	Minimum Amount of Supervised Driving	Minimum Age	Unsupervised Driving Prohibited	Restriction on Passengers (family members excepted unless otherwise noted)	Nighttime Restriction	Passenger Restriction
<i>Optimal provisions</i>	16	6 mo.	30–50 hr.	16, 6 mo.	9/10 p.m.–5 a.m.	No more than 1 teenage passenger *	Until age 18	17
Nebraska / G	15 ²⁶	6 mo. (eff. 1/1/08)	50 hr., 10 of which must be at night (night requirement eff. 1/1/08) (none with driver education)	16	Midnight–6 a.m. S	First 6 mo.: No more than 1 passenger younger than 19 (eff. 1/1/08) S	17	16, 6 mo. (eff. 1/1/08)
						Cell phones: A driver younger than 18 may not operate a cell phone in the learner and intermediate stages (eff. 1/1/08) S		
Nevada / G	15, 6 mo.	6 mo. ²⁷ (eff. 10/1/05)	50 hr., eff. 10/1/05, 10 of the 50 hrs. must be at night	16 (eff. 10/1/05)	10 p.m.–5 a.m. (eff. 10/1/05) S	First 3 mo.: No passengers younger than 18 (eff. 10/1/05) S	18 (eff. 10/1/05)	16, 3 mo. (eff. 10/1/05)
New Hampshire / F	15, 6 mo. ²⁸	None	20 hr.	16	1 a.m.–5 a.m.	First 6 mo.: No more than 1 passenger younger than 25	17, 1 mo.	16, 6 mo.
New Jersey / G	16 ²⁹	6 mo. ²⁹	None	17 ²⁹	Midnight–5 a.m.	No more than 1 passenger (household members excepted)	18	18
						Cell phones: A driver may not operate a cell phone in the learner and intermediate stages. S		
New Mexico / M	15	6 mo.	50 hr., 10 of which must be at night	15, 6 mo.	Midnight–5 a.m.	No more than 1 passenger younger than 21	16, 6 mo. ³⁰	16, 6 mo. ³⁰
New York / G	16 ³¹	up to 6 mo. ³¹	20 hr.	16, 6 mo. ³¹	9 p.m.–5 a.m.	No more than 2 passengers younger than 21 ³¹	17 (18 without driver education) ³¹	17 (18 without driver education) ³¹
						Cell phones: All drivers, regardless of age, may not use a hand-held cell phone.		
North Carolina / G	15	12 mo.	None	16	9 p.m.–5 a.m. ³²	No more than 1 passenger younger than 21 (family members exempted); if a family member younger than 21 is already a passenger then no other passengers younger than 21 who are not family members	16, 6 mo.	16, 6 mo.
						Cell phones: Drivers younger than 18 may not operate a cell phone.		
North Dakota / M	14	6 mo.	None	There is no intermediate stage. The minimum license age is 16.			—	—
Ohio / G	15, 6 mo.	6 mo.	50 hr., 10 of which must be at night	16 ³³	Midnight–6 a.m. (age 16) (eff. 4/6/07), ³³ 1 a.m.–5 a.m. (age 17). S	No more than 1 passenger (eff. 4/6/07)	18 ³³	17 (eff. 4/6/07)

Key: **G**=good, **F**=fair, **M**=marginal, **P**=poor; **S**=secondary enforcement

continued

Jurisdiction/ Evaluation	Learner Stage			Intermediate Stage Restrictions on Driving while Unsupervised			Minimum Age at Which Restrictions May Be Lifted	
	Minimum Entry Age	Mandatory Holding Period	Minimum Amount of Supervised Driving	Minimum Age	Unsupervised Driving Prohibited	Restriction on Passengers (family members excepted unless otherwise noted)	Nighttime Restriction	Passenger Restriction
	<i>Optimal provisions</i>							
	16	6 mo.	30–50 hr.	16, 6 mo.	9/10 p.m.–5 a.m.	No more than 1 teenage passenger *	Until age 18	17
Oklahoma / G	15, 6 mo. ³⁴	6 mo.	40 hr., 10 of which must be at night (eff. 11/1/05)	16	11 p.m.–5 a.m. (eff. 11/1/05)	No more than 1 passenger (household members excepted) (eff. 11/1/05)	16, 6 mo. (17 without driver education) (eff. 11/1/05)	16, 6 mo. (17 without driver education) (eff. 11/1/05)
Oregon / G	15	6 mo.	50 hr. ³³ (100 hr. without driver education) Cell phones: A driver may not operate a cell phone in the learner and intermediate stages (eff. 1/1/08)	16	Midnight–5 a.m.	First 6 mo.: No passengers younger than 20 Second 6 mo.: No more than 3 passengers younger than 20	17	17
Pennsylvania / G	16	6 mo.	50 hr.	16, 6 mo.	11 p.m.–5 a.m.	None	17 (18 without driver education)	—
Rhode Island / G	16 ³⁵	6 mo.	50 hr., 10 of which must be at night Cell phones: Drivers younger than 18 may not operate a cell phone.	16, 6 mo.	1 a.m.–5 a.m.	First 12 mo.: No more than 1 passenger younger than 21	17, 6 mo.	17, 6 mo.
South Carolina / M	15	6 mo.	40 hr., 10 of which must be at night	15, 6 mo.	6 p.m.–6 a.m. EST, ³⁶ 8 p.m.–6 a.m. EDT	No more than 2 passengers younger than 21 (exceptions: family members and driving students to and from school)	16, 6 mo.	16, 6 mo.
South Dakota ³⁷ / M	14	6 mo. (3 mo. with driver education)	None	14, 6 mo. (14, 3 mo. with driver education)	10 p.m.–6 a.m.	None	16	
Tennessee / G	15	6 mo. ³⁸	50 hr., 10 of which must be at night Cell phones: A driver may not operate a cell phone in the learner and intermediate stages (eff. 7/1/05)	16	11 p.m.–6 a.m. ³⁸	No more than 1 passenger	17	17
Texas / F	15 ³⁹	6 mo.	None	16	Midnight–5 a.m. S	No more than 1 passenger younger than 21 S Cell phones: A driver may not operate a cell phone in the first 6 months of the intermediate stage (eff. 9/1/05)	16, 6 mo.	16, 6 mo.
Utah / G	15 ⁴⁰ (eff. 8/01/06)	6 mo. (eff. 8/01/06)	40 hr., 10 of which must be at night ⁴⁰	16 ⁴⁰	Midnight–5 a.m.	First 6 mo.: No passengers S	17	16, 6 mo
Vermont ⁴¹ / F	15	1 yr.	40 hr., 10 of which must be at night	16	None	First 3 mo.: No passengers without exception Second 3 mo.: No passengers (family members excepted)	—	16, 6 mo.

Key: **G**=good, **F**=fair, **M**=marginal, **P**=poor; **S**=secondary enforcement

continued

Jurisdiction/ Evaluation	Learner Stage			Intermediate Stage Restrictions on Driving while Unsupervised			Minimum Age at Which Restrictions May Be Lifted		
	Minimum Entry Age	Mandatory Holding Period	Minimum Amount of Supervised Driving	Minimum Age	Unsupervised Driving Prohibited	Restriction on Passengers (family members excepted unless otherwise noted)	Nighttime Restriction	Passenger Restriction	
<i>Optimal provisions</i>	16	6 mo.	30–50 hr.	16, 6 mo.	9/10 p.m.–5 a.m.	No more than 1 teenage passenger *	Until age 18	17	
Virginia / G	15, 6 mo.	9 mo.	40 hr., 10 of which must be at night	16, 3 mo.	Midnight-4 a.m. ⁴² S	First 12 mo.: No more than 1 passenger younger than 18; thereafter, no more than 3 passengers younger than 18 ⁴² S	18	18	
					Cell phones: A driver may not operate a cell phone in the intermediate stage (eff. 7/1/07)				
Washington / G	15 ⁴³	6 mo.	50 hr., 10 of which must be at night	16	1 a.m.–5 a.m. S	First 6 mo.: No passengers younger than 20 Second 6 mo.: No more than 3 passengers younger than 20 S	17 ⁴³	17 ⁴³	
					Cell phones: A provision prohibiting all drivers, regardless of age, from using hand-held cell phones (eff. 07/01/08) and from sending text messages (eff. 01/01/08) while driving has been enacted S				
West Virginia / F	15	6 mo.	30 hr. (none with driver education)	16	11 p.m.–5 a.m. ⁴⁴	No more than 3 passengers younger than 19 ⁴⁴	17	17	
					Cell phones: A driver may not operate a cell phone in the learner and intermediate stages (eff. 6/9/06) S				
Wisconsin / G	15, 6 mo. ⁴⁵	6 mo.	30 hr., 10 of which must be at night	16	Midnight–5 a.m.	No more than 1 passenger	16, 9 mo. ⁴⁵	16, 9 mo. ⁴⁵	
Wyoming / F	15	10 days	50 hr., 10 of which must be at night (eff. 9/16/05)	16	11 p.m.–5 a.m. (eff. 9/16/05)	No more than 1 passenger younger than 18 (eff. 9/16/05)	16, 6 mo. ⁴⁶	16, 6 mo. ⁴⁶	

Key: G=good, F=fair, M=marginal, P=poor; S=secondary enforcement

* Passenger restrictions vary with regard to their durations, the ages of passengers to whom they apply, and the availability of exceptions. Most states have exceptions for passengers who are related to the driver or are members of the driver's household, and there are exceptions when a supervising driver is in the vehicle.

¹ The supervising driver in Alabama must be a parent, guardian, or driving instructor. At age 16, permit holders may drive while supervised by any licensed driver. Certification waived for applicants who have completed driver education. Restrictions end after holding the intermediate license for at least 6 months and reaching age 17.

² A driver education instructor in Arizona can authorize a student enrolled in driver education who is age 15 to drive only while supervised by the authorizing instructor. Certification waived for applicants who have completed driver education.

³ In Arkansas, people age 14 can drive with an instruction permit after passing a written test; after 30 days and after passing a road test, they are eligible for a restricted license. Unsupervised driving is not permitted by holders of either the instruction permit or restricted license. The combined holding period for the permit and restricted license is 6 months. An intermediate phase for licensees younger than 18 prohibits drivers from transporting passengers who are unrestrained. Applicants for an intermediate license must be 16 and must be crash/ violation free for 6 months.

⁴ Students enrolled in driver education in California may drive while supervised by an instructor. License applicants who do not take driver education must wait until age 18 for a license. They are not required to go through an intermediate license stage.

⁵ In Colorado, the minimum permit age varies. Fifteen-year-olds who are enrolled in driver education may apply for an instruction permit. Their supervising driver must be a parent, stepparent, grandparent, guardian, or driving instructor. A person age 15, 6 months, may apply for an instruction permit which allows driving while supervised by a parent, stepparent, grandparent, or

guardian. Although driver education is not required at this age, applicants for this permit must have completed a 4-hour driver awareness program. At 16, young drivers may apply for a permit that allows driving while supervised by a licensed driver age 21 or older.

- ⁶ Either driver education or home training is required for license applicants younger than 18 in Connecticut. Time spent practice driving with a professional instructor counts toward the 20 hour certification requirement.
- ⁷ In Delaware, a driver education student does not need a permit to drive with a driver education instructor. After completing the on-road requirements of driver education, a driver education student who is at least age 15 years, 10 months may apply for a Driver Education Learner's Permit, which allows the student to drive while supervised by an experienced driver. Upon completion of driver education, and if the student passes both the road and written tests, the student receives a Level 1 permit that for the first 6 months allows driving only while supervised. There also is a passenger restriction during the first 6 months of the Level 1 permit. No more than 1 passengers (family members excepted) are permitted in addition to the supervising driver. The Level 1 permit for the second 6 months is the equivalent of an intermediate license. During that period, holders may drive unsupervised between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. and may only carry 1 passenger. Applicants for a driver's license who are younger than 18 must have held a Driver Education Learner's Permit and/or a Level 1 permit for at least 12 months. Driver education is required for all license applicants younger than 18.
- ⁸ The learner's stage in the District of Columbia is mandatory for all license applicants, regardless of age. A nighttime restriction (9 p.m.–6 a.m.) applies in the learner stage. License applicants younger than 21 must go through the intermediate stage until they have completed it or until age 21.
- ⁹ In Florida, learner's permit holders may not for the first 3 months drive after sunset and thereafter may not drive after 10 p.m.
- ¹⁰ In Georgia, license applicants younger than 17 must have completed driver education. The 7/1/2006 amendments changed the requirements for an intermediate license and the passenger restriction. Until 7/1/2006, at age 16, a permit holder who had held the permit 12 months could apply for an intermediate license after driving at least 40 hours, 6 of which had to be at night (20 hours, 6 at night if the permit holder had completed driver education). Until 7/1/2006, no passengers are permitted for the first 6 months and thereafter no more than 3 passengers are permitted.
- ¹¹ License applicants younger than 18 must have completed driver education in Hawaii.
- ¹² In Idaho, license applicants younger than 17 must have completed driver education. There are three classes of learner's permits: a training instruction permit for persons 14, 6 months taking driver education; a supervised instruction permit for practice driving with a nonprofessional supervisor; and an instruction permit for persons younger than 17 who have completed driver education and supervised driving or for persons 17 and older without either driver education or supervised driving.
- ¹³ Enrollment in driver education is required for permit applicants age 15 in Illinois; without driver education, a permit applicant must be age 17, 3 months. License applicants 18 and older are not required to have driver education or to go through an intermediate license stage.
- ¹⁴ Driver education determines the minimum age for permits and the intermediate license in Indiana. People enrolled in or who have completed driver education must be age 15 to have a permit; otherwise, they must be age 16. The minimum age for an intermediate license is 16, 1 month with driver education; age 16, 6 months, without.
- ¹⁵ In addition to the certification in the learner stage, Iowa requires a certification of 10 hours of supervised driving, 2 of which must be at night during the intermediate stage. Driver education is required for an intermediate license and for an unrestricted license if applicant is younger than 18. Restrictions end after holding an intermediate license for at least 1 year and reaching age 17.
- ¹⁶ In Kansas, restricted license holders may not drive unless supervised other than to and from school or work via the most direct route and may not carry minor passengers other than siblings. To get a restricted license, applicants must have driven at least 25 of the 50 hours required for a full license and must have held an instruction permit for 6 months.
- ¹⁷ The Kentucky law prohibits learner's permit holders from driving between midnight and 6 a.m. or from carrying more than 1 passenger younger than 20 unless supervised by a driving instructor. License holders younger than 18 must complete a driver education course or a state-sponsored traffic school.
- ¹⁸ Driver education is required in Louisiana for a permit and an intermediate license if the applicant is younger than 17. People 17 and older must have completed an educational program that does not require a behind-the-wheel component.
- ¹⁹ In Maine, driver education is required for a permit and a license if the applicant is younger than 18. The learner's permit holding period and the certification of practice driving applies to license applicants younger than 21.
- ²⁰ In Maryland, 15 year-olds may drive without a permit if supervised by a driver education instructor. Driver education and the certification of practice driving applies to all initial license applicants. The nighttime driving restriction, however, only applies to intermediate license holders younger than 18.
- ²¹ The requirement for supervised driving is 30 hours for applicants who have successfully completed a driver skills development program in a closed, off-road course licensed by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. Driver education is required of license applicants younger than 18. The night driving restriction in Massachusetts for permit holders younger than 18 is midnight to 5:00 a.m., unless they are accompanied by a licensed parent or guardian.
- ²² Permit applicants younger than 18 in Michigan must have completed the first segment of driver education; license applicants younger than 18 must have completed the second segment of driver education. Neither driver education nor an intermediate license is required for license applicants 18 and older.

- ²³ In Minnesota, permit applicants younger than 18 must be enrolled in driver education; license applicants younger than 18 must have completed driver education. The permit holding period applies to license applicants 18 and older unless they have completed driver education. Provisional license holders must be crash free to qualify for a full license.
- ²⁴ In Mississippi, license applicants 17 and older are exempt from the 6-month learner's permit holding period and the requirement to get an intermediate license.
- ²⁵ Enrollment in or completion of driver education is required for permit applicants younger than 15 in Montana; license applicants younger than 16 must have completed driver education.
- ²⁶ In Nebraska, 14 year-olds who live 1.5 miles or more from school and who either live outside or attend school outside a metropolitan area may be issued a learner's permit (called an "LPE permit") and a limited license (called a "school permit"). The LPE permit authorizes supervised driving for the purpose of preparing for the school permit, which allows driving to and from school or anyplace while supervised by a parent or guardian.
- ²⁷ Until October 1, 2005, the length of the mandatory holding period depends on the applicant's age. If license applicant is 16 then mandatory holding period in learner stage is 60 days. If license applicant is 17 then mandatory holding period in learner stage is 30 days. As of October 1, 2005, driver education will be required of all licensed applicants younger than 18 unless there is no driver education program offered within a 30-mile radius of the applicant's residence. Until then, Nevada license applicants younger than 18 must have completed driver education if the school the applicant is attending is located in a county with a population less than 50,000 or in a city or town with a population less than 25,000 and the school does not offer driver education.
- ²⁸ New Hampshire does not issue learner's permits. At age 15, 6 months, a person can drive while supervised by a licensed driver 25 or older.
- ²⁹ In New Jersey, the permit becomes an intermediate license after 6 months. The graduated licensing law applies to adults, except that the night driving and passenger restrictions are waived for new drivers 21 and older. If the applicant has not completed driver education, the minimum permit age is 17 and the minimum intermediate license age is 17, 6 months. Learner's permit holders may not drive between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. and may not carry more than 1 passenger in addition to the supervising driver.
- ³⁰ Permit applicants younger than 18 must be enrolled in driver education in New Mexico; license applicants younger than 18 must have completed driver education.
- ³¹ Currently, New York law does not have a minimum holding period for the learner's permit. The minimum age for an unrestricted driver's license is 18 (17 if the applicant has completed driver education). The exception is New York City where driving is prohibited unless the driver is 18 or older. Effective, September 1, 2003, New York has enacted a passenger restriction that applies to permit holders and license holders younger than 18 (17 if the applicant has completed driver education). The law also created a new class of license, the limited DJ license. Permit holders who pass a road test and certify 20 or more hours of practice driving may be given a limited DJ license which allows unsupervised driving to and from school, school activities, work, medical appointments, and day care for family members. The night driving and passenger restrictions apply to this license. Permit holders may apply for the limited DJ license at any time. There is, however, a six month holding period for the regular DJ license which allows unsupervised driving anywhere but retains the night driving and passenger restrictions. For the purpose of determining if the six month holding period has passed, both the time spent in the learner's permit phase and the time a person spends in the limited DJ phase is counted.
- ³² In North Carolina, learner's permit holders may not drive between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. for the first 6 months. Driver education is required for permit and license applicants younger than 18. Cell phone restriction does not apply to phone conversations with physicians, parent, guardian, or spouse.
- ³³ Ohio changed its night driving restriction from 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. for all drivers younger than 17 to midnight to 6:00 a.m. for drivers younger than 17 and 1:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. for 17-year-old drivers. The effective date of this change is 4/4/07. Driver education is required of license applicants younger than 18 in Ohio and Oregon. However, it is waived in Oregon for applicants who certify an additional 50 hours of supervised driving.
- ³⁴ Fifteen year-olds may drive in Oklahoma, but only while supervised by an instructor.
- ³⁵ Driver education is required of permit and license applicants younger than 18 in Rhode Island.
- ³⁶ In South Carolina, licensees in the learner stage may not drive between midnight and 6 a.m. unless supervised by a licensed parent or guardian. Fifteen year-olds who are enrolled in driver education do not need a permit to drive with an instructor. License applicants younger than 17 who have not completed driver education may not get a license to drive unsupervised after daylight.
- ³⁷ In South Dakota, learner's permit holders may not drive between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless under the supervision of their parent or guardian who is occupying a seat beside them.
- ³⁸ Learner's permit holders in Tennessee may not drive from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- ³⁹ In Texas, the minimum permit age is 15 for applicants who are enrolled in driver education. The minimum license age is 18 for applicants who have not completed driver education.
- ⁴⁰ Permit holders younger than 18 may only drive under the supervision of a driving instructor, a parent or guardian, or a responsible adult who accepted liability for the permit holder's driving by signing the permit application. Regardless of age, permit applicants in Utah must be enrolled in driver education, and license applicants must have completed driver education. Supervised driving in the learner stage may include up to 5 hours in a driving simulator. Passenger restrictions in Utah end when a driver has been licensed for 6 months or when the driver turns 18, whichever occurs first.
- ⁴¹ Driver education is required for license applicants younger than 18 in Vermont.

⁴² In Virginia, driver education is required for license applicants younger than 19 (18 if applicant holds a valid license from another state). Initial license applicants 19 and older must either complete driver education or hold a learner's permit at least 30 days. The night driving restriction and passenger restriction (no more than 1 passenger younger than 18) apply to learner's permit holders.

⁴³ Permit applicants in Washington must be enrolled in driver education; otherwise the minimum permit age is 15, 6 months. Driver education is required for license applicants younger than 18. Intermediate license holders with a crash or violation history are ineligible for an unrestricted license until age 18.

⁴⁴ In West Virginia, learner's permit holders younger than 18 may not drive 11 p.m.–5 a.m. and may not carry more than 2 passengers in addition to the supervising driver.

⁴⁵ Enrollment in driver education is required in Wisconsin for permit applicants younger than 18. Driver education is required for license applicants younger than 18. During the learner's stage, licensees may carry 3 passengers if supervised by a driving instructor in a dual-control vehicle or if at least 16, may carry 1 passenger 25 or older who has been licensed at least 2 years.

⁴⁶ In Wyoming, all applicants for an unrestricted license who are younger than 17 must have completed driver education and must have held an intermediate license for at least 6 months.