

Applying for a Minnesota Driver's License

It is not required to get a Minnesota Driver's License, but you are eligible to apply for one. Students are responsible for following the processes to obtain a Minnesota Driver's License and following legal driving requirements.

The information below is a basic overview. The referenced document requirements, fees, and regulations may change without notice. It is recommended that you also review the Minnesota Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) websites for full and up-to-date details of the process.

Minnesota Driver's License

Minnesota Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS): [Minnesota Driver's License Webpage](#)

You can apply for a Minnesota driver's license. A new F-1 student would apply for a "Class D license" as a "new resident". To obtain a Minnesota driver's license, you must pass a written knowledge test, a vision test, and a driving test.

How to Apply for a Minnesota Driver's License:

1. **Prepare for the written test** and road sign test by studying the [Minnesota Driver's Manual](#)
2. **Go to a DVS office location** that accepts first time driver's license applications. You will need to bring some required identification with you during certain hours. You will have your photo taken and take both your vision test and the written knowledge test there.

Documentation needed:

- Valid original passport
 - Visa inside passport
 - Valid original I-20
 - Your I-94
 - Saint Paul College **official transcript with date of birth printed:** [Official Transcript Request form](#). On this form, you must write in the blank space that you are an international student and require your date of birth printed on your transcript. Follow all other instructions on the form.
 - Social security card (if you have one)
3. Receive a driver's **instruction permit** and **start practicing driving** with a licensed driver (over age 21) in the front passenger seat.
 - **Note:** *if you do not already have a driver's license from your home country, you must hold the instruction permit for at least 6 months before you can take the road test.*
 4. **Pass the road test.** The road test is only given at limited locations. To find a location for the road test, visit: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/locations/Pages/find-office-locations.aspx>

- The closest locations to Saint Paul College are Eagan and Arden Hills
 - **Note:** you must have your own vehicle with insurance to take and pass the **road test** before you are issued a driver's license.
5. **Apply for a Minnesota driver's license** after you have passed the test
- You must bring with you the same documents listed above
 - Present your current MN instruction permit or non-Minnesota driver's license
 - Present white and yellow copy of your successful road test results
 - Pay the appropriate fees (currently \$25.25) by check or cash (or credit/debit card at some locations)

Additional notes about driver's licenses and driving in Minnesota

International Driving Permit (IDP)

An International Driving Permit (IDP) is not a driver's license. The IDP only verifies that you hold a valid driver's license in your home country. Your home country/foreign driver's license, not the IDP, allows you to drive legally in Minnesota. You are not required to have an IDP to drive in Minnesota. However, the permit verifies, in several languages, that you have a valid foreign driver's license. A police officer who cannot read the language on your foreign driver's license can read the IDP. If you plan to use your foreign driver's license to drive in MN, we recommend that you apply for the International Driving Permit (IDP) before leaving your home country.

You must get your IDP in your home country before arriving to the United States. The US does not issue IDPs to nonresidents.

The process for obtaining an IDP varies by the issuing country. You should contact the agency that granted your driver's license to ask about the process.

You are still required to change to a Minnesota driver's license within 60 days of establishing temporary residency in Minnesota.

"Status Check"

International students will have a "status check" date on their Minnesota driver's licenses. This date reflects the program end-date on your Form I-20. **Before the status check date on your license, you will need to go to the Driver's License Renewal Office and present a copy of a new or extended visa status document.** You may be asked to fill out additional documents. You may be asked to pay a fee if you don't do this before the status check date.

You are responsible for renewing your license before the status check date. If you are caught driving past the date of your status check, you may be arrested, cited, and/or fined.

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