

Applying for a North Carolina Driving License

www.ncdot.org/dmv

In the US, a driving license serves two purposes: permission to drive and identification. To drive legally in North Carolina you must have a valid (non-expired):

- a NC driving license
- a driving license from another US state
- a driving license issued by the government of your home/resident country

North Carolina does not recognize the International Driving License (IDL).

International students/scholars/spouses are considered non-residents of the state and thus are not required to get a North Carolina state license. However we strongly recommend that anyone who will be at Duke for at least an academic year apply for an NC license if eligible. Why? It will lower the cost of your auto insurance and you can use the license as ID without having to take your passport everywhere.

Who is eligible?

- J-1 visa holders who have a Social Security number (SSN)
- J-2 visa holders who have work permission & thus an SSN
- J-2 visa holders who have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)
- F-1 visa holders who have an on-campus job & thus an SSN
- H-1B visa holders who have an SSN
- F-2 and H-4 visa holders who have an ITIN
- TN visa holders who have an SSN

Requirements for a North Carolina Driving License

1. Proof of Identity (all items listed below are required)
 - Passport
 - I-20 for F-1 and F-2; DS-2019 for J-1 and J-2; I-797 for H-1 and H-4
 - SSN card or ITIN card
 - I-94 card (should be inside passport)
2. Proof of Residency (pick one—must be the original, not a photocopy)
 - Utility bill or bank statement addressed to you at a street address, not a box number
 - Your signed lease agreement for a local house/apartment
 - Undergraduates living in dorms must go to the registrar's office and get a copy of your transcript with a dorm address typed on it
3. Proof of Automobile Insurance
 - Form DL123 issued by your Auto insurance agent
4. Prove that you are able to drive and know the rules for driving in North Carolina.

Written Test

- Must get 72/100 questions correct; mainly taken from Chapters 4-5 of the Handbook
- Driving Handbooks and sample questions are available from I-House for a \$1 deposit
- Tests are currently available in English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish
- Driving Handbooks in these languages may be obtained for \$5 from the DMV

Traffic Sign Test

- Must be able to identify road signs based on shape and color, as shown in the Handbook

Driving Test

- Must pass written/sign exams before driving but can take all parts on the same day
- Must provide a car but does not require car ownership

Vision Test

- Brief vision test conducted at the DMV to prove that you have good vision
- Please bring or wear corrective lenses if you need them

Fees

- NC License - \$20.00 for five years
- Learner's Permit - \$15.00
- State ID - \$10.00
- Duplicate License - \$10.00

Individuals Without Cars

1. Restricted License

- Does not require auto insurance **but can only be used with** rental cars
- Requires you to purchase temporary auto insurance from the rental car agency

If caught driving a private car with the restricted license, you will be subject to the same punishment as driving without a license.

2. Short-Term Insurance Policy

- You may purchase an auto liability insurance for six months without a car

Non-Drivers (Getting a State Identification Card)

You may get a state ID card at the DMV by providing the same proofs of identity and proof of residency that are required for drivers. It will be issued while you wait. Having a state ID card will prevent you from having to carry your passport at all times.

DMV Locations and Hours

- Homestead Village Shopping Plaza on Hwy 54 (exit 276 from I-40) in Durham, 919.560.3378
- Carrboro Plaza on Hwy 54 (near Chapel Hill) in Carrboro, 919.929.4161
- All DMV offices are open Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. Do not arrive after 3.30pm

Arriving at Homestead Village DMV by Bus

- Take DATA bus Route 6 from Erwin Road in front of the hospital and change to Route 7
- Get off just after MLK Blvd crosses Fayetteville Street and walk to Homestead Village Plaza
- Bus drivers can tell you when to get off if you are unsure
- The cost is \$1 (ask for bus transfer ticket). The trip takes approximately 1 hour.