



# pennsylvania

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### **Driver's License Application Process**

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (Penn DOT) requires that non-U.S. Citizens provides documentation when applying for a PA Driver's License, Learner's Permit, or Identification Card, or transferring an out of state license. If you are getting a new **Pennsylvania driver's license** for the first time, you will need to **start with a learner's permit**.

#### **Helpful PennDot webpages:**

- <https://www.dmv.pa.gov/Driver-Services/Driver-Licensing/Pages/get-driver-license.aspx>
- <https://www.dmv.pa.gov/Driver-Services/Pages/Open-Locations.aspx>
- <https://www.dmv.pa.gov/Information-Centers/Payment/Pages/Payments-and-Fees-Page.aspx/>
- [Pennsylvania New License Application Info | DMV.ORG](#)
- [Driver Licensing \(pa.gov\)](#)
- [Online Driver's Manual \(pa.gov\)](#)

#### **Do you have a Foreign Driver's License?**

Individuals who possess a valid foreign driver's license from their country are authorized to drive in Pennsylvania for up to one year from their date of entry into the United States, or upon expiration of their foreign license, whichever comes first. International driving permits are strongly recommended, but not required.

#### **Are you a Canadian? Just Moved from Another State?**

Anyone who move to Pennsylvania and expects to establish residency in PA, if you hold a valid driver's license from another state or **Canada**, you must get a PA driver's license within 60 days after moving and surrender your out-of-state license.

#### **Are you from France or Germany?**

Nationals from these countries should contact Penn Dot for details regarding the reciprocity agreement. Reciprocity agreements exist with France and Germany allowing for the transfer of a valid non-commercial driver's license without having to take the Road and Knowledge Tests. A Vision Test will be administered. Transfer of a driver's license from Puerto Rico, France or Germany cannot be completed the same day.

#### **Step by Step Instructions:**

You can find more information here: <https://www.dmv.pa.gov/Driver-Services/Driver-Licensing/Pages/get-driver-license.aspx>

NOTE: If you do not have a social security number, you will need to apply for an SSN (even if you are not eligible for an SSN) before you apply for a learner's permit as you will need either a SSN or the proof from the Social Security Administration that you are not eligible for an SSN.

1. Study for Drivers License Written Knowledge Exam: <https://www.dmv.pa.gov/Driver-Services/Teen-Drivers/Pages/Test-Your-Knowledge.aspx>

2. Complete page 1 of DL-180: <http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Public/DVSPubsForms/BDL/BDL%20Form/DL-180.pdf>
3. Make an appointment at Health Services for a Driver's License Physical exam. Ask them to fill out page 2 of DL-180. <https://www.haverford.edu/health-services/services>
4. Make an appointment at the DMV: <https://www.dmv.org/pa-pennsylvania/dmv-office-finder.php> <https://www.dmv.org/pa-pennsylvania/appointments.php>
5. **To get issued a Learner's Permit you must go to a local DMV and do an eye-screening and take the Knowledge Test. You should take the following documents with you:** <https://www.dmv.org/pa-pennsylvania/learners-permit-checklist.php>
  - Payment – see costs and payment formats: <https://www.dmv.pa.gov/Information-Centers/Payment/Pages/Payments-and-Fees-Page.aspx/>
  - Completed [DL-180](#) Form
  - Verification letter from Haverford College's Registrar's Office
  - I-20
  - Valid passport with visa used for last entry to the U.S.
  - I-94 (You can download your latest I-94 here: [I94 - Official Website \(dhs.gov\)](#))
  - Form I-766, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), if you are on optional practical training
  - Your Social Security Number (SS#) or Form SSA-L676 (Refusal to Process SS# Application)
  - ONLY IF YOU ARE ON AN H-4 (Dependent of H-1) VISA - written verification from employer showing proof of employment for H-1 principal holder AND I-797 indicating extension of status if stay documents are expired or is about to expire (less than 6 months)
  - Two (2) proof of residency in Pennsylvania including:  
More info can be found here:  
<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/Public/DVSPubsForms/BDL/BDL%20Publications/pub%20195nc.pdf>
    - a. W-2 Forms or pay stub
    - b. PA vehicle registration card
    - c. Official Tax Records reflecting name and current address
    - d. Post-marked mail/package labels through USPS, FedEx, UPS, etc.
    - e. Letter from the Residential Life Office
    - f. Rental Lease Agreements/Mortgage documents
    - g. Computer generated utility (cellphone/ cable/electric/gas) bill that shows your name, and address,
    - h. Car insurance statements with your current U.S. address  
*Maybe acceptable (if you only have one of the above; this is not a must)*
      - A bank statement (if it includes your address)
      - Mail from Haverford College sent to your PA residency
6. Once you are ready to take the road skills test, schedule an appointment at the DMV: <https://www.dmv.org/pa-pennsylvania/dmv-office-finder.php> <https://www.dmv.org/pa-pennsylvania/appointments.php>
  - COVID-19 updates from PennDot can be found here: [Coronavirus \(penndot.gov\)](#)
  - Due to the COVID-19 public health crisis not all DMV centers are currently open, and some are only offering limited services. You can find a list of center locations and services here: <https://www.dmv.pa.gov/Driver-Services/Pages/Open-Locations.aspx>

**Note: All dependents of primary visa holders must be accompanied by the primary; they too must bring all the documents required.**

**Driving is allowed with a Temporary Learner's Permit:**

1. The Temporary Learner's Permit allows you to practice driving, **but you must be accompanied by a licensed driver 21 years of age or older.**
2. This driver **must ride in the front passenger seat** of the vehicle.
3. Once you have received this Learner's Permit, you can **schedule a driving skills** test when you feel that you are ready.
4. All Drivers' License Centers in the Philadelphia area require appointments to take the skills test.

**Note Worthy:**

- Non-immigrants granted entry for one year or less will not be eligible for a Pennsylvania Driver's License, Learner's Permit or Photo Identification Card.
- Please consider that Penn Dot verifies immigration documents electronically with DHS. Verification may not be able to be completed on the day of your visit and may require additional verification, which can take up to 3 weeks to complete.
- Applications for change in status will not be accepted. Only valid Passports and original documents will be accepted.
- Non-U.S. Birth Certificates will not be accepted.
- You cannot obtain a driver's license if you have a visitor's visa.
- The Pennsylvania Driver's License Center can administer written exams in Spanish and English.