

MODULE 1 - HOW CAN I GET MY DRIVERS LICENSE?

Objectives:

1. To learn the three stages of Ohio's Graduated Licensing law.
 2. To understand the step-by-step procedures on how to obtain an Ohio drivers license.
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How can I get my drivers license?

The purpose of this module is to help you understand the process in obtaining a drivers license and to learn about Graduated Licensing (GL) programs.

What's all this talk about Graduated Licensing?

Graduated Licensing, or GL, is a method that gives young drivers like you the time to improve your driving skills and habits. A growing number of states have enacted GL laws.

Why have Graduated Licensing?

Deaths and injuries were accelerating under the old licensing laws, especially among teens driving at night or under the influence of alcohol. Graduated licensing puts the brakes on these dangerous practices and has led to:

- fewer teens who are injured or killed in motor vehicle accidents.
- fewer accidents because of curfews that restrict teen driving at night.
- fewer crashes because teens are less likely to drink and drive due to zero tolerance laws for alcohol in the blood stream.

Why is it called graduated?

That's because there are three stages that are common in most Graduated Licensing programs. New drivers must go through all stages before acquiring a license.

What are these stages?

The first is when you obtain your learner's permit, usually called a temporary permit. Next, you secure an intermediate or provisional license, known as a probationary license. Finally, you receive a full license once you turn 18. Moving from one stage to the next means that you must meet certain requirements, though.

How do I get an Ohio temporary permit?

You need to be at least 15 1/2 years of age to apply for a temporary permit. To do this, follow these steps:

1. Go to the Deputy Registrar and purchase a Temporary Packet and ID card. These usually cost less than \$10.
2. The next step is the Drivers License Examination Station. Take your Temporary Packet and ID card with you. Expect to take written and vision tests. Once you pass, you'll be issued a temporary permit.
3. Now you can start driving, but under the following provisions:

NOTE: Click here to view a summary of Ohio's Graduated Licensing Law. (GREG – this should link to http://www.ohioinsurance.org/factbook/2006/chapter6/chapter6_h.asp)

A. Age and Occupant Restrictions

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- A temporary permit can be obtained at age 15 1/2. The permit is valid for one year, and must be held for at least six months prior to becoming eligible for a probationary license. Temporary permit holders must carry their temporary permit and an identification card with them while operating a vehicle.
- Temporary permit holders under age 16 must be accompanied by an “eligible adult,” which is defined as a parent, guardian, legal custodian or licensed driving instructor. The eligible adult must have a valid drivers license and occupy the front passenger seat.
- Probationary license holders under the age of 17 are limited to transporting one additional passenger who is not a family member. They can only have one passenger in the vehicle unless the driver’s parent or guardian is in the vehicle.

B. Drivers Training Certification

Holders of temporary permits are required to verify completion of 50 hours of driving with a parent or guardian, including 10 hours of nighttime driving. This is in addition to the 24 hours of classroom instruction and 8 hours behind the wheel driver education requirement in the driver education courses. Training must be completed by all temporary permit holders under age 18 prior to obtaining their probationary license. A probationary drivers license is defined as a license issued to anyone under age 18.

C. Probationary Drivers License Eligibility

- In order to be eligible for a probationary license, a temporary permit holder must complete the driver training certification requirements noted above and have held a temporary permit for at least six months. This means that a person must be at least 16 before being eligible for the probationary drivers license.
- The temporary permit holder must also pass the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles’ driving and maneuverability test prior to issuance of a probationary license.
- A probationary license is held until the age of 18 when full driving privileges without restrictions become available to those completing the probationary licensing stage.

D. Curfew Restrictions

- Temporary permit holders under age 18 are prohibited from operating a motor vehicle between midnight and 6 a.m. unless accompanied by an “eligible adult” (parent, guardian, legal custodian or licensed driving instructor). This is a secondary enforcement violation meaning that if a person is stopped on another alleged traffic violation, this can also be enforced.
- Probationary drivers license holders under age 17 are prohibited from operating a motor vehicle between midnight and 6 a.m. unless accompanied by a parent or guardian, with the following exceptions: If the probationary drivers license holder is driving to or from work, to or from a school activity or in an emergency situation. This is also subject to secondary enforcement. Travel to or from work is permitted provided the teen has written documentation from the employer.
- Probationary drivers license holders between 17-18 years of age are restricted from operating a motor vehicle between 1 and 5 a.m. unless accompanied by a parent or

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guardian, with the following exceptions: If the probationary drivers license holder is driving to or from work, to or from a school activity or in an emergency situation. This is also subject to secondary enforcement. Travel to or from work is permitted provided the teen has written documentation from the employer.

E. Penalties for Traffic Violations and Other Offenses

- A probationary licensed driver who violates passenger restrictions, and transports more than one passenger who is not a family member, is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. It is a primary violation, meaning law enforcement can pull over a vehicle solely for violating the passenger limit law; they do not have to see any other violations.
- A restricted nighttime hours violation is secondary, so law enforcement would need another reason to pull the vehicle over.
- If a probationary driver license holder under the age of 17 is convicted of having committed one moving violation during the first six months of having a driver's license, the person must be accompanied by a parent or guardian whenever operating a motor vehicle during the six-month period commencing on the date on which the person is convicted of or pleads guilty to the moving violation or until the person turns 17.
- Temporary permit holders and probationary license holders who are convicted of certain alcohol-related violations before age 18 will have their license suspended for six months. If the offender is not yet 15 ½, the offender will not be eligible for a temporary permit until age 16.

NOTE: For additional laws affecting young drivers, go to:

<http://www.drivertraining.ohio.gov/laws.htm>.

4. While you have your temporary permit, you want to complete the requirements that you'll need for a probationary license.
 - If you're under 18, you'll want to sign up for drivers education from a commercial company or at your high school. The course will have at least 24 hours of class and eight hours of driving.
 - On top of this, you need to drive for a minimum of 50 hours with a parent or guardian who will need to certify that you have done this. Ten of these hours need to be at night.
 - You have to hold your temporary permit for at least six months before you can get a probationary license.
 - You can't have any alcohol offenses during this time or you risk losing your permit. These offenses might delay you from getting your probationary license.

Just what is a probationary license?

A probationary license is actually a regular drivers license, only with certain restrictions applying until you reach 18.

What do I need to do to get an Ohio probationary license?

Once you meet all the requirements AND reach 16, you're ready to try for a probationary license:

1. Make an appointment at the Driver License Examination Station.
2. Pass the road and maneuverability tests.

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3. Take the test results to the Deputy Registrar and purchase a probationary license. It usually costs less than \$20.

4. Keep the probationary license until you are 18, at which time the restrictions are lifted and the probationary license becomes your full license.

Just remember, while you're driving, all passengers in your car must wear safety belts! And, any alcohol offenses could postpone you from obtaining your full license.

How do I reach my final goal of getting a full Ohio drivers license?

When you turn 18-but there are things that can happen to delay this. Any alcohol offense can hurt your chance for your full license.

Am I treated any different from an adult if I drink and drive?

The laws are very strict for those who hold temporary permits and probationary licenses. Ohio's tolerance level for these drivers is set near zero. This means if you are under 21 years of age and are caught with any alcohol in your blood stream while you are driving with a permit or probationary license, you will be charged with an offense.

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Module 1 - Quiz

Module 1 - Question 1 of 7:

"Your 15th birthday was on April 8. How soon can you apply for your temporary permit?"

A. "That's easy. October 8, when I reach the ripe old age of 15 1/2."

Feedback: "Congratulations!"

B. "Piece of cake. Next April 8, when I turn 16. Uh, Carol, when I said piece of cake what I meant was, can I have a bite of yours?"

Feedback: "No, I think you've got the temporary permit mixed up with the probationary license. You can apply for the temporary permit on October 8, when you're 15 1/2."

C. "Is this a trick question? It's August 8."

Feedback: "No. You can't age a half a year in only four months. You have to wait until October 8 to apply for a temporary permit, when you turn 15 1/2."

Module 1 - Question 2 of 7:

"You want to take Kelly, who is 18 and has a full drivers license, out on Friday night. You think you'll be out past one in the morning. If you only have your probationary license, can you still drive as long as she supervises you?"

A. "Yeah, it's fine to drive Kelly as long as she's fully licensed. Did you think I'd take my parents along to watch me drive?"

Feedback: "Well, you may just have to ask your folks along for a double date, because Kelly isn't old enough. She has to be at least 21 to supervise your driving."

B. "Nah, she's older than me but not that old! She'd have to be at least 21 to supervise my driving."

Feedback: "Yes. You have to ask someone older with a license to go with you. So, does dad get to sit in the front seat, and Kelly in the back?"

Module 1 - Question 3 of 7:

"When can you get a full license?"

A. "As soon as I complete drivers ed and have 50 hours of parent/guardian supervised driving experience, including 10 hours at night."

Feedback: "Whoa, not so fast. You can't apply for a full license until you turn 18."

B. "Not until I'm 18 regardless of when I complete the education and driving requirements."

Feedback: "Yep. Graduated licensing means you keep your probationary license until you turn 18."

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Module 1 - Question 4 of 7:

"How many moving violations will delay, or keep you from obtaining a full license?"

A. "No problem. I can have two moving violations within 90 days and still be able to get my license."

Feedback: "No, not quite right. If you get two moving violations your license will be suspended for 90 days. Got it? Only after the suspension has lifted can you get your license."

B. "I'm not quite sure, but I think that if I have three or more violations within a year I could lose my license."

Feedback: "No. I don't think so! Your license will be suspended for one year for three moving violations before age 18."

C. "I believe that more than one moving violation will delay my ability to obtain a full license."

Feedback: "Yep. Got it! Know that two moving violations will cause a 90 day suspension, and that three moving violations will cause a one year suspension, both of which will delay your ability to get your full license. But remember, violations for any alcohol involvement will lead to suspensions of driving privileges."

Module 1 - Question 5 of 7:

"You've put your foot on the first step of the corporate ladder by working as a stocker at the Pic-n-Pac grocery store on Saturday nights. If you are 17 and have a probationary permit, can you drive home at 2:00 a.m.?"

A. "No, which means that instead of driving home, I've got to pedal my Schwinn."

Feedback: "Actually, you can drive home since you are coming from work."

B. "Yea, because I am gainfully employed."

Feedback: "Good. get to spend some of your earnings on gas to drive yourself home *AS LONG AS* you carry written documentation from your employer. Without the documentation, you might be using your skateboard to get home!"

Module 1 - Question 6 of 7:

"If you get your temporary permit when you're 15 1/2, what's the minimum amount of time you need to hold the temporary permit?"

A. "At least 6 months."

Feedback: "Yes! You have to have your temporary permit for at least six months."

B. "At least 2 1/2 years, until I get my full license"

Feedback: "No, you don't have to wait longer than six months."

C. "There is no minimum."

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Feedback: "That isn't quite right. There is no minimum if you're 18 or older."

Module 1 - Question 7 of 7:

"How do you go about obtaining a full license?"

A. "I think I need to pass another driving test at the Drivers License Examination Station, where I turn in my probationary license and get the full license."

Feedback: "Nope, you're mistaken. You don't have to take another test or get another license. At 18, the restrictions on your probationary license are lifted and it becomes your full license."

B. "I have to wait until I'm 18, then return to the Deputy Registrar to purchase my full license."

Feedback: "No, you don't have to purchase a full license. At 18, the restrictions on your probationary license are lifted and it becomes your full license."

C. "I really don't have to obtain any new license because the restrictions on my probationary license are removed once I turn 18."

Feedback: "You're right! You don't get a new license once you turn 18. You'll have the same license, without restrictions, until you're 21. That's when you'll get a new picture taken and receive a new license."

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Module 1 – Teacher Recording Score Sheet

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User Name	Questions:	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	Date
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