Students: How to Get a CT Driver’s License or State ID

Step 1. ISSS Check In

- New students must check in with ISSS online and register for classes before applying for a license or ID. Returning students or dependents of students may go to step 2.

Step 2. Social Security Application

- Visit the Social Security Administration to apply. If you have a job on campus, you will be issued a Social Security Number (SSN). If you do not work, you will be issued a letter indicating that you are not eligible for SSN. Bring the following to Social Security office:
  - Passport
  - I-94 admission printout
  - Form I-20 or DS-2019
  - If you have a job, offer letter and letter from ISSS

  NOTE: If you are applying for a CT state ID, go directly to DMV after completing this step to obtain your ID card, bringing the documents listed in “Step 4”.

Step 3. Safe Driving Program course

- Complete a mandatory 8-hour driving course. Be sure to get proof of completion when done. Please note that you can take this course at any point before the road test (Step 5).

Step 4. Written Test and Adult Learner’s Permit

- Schedule an appointment with the Department of Motor Vehicles for a written test and Adult Learner’s Permit. You must hold the learner’s permit for 90 days before you can move on to the next step (road test).
- If you have a current or previous license from your home country or a previous U.S. license, the 90 day period may be waived. You must provide that license (even if expired) in order to be waived.
- Schedule your appointment online at www.ct.gov/dmv, search term “Adult Learner’s Permit”
- Bring the following to your appointment:
  - Passport
  - I-94 admission printout
  - Form I-20 or DS-2019
  - Social Security Card or Social Security office denial letter (from Step 2)
  - Certified school transcript (if you don’t have a Social Security card)
  - Two pieces of mail to show proof that you live in CT (mail that was sent to you and stamped)

  NOTE: When you apply for a driver’s license or state ID, the DMV must verify your immigration status to complete the application. To do this, they use a program called the SAVE Program. If they cannot initially verify your status they will advise you that your request cannot be completed until status is verified. They should give you a 15 digit verification number that you can use to check the progress of your case online. You can use that number to check your case here https://www.uscis.gov/save/casecheck and should wait until the status has been verified to return to the DMV for your learner’s permit.

Step 5. Road Test

- Return to the DMV to take the road test. After you have had the learner’s permit for 90 days, you can schedule an appointment to take a road test. You will need to bring a car for the road test. Find a list of documents to bring and information on the test and appointment scheduling here: www.ct.gov/dmv, search term “DMV Road Test”

Step 6. Get your license!

Social Security office locations can be found at www.ssa.gov > Contact > Find an Office

Find a list of driving schools that offer the Safe Driving program on the DMV website

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Scholars: How to Get a CT Driver’s License/CT State ID

Step 1. ISSS Check In

- New scholars must check in with ISSS online and register for classes before applying for a license or ID. Continuing scholars or dependents of scholars may go to step 2.

Step 2. Social Security Application

- Visit the Social Security Administration to apply. Many visiting scholars will be issued a Social Security Number (SSN). If you are found to be not eligible, you will be issued a letter indicating that you are not eligible for SSN. Bring the following to Social Security office:
  - Passport
  - I-94 admission printout
  - Form DS-2019

☐ NOTE: If you are applying for a CT state ID, go directly to DMV after completing this step to obtain your ID card, bringing the documents listed in “Step 4”.

Step 3. Safe Driving Program course

- Complete a mandatory 8-hour driving course. Be sure to get proof of completion when done. Please note that you can take this course at any point before the road test (Step 5).

Step 4. Written Test and Adult Learner’s Permit

- Schedule an appointment with the Department of Motor Vehicles for a written test and Adult Learner’s Permit. You must hold the learner’s permit for 90 days before you can move on to the next step (road test).
  - If you have a current or previous license from your home country or a previous U.S. license, the 90-day wait period may be waived. You must show that license (even if expired) in order to be waived.
  - Schedule your appointment online at www.ct.gov/dmv, search term “Adult Learner’s Permit”
  - Bring the following to your appointment:
    - Passport
    - I-94 admission printout
    - Form DS-2019
    - Social Security Card or Social Security office denial letter (from Step 2)
    - Two pieces of mail to show proof that you live in CT (mail that was sent to you and stamped)
    - If you were issued a Social Security office denial letter, you must bring one additional document to prove your identity. This can be either: 1) A marriage certificate, with English translation) 2) A certified school transcript from a college you attended (even if in another country), with English translation.

☐ NOTE: When you apply for a driver’s license or state ID, the DMV must verify your immigration status to complete the application. To do this, they use a program called the SAVE Program. If they cannot initially verify your status they will advise you that your request cannot be completed until status is verified. They should give you a 15-digit verification number that you can use to check the progress of your case online. You can use that number to check your case here https://www.uscis.gov/save/casecheck and should wait until the status has been verified to return to the DMV for your learner’s permit.

Step 5. Road Test

- Return to the DMV to take the road test. After you have had the learner’s permit for 90 days, you can schedule an appointment to take a road test. You will need to bring a car for the road test. Find a list of documents to bring and information on the test and appointment scheduling here: www.ct.gov/dmv, search term “DMV Road Test”

Step 6. Get your license!