

Obtain a Texas Driver's License

You must have a valid driver's license to drive a car anywhere in the United States. Each state in the United States issues its own driver's license. To drive a car in Texas you must have a valid Texas driver's license. Issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) the driver's license or state I.D. card serves as the primary identification document. The Texas Driver's License is a nationally accepted form of identification that can be used to establish your identity. Anyone who has a driver's license issued by another U.S. state may drive in Texas for only 90 days on that license. Foreign nationals may drive on their foreign driver's license for a period of up to one year, provided they have an **International Driver's Permit (IDP)**. The IDP is a document secured in one's home country of origin and serves only as a valid translation of a home country driver's license. It may not be used by itself, as the official home country driver's license must accompany it to be considered a valid driving document. Please check with your home country government office on how to obtain an IDP in your home country.

APPLY FOR A TEXAS DRIVER LICENSE

The **Texas Driver's Handbook** is available online or at any driver license office to help individuals qualify for a Texas driver license. <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/ApplyforLicense.htm>

Individuals applying for their first Texas driver license must:

- Gather documents that verify their **identity, Social Security Number, U.S. citizenship or lawful presence** status, and **Texas residency**.
- Complete the **application**. (This form is available online and at any driver license office.)
- Provide proof of Texas vehicle registration and liability insurance for all vehicles registered in the individual's name.
- Apply in person at any **driver license office** and bring the required documents and **fees**.
- Pass the knowledge and driving tests, unless exempt. (Read about **testing in other languages**.)

NOTE: Applicants under 25 years of age must also successfully complete a **driver education** course before applying for their first Texas driver license.

FOREIGN STUDENTS AND NONRESIDENT VISITORS

To reduce the risk of identity theft, enhance security and protect the integrity of the licensing process, nonresident visitors (including students) applying for a driver license or identification card must meet certain requirements. Please review the **Lawful Presence Requirements, Temporary Visitor Issuance Guide** and acceptable documents listed at the bottom of the **Lawful Presence Requirements page** to determine what material you will need. In addition, a **brochure** listing all of the acceptable documents is available for download.

U.S. CITIZENSHIP OR LAWFUL PRESENCE REQUIREMENT

Learn more about other documents that must be presented when **applying** for or **renewing** a driver license or **ID card**
To reduce the risk of identity theft, enhance security and protect the integrity of the licensing process, individuals must present one document from the appropriate category below to verify their U.S. citizenship or lawful presence status. When at the driver license office, the Customer Service Representative (CSR) will verify the period of lawful presence with the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**. A driver license or ID card cannot be issued until the period of lawful presence is verified by DHS. If the CSR is unable to immediately verify the information electronically, the individual will be given instructions on what to do next.

Please see the **Temporary Visitor Issuance Guide** for more information on the different immigration statuses, whether or not each group is eligible for a driver license or ID card and the specific documents needed to apply.

NOTE: The “Temporary Visitor Issuance Guide” is for informational purposes only and does not ensure a driver license or ID card will be issued.

LICENSES AND ID CARDS

In addition to lawful presence, individuals must meet other requirements to obtain a Texas **driver license** or **ID card**. Applicants who are not a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, lawful permanent resident, refugee or asylee may be eligible for a **nonresident commercial driver license**.

RENEWALS

Due to DHS verification processing time, applicants are encouraged to renew their driver license or ID card early.

ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTS

You must provide proof of your lawful presence in the United States. Examples of documents to verify lawful presence include but are not limited to:

- Birth certificate
- Student Visa
- Passport
- I-20 Non-immigrant student (F-1)

INDIVIDUALS WHO DON'T HAVE A SSN

Individuals who do not have a SSN, have never been issued a SSN, or are not eligible for a SSN can visit any driver license office and complete an affidavit attesting to such. Providing a false statement in connection with this affidavit will result in the cancellation of the driver license and may result in criminal charges.

LOCATIONS OF CLOSEST DPS OFFICES

Brownsville

2901 Paredes Line Road
Phone: (956) 983-1920
Hours: 8-5

Edinburg

1212 S. 25th (on Hwy 281 north
between Freddy Gonzalez and
Sprague St.)
Phone: (956) 383-3471
Hours: 8-5

McAllen, TX

1414 Bicentennial
Phone: (956) 984-5648
Hours: 8-5

For more information and current fees contact the

Texas Department of Public Safety-Driver s License Division: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us>

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FOR STATE OF TEXAS

Please check with a U.S. automobile insurance company to obtain your insurance. To drive without coverage will incur high fines and possible loss of your license. Proof of insurance must be carried in your vehicle at all times.

Important note: We have been told that Mexican auto insurance will not cover your vehicle if you are living in the valley while you attend school. Please check with your insure to verify.