



Louisiana Department of Public Safety  
Office of Motor Vehicles  
**Policy 12.00 Road Skills Tests**

**Section:** 1. Issuance of Driver's License

**Effective Date:** 05/01/1986

**Revised Date:** 11/10/2022

**Authority:**

[R.S. 32:408](#)

[R.S. 32:402.3](#)

To view Louisiana Statutes: <http://www.legis.state.la.us/>

**Definitions:**

- **Road Skills Test** – An examination designed to test the driver's ability to safely operate and maneuver a vehicle

**Eligibility:**

- To take a road skills exam, you must meet all prerequisite requirements (knowledge exam, providing required documentation, etc.) prior to the test.
- If applying for a chauffeur's license (Class D), you must meet all personal driver's license (Class E) testing requirements (skills and knowledge). In addition, you must also successfully pass the chauffeur's license knowledge test, but not a chauffeur's license specific skills exam.
- If you fail the road skills test, you will not be eligible to retake the skills test until the date in which the administering office has defined.
  - Waiting periods may vary from one (1) day to thirty (30) days, depending on the cause for disqualification/failure.

**General:**

- The Office of Motor Vehicles or an approved Third Party Tester (TPT) may administer the personal driver's license (Class E) or motorcycle endorsement skills exam.
  - CDL skills tests are **only** administered by approved third party testers (TPT).

| License Type  | Situations Requiring Skills Exam   | Notes   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Personal Driver's License (Class E)</b>            | <p>Applying for a personal driver's license (Class E) license for the first time, for those 17 years of age or older at the time of application</p> <p>Removing learner's permit restrictions, if the permit was held for the <a href="#">applicable amount of time</a></p> <p>Applying for a chauffer's license (Class D) and never held a personal driver's license (Class E) license at the time of application</p> | <p>If administered by OMV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driver may need to <a href="#">schedule</a> the skills test</li> <li>• Driver must furnish vehicle</li> </ul> <p>If administered by TPT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TPT may provide vehicles for administration of the road skills test. Rental fees may apply.</li> <li>• All private driving school providers are required to administer the road skills test.</li> <li>• Public school driver education providers are not required to provide the road skills test. If not provided, you must coordinate a skills exam by either an OMV field office or another TPT.</li> <li>• You must submit a <b>sealed</b> envelope containing the Road Skills Test Certificate to OMV upon application. OMV <b>will not</b> accept this <b>unless</b> it is presented in a <b>sealed</b> envelope.</li> </ul> <p>Driving tests <b>will not</b> be administered by OMV or TPT if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicle does not pass safety inspection, alternate vehicle may be used (does not disqualify the driver)</li> <li>• Vehicle is not currently licensed, inspected, and insured</li> </ul> <p>Driving tests <b>will not</b> be administered by OMV if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area is experiencing inclement weather or unsafe driving conditions</li> <li>• Heat index is above 100 degrees and vehicle is not equipped with working air conditioning</li> </ul> |
| <b>Commercial Driver's License (Class A, B, or C)</b> | <p>Applying for CDL for the first time</p> <p>Up-grading class of CDL</p> <p>Adding certain endorsements</p> <p>Removing certain restrictions</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A CLP (commercial learner's permit) is a prerequisite to taking a skills test</li> <li>• <a href="#">ELDT</a> may be required before a skills test is administered</li> <li>• <a href="#">Third Party Testers</a> administer the skills test</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Motorcycle</b>                                     | <p>Applying for a motorcycle endorsement for the first time</p> <p>Reapplying for endorsement and evidence of previously issued license with motorcycle endorsement cannot be found</p>  | <p>Requires that the driver wear a motorcycle helmet.<sup>1</sup></p>   |

- **Skills Test Waivers**

- **Military CDL Skills Test Waiver** –This waiver allows a qualified service member to apply for a CDL without skills testing.
  - The CDL skills test may be waived for a CMV (Commercial Motor Vehicle) driver with military CMV experience.<sup>1</sup>
  - Must be currently licensed and employed within the past year (12 months) in a military position requiring the operation of a military motor vehicle equivalent to a commercial motor vehicle (CMV)
  - Submit the Application for Military Skills Test Waiver ([DPSMV2280](#))
  - Provide either a current military ID or a DD214<sup>1</sup>
  - The applicant will be waived from performing the CDL skills test only. All other licensing requirements must be met.<sup>1</sup>
  - Applies to CDL Class A or Class B **only**, endorsements are **not** allowed with the waiver.

- **Motorcycle Skills Test Waiver** - An operator's skills test shall not be required for an applicant who has successfully completed a course provided by an [approved Motorcycle driving school](#), who also administered the motorcycle skills road test.
  - A certificate of successful completion **must** be provided to the Office of Motor Vehicles before the motorcycle endorsement will be added to the applicant's driver's license.
- **Department of Public Safety Motorcycle Safety, Awareness, and Operators Training Program** - An operator's skills test shall not be required for an applicant who successfully completed the Department of Public Safety Motorcycle Safety, Awareness and Operators Training Program.<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Participation in the course is voluntary.
  - An applicant must provide the original certificate of completion to the Office of Motor Vehicles.
  - The course schedule may be found at <http://www.lsp.org/motorcycle.html>.
- **Administration of Skills Test (Class D and E)**
  - To successfully pass the road skills test, you must achieve a score of 80/100 or higher.
  - Each maneuver is assigned a point value and each road skills test begins with 100 points. Unsuccessfully performing a maneuver will result in a reduction of points for the assigned point value.
  - If an applicant does not currently hold a learner's permit and fails the road skills test, the examiner may recommend a learner's permit. The learner's permit is the only legal means by which the applicant may practice driving on the roadway and improve performance.
- **Maneuvers**
  - **Personal Driver's License (Class E)**
    - Starting/Backing Out
    - Straight-In Parking
    - 3 Left Turns
    - 2 Lane Changes
    - 2 Traffic Signals
    - 2 Intersections
    - 2 Stop Signs
    - Slow Signs
    - Speeding
    - Railroad Crossing (not required)
    - Yield Right of Way
    - Lane Usage
    - Attention/Distracted
    - Time
    - Following
  - **Motorcycle Endorsement**
    - Start Up
    - Posture
    - Shifting
    - Turns
- **Causes for Disqualification or Failure** - The conditions or actions listed below may disqualify the applicant or cause the skills test to be discontinued.

| Disqualification Reason                               | Notes  |
|---|--|
| <b>Various or Repeated Minor Mistakes</b>             | Enough mistakes are made that fails the driver of the road skills test (earns less than 80/100)  |
| <b>Clear Violation of a Traffic Law</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speeding five (5) miles over the speed limit</li> <li>• Not coming to a complete stop at a stop sign</li> <li>• Running a red light</li> <li>• Driving on the wrong side of the road</li> <li>• Not yielding to an emergency vehicle</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Dangerous Action or Unsafe Behavior</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If an accident is prevented only by defensive driving on the part of another motorist or dodging by a pedestrian</li> <li>• If the examiner aids in controlling the vehicle by taking hold of the wheel or applying the brakes in a dual brake vehicle <b>or</b>, in the interest of safety, drives the vehicle back</li> <li>• If the driver commits any act or omission that creates a dangerous or unsafe traffic environment</li> </ul> |
| <b>Accident<br/>(if applicant is deemed at fault)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact with another vehicle</li> <li>• Contact with a pedestrian</li> <li>• Any bumper contact with fixed objects, including running off the roadway into shrubbery or lawns</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Lack of Cooperation or Refusal to Perform</b>      | Driver deliberately does not follow the directions given by the test administrator.  |
| <b>Offering a Bribe or Gratuity</b>                   | Driver offers bribe or gratuity to pass the test or benefit his/her chances of passing the skills exam.  |

**Fees:**

- There are no fees to take a skills exam at a Motor Vehicle office.
- A fee may be charged if taking the skills exam with a third party tester.

**Related Policies:**

Section 1, Policy 1.01, [Commercial Learner's Permit](#)

Section 1, Policy 10.00, [Knowledge Examinations for All Classes](#)

Section 1, Policy 11.00, [Vehicle Inspection Prior To Road Skills Test](#)

**References:**

<sup>1</sup> – Louisiana State Legislature. *Examination of Applicants Required; Classes of Licenses* (R.S. 32:408), retrieved from <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=88385>.

<sup>2</sup> – Louisiana State Legislature. *Motorcycle Safety, Awareness, and Operator Training Program; Account* (R.S. 32:402.3), retrieved from <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=670632>.