

Driver and Traffic Safety Education Course

Classroom Instruction

Highway License Requirements

Students will:

1. Explain requirements for obtaining an Alabama Learner License and an Alabama Driver License, including any restrictions.
 - Identifying individuals who may not be licensed
 - Listing costs for obtaining and requirements for renewing various types of licenses
 - Explaining the Alabama Graduated Driver License law
 - Identifying the difference between suspension, revocation, and cancellation of driving privileges
 - Explaining the difference between driving as a privilege versus driving as a right

Traffic Laws

2. Describe Alabama's basic speed law.
 - Comparing statutory, posted, and advisory speed limits
3. List situations that require drivers to bring vehicles to a complete stop.
Examples: approaching a school bus displaying red flashing lights and stop signal arm, exiting private property or parking lots, turning right on red, approaching a flagman directing traffic
 - Describing legal requirements and safe driving practices concerning school and church buses
4. Name situations that require drivers to yield right-of-way.
Examples: approaching and entering intersections, making left turns, entering highways, approaching railroad grade crossings, encountering emergency vehicles
5. Describe traffic signs and pavement markings that regulate various passing situations.
6. Identify traffic signs, traffic signals, and pavement markings as basic types of traffic controls.
7. Interpret Alabama's Safety Belt and Child Restraint laws.

Responsible Ownership

8. Explain requirements mandated by the Alabama Department of Public Safety regarding motor vehicle registration and the Mandatory Liability Insurance Act.
Examples: storing vehicle tag receipt and proof of vehicle liability insurance in the driving compartment

9. Identify responsibilities of owning and operating a vehicle, including factors involved in purchasing a vehicle, purchasing insurance, and maintaining a vehicle.
Examples: purchasing vehicle—fuel economy, financing
purchasing vehicle insurance—costs, types of coverage
vehicle maintenance—checking fluid levels, tire pressure, tire tread depth, and condition of belts

Driving Procedures and Maneuvers

10. Describe proper procedures for pre-starting, starting, and stopping a vehicle.
11. Explain basic maneuvers of driving, including steering, braking, passing, lane changing, merging, parking, signaling, and turning.
Examples: steering—hand-over-hand, push-pull-feed
braking—anti-lock brakes versus conventional brakes
parking—uphill with or without a curb, downhill with or without a curb, angle, perpendicular, parallel
turning—right, left, three-point
12. Explain defensive driving techniques, including the Smith System and the search, identify, predict, decide, and execute (SIPDE) process.

Factors Related to Youthful Drivers

13. Analyze data regarding inexperienced drivers and traffic collisions.
- Evaluating the negative impact of peer influence on youthful drivers
 - Explaining the relationship between speed and traffic fatalities
 - Identifying distractions that result in inattention while driving
Example: using cellular telephones while driving

Physical and Mental Impairments

14. Explain how alcohol and other drugs affect driving ability.
- Identifying prescription and nonprescription drugs as the two general types of drugs
 - Explaining the synergistic effect of alcohol and other drugs
 - Explaining Alabama's driving under the influence (DUI) law, including levels of influence, consequences, implied consent, actual physical control, and zero tolerance
 - Describing effects of emotional and physical short-term impairments on driving
Examples: emotional—anger causing aggressive driving or road rage, extreme sadness causing lack of attention to driving
physical—suffering from illness, injury, fatigue

Other Highway Users

15. Describe driver responsibilities toward other highway users, including pedestrians, motorcyclists, bicyclists, and drivers of commercial vehicles and buses.
Examples: recognizing locations where other highway users may appear, recognizing rights of other highway users, anticipating actions of other highway users, locating “no zone” areas of large vehicles, analyzing stopping distances for large vehicles

Driving Environments

16. Identify dangerous driving situations that may occur on rural roads and urban streets.
Examples: rural roads—unfenced animals, slow-moving farm equipment, off-road vehicles
urban streets—parked cars, pedestrians, one-way thoroughfares
- Describing correct procedures for entering and exiting limited and controlled access highways
 - Describing correct procedures to follow when confronted with road emergencies and collisions
Examples: emergencies—tire failure, engine overheating, engine failure, objects in roadway, hydroplaning
collisions—head-on, side-impact, rear-end
 - Explaining proper procedures for reporting traffic accidents
Examples: driver responsibilities, witness responsibilities
 - Explaining methods to minimize risks during ideal conditions, adverse road conditions, and periods of reduced visibility
Examples: increasing following distance, using headlights, cleaning windshield often, reducing speed
 - Explaining safe procedures for approaching and driving through various railroad grade crossings
17. Describe appropriate behavior to be used when detained by a law enforcement officer.
Examples: keeping hands in full sight, remaining in vehicle, avoiding sudden movements, displaying proper demeanor
18. Explain how nature affects the ability to properly control a vehicle.
Examples: sudden gust of wind causing vehicle to swerve, fog causing reduced visibility

Boating Safety

19. Describe Alabama's boating laws, basic vessel operation, required boating equipment, and possible hazards involved in safe and responsible boating.
- Defining marine terminology

BEHIND-THE-WHEEL INSTRUCTION

On-Street Driving

20. Demonstrate proficiency in basic vehicle control in a variety of environments.
Examples: demonstrating proper procedures for right and left turns, turnabouts, angle and perpendicular parking, parking and starting on a hill; safely negotiating controlled and uncontrolled intersections, lane changes, passing, merging
- Demonstrating proficiency in the use of controls, devices, and gauges located in the driving compartment
21. Demonstrate defensive driving skills using the Smith System and the SIPDE process.