



U.S. Driver License

DMV, REAL ID, IDP, tests, insurance and registration

Topic	Summary
1. Purpose	Informational guide for visitors, students, residents and newcomers.
2. State	No federal license: each state controls DMV procedures.
3. Process	Eligibility, documents, vision, knowledge test, road test and issuance.
4. Statuses	Tourist, F-1, work visa, Green Card and citizen require different documents.
5. Flow	Foreign license and IDP for short stay, local license after relocation.
6. REAL ID	Enhanced identity, residency, SSN and lawful status verification.
7. Documents	Identity, lawful presence, residency, SSN or exemption.
8. Noncitizens	State-specific rules by status and license type.
9. Visitors	IDP is a translation and does not replace the national license.

Key steps

DMV, REAL ID, IDP, tests, insurance and registration

10. GDL

Learner permit, provisional license and full license by age and state.

11. REAL ID

Standard license for driving, REAL ID for federal identification uses.

12. Renewal

Renew, transfer after moving, replace after loss or theft.

13. CDL

Commercial classes and endorsements for buses, trucks, hazardous materials.

14. Insurance

Minimum liability, optional collision/comprehensive, vehicle registration.

15. Portals

Check California, Florida, New York, Texas and relevant state portals.

16. Resources

DHS, AAMVA, DMV portals and Automobile Club for IDP.

17. Exams

Knowledge test and behind-the-wheel test according to local handbook.

18. FAQ

Always confirm on official portals on the date you act.

Official sources: DHS REAL ID, AAMVA REAL ID, state DMV portals, Automobile Club.