

## Driver's License Information

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Any person who operates a motor vehicle, motor-driven cycle or moped on the public streets & highways in Colorado is required to be at least 16 years of age and have a valid driver's license. International students who will be in the U.S. for longer than 90 days must get a Colorado driver's license in order to drive. You must get an instruction permit before you are eligible to get a driver's license, unless you have a valid driver's license from another U.S. state.

### TO APPLY FOR A STATE OF COLORADO INSTRUCTION PERMIT YOU MUST...

- 1) **Submit a valid foreign passport, U.S. visa, printed copy of electronic I-94 card from <http://cbp.gov/i94>, and F-1/J-1 school documents I-20/DS-2019.** (Photocopies or notarized copies are not accepted). Note: Students who are doing Optional Practical Training (OPT) will need to get a new I-20 stating their OPT status has changed from "pending" to "approved". Students who transfer from another school must bring both their "transfer pending" and "continued attendance" I-20s.
- 2) **Supply a Colorado residence address.** Proof of address can be given in the form of a hard or electronic copy of one of the following: CSU official transcript, pay stub, utility bill, credit card statement, lease or rent receipt for an apartment or house, bank statement, telephone bill, or other item with an address (dated within the past 12 months) to be reviewed by the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) official.
- 3) **Pass the Basic Written Test:** This covers various aspects of driving knowledge and safety. The test questions will cover contents of the handbook including road signs, driving under the influence, as well as other driving rules, safety rules and legal items. No appointment is necessary for the written exam. You can find more information about the written test, including a link to the Colorado Driver's Handbook, at this link:  
<http://www.colorado.gov/apps/dor/dmv/smartstart/apply/testing.jsf>
- 4) **Pass the Vision Screening:** Your vision will be tested to determine if you can see well enough to drive safely. If the test discloses that you need corrective lenses to meet the minimum visual standards, your permit will show this restriction. Failure to meet established vision standards will result in initial rejection and referral to a vision specialist for correction and recommendations at the applicant's expense. The minimum vision standard is 20/40.
- 5) **Be fingerprinted (C.R.S. 42-2-107) and photographed. (C.R.S. 42-2-114.)**
- 6) **Pay the required fee(s).** The current (September 2014) cost for obtaining a Colorado instruction permit is \$14.00. You can pay using cash, check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover card.

## TO APPLY FOR A STATE OF COLORADO DRIVER'S LICENSE YOU MUST...

- 1) **Submit a valid foreign passport, U.S. visa, printed copy of electronic I-94 card from <http://cbp.gov/i94>, and F-1/J-1 school documents I-20/DS-2019.** (Photocopies or notarized copies are not accepted). Note: Students who are doing Optional Practical Training (OPT) will need to get a new I-20 stating their OPT status has changed from "pending" to "approved". Students who transfer from another school must bring both their "transfer pending" and "continued attendance" I-20s.
- 2) **Supply a Colorado instruction permit, valid driver's license from another state, or current Colorado driver's license (for driver's license renewals).**
- 3) **Supply a Colorado residence address.** Proof of address can be given in the form of a hard or electronic copy of one of the following: CSU official transcript, pay stub, utility bill, credit card statement, lease or rent receipt for an apartment or house, bank statement, telephone bill, or other item with an address (dated within the past 12 months) to be reviewed by the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) official.
- 4) **Pass the Vision Screening.** Your vision will be tested to determine if you can see well enough to drive safely. If the test discloses that you need corrective lenses to meet the minimum visual standards, your permit will show this restriction. Failure to meet established vision standards will result in initial rejection and referral to a vision specialist for correction and recommendations at the applicant's expense. The minimum vision standard is 20/40.
- 5) **Pass the Driving Test.** This is the most important part of the examination because it provides you with the opportunity to demonstrate that you can drive safely. You need to supply your own licensed vehicle in order to take the driving test. You need a scheduled appointment for the driving test. You can schedule an appointment here: <https://www.colorado.gov/apps/iboss/dor/online/appointment/scheduling/index.xhtml>. Students who are able to prove lawful presence in the state of Colorado should use the blue buttons to make an appointment.
- 6) **Be fingerprinted (C.R.S. 42-2-107) and photographed. (C.R.S. 42-2-114.)**
- 7) **Pay the required fee(s).** A separate fee is required for the Instruction Permit and for the Driver's License. The current (September 2014) cost for obtaining a Colorado license is \$50.50. You can pay using cash, check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover card.

**For more information on obtaining a driver's license or permit you can access the state website at <http://www.colorado.gov/revenue> or you can call the Colorado Department of Revenue, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) at (970) 484-9806. The Fort Collins DMV office is located at 3030 S College Ave, Suite 100. Their office is open Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They are closed on federal holidays.**

## TO APPLY FOR A STATE OF COLORADO IDENTIFICATION CARD YOU MUST...

- 1) Submit a valid Foreign Passport with Immigration Visa, printed copy of electronic I-94 card from <http://cbp.gov/i94>, and F-1/J-1 school documents I-20/DS-2019.** (Photocopies or notarized copies are not accepted). Note: Students who are doing Optional Practical Training (OPT) will need to get a new I-20 stating their OPT status has changed from “pending” to “approved”. Students who transfer from another school must bring both their “transfer pending” and “continued attendance” I-20.
- 2) Supply a Colorado residence address.** Proof of address can be given in the form of a hard or electronic copy of one of the following: CSU official transcript, pay stub, utility bill, credit card statement, lease or rent receipt for an apartment or house, bank statement, telephone bill, or other item with an address (dated within the past 12 months) to be reviewed by the DMV official.
- 3) Be fingerprinted (C.R.S. 42-2-107) and photographed (C.R.S. 42-2-114.)**
- 4) Pay the required fee.** The current (September 2014) cost for obtaining a State of Colorado Identification card is \$14.00.

### **Please note:**

- A Colorado driver’s license, instruction permit, or ID card cannot be used for federal ID purposes, such as for entering a federal building or travelling on an airplane. You will still need to use your passport for federal ID purposes.
- A Colorado driver’s license, instruction permit, or ID card is valid for 3 years (or until your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday), regardless of the dates on your I-20 or DS-2019.
- Students with a driver’s license from South Korea, Canada, Germany, or France are not required to take the written and driving tests in order to get a Colorado driver’s license.
- If you are renewing a Colorado driver’s license or transferring your driver’s license from another state, you do not need to retake the written or driving tests if your current license is still valid.
- Please wait 10 days after entering the U.S. before applying for a Colorado driver’s license, instruction permit, or ID card.
- You can bring an interpreter to the appointment or written test if you would like. The interpreter needs to be over 16 years of age and must have a valid license. You are not allowed to bring an interpreter to the driving test.
- You will be issued a temporary driver’s license or instruction permit when you apply. Your official license or permit will be mailed to you within 30 days.
- There are many private companies that will provide Driver’s Education Instruction, written and drive testing for a fee in Fort Collins. For additional information refer to Driver’s Education in the Yellow Pages of your phone book.
- If you purchase a vehicle it must be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles. For additional information on how to register your vehicle visit: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Revenue-MV/RMV/1177024843128>.
- **Vehicle insurance is mandatory in the state of Colorado.** You **must** provide proof of insurance to your county clerk and recorder **before** you can register your vehicle. You may use your insurance card, copy of your insurance policy or a letter from you insurance company (on the company’s letterhead paper), as proof of insurance.