

Are your friends tired of hauling you around?

Take Driver Education!



Here's what you need to know.

Age

You must be at least 15 years of age when you've finished the classroom portion of a driver education class. You must be at least 15 years of age to obtain an instructional (learner's) permit.

Hours of training needed depends on the course

If the driver education course only provides classroom training, you must take 56 hours of classroom training. Six hours of DWI prevention and education must be included in the course. Most public high schools meet the statutory driver education requirement by providing a 56 hour classroom course.

If the driver education course provides behind the wheel training, you must take at least 30 hours of classroom training and 7 hours of behind the wheel training. Six hours of DWI prevention and education must be included in the course and you must log at least 50 hours of behind the wheel driving, accompanied by a licensed driver over 21 years of age.

What to do if your high school doesn't provide driver education

Attend a local for-profit driver education school that is certified by the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau. A list of approved schools can be found at this web site: <http://transportation.unm.edu/lic/ApprovedProviders.aspx?17>

What to do if you live in a rural area and there are no for-profit driver education schools close by.

If your high school doesn't provide driver education, and there are no local for-profit schools in your area, you may qualify to enroll in a correspondence driver education program that has been certified by the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau. See: <http://transportation.unm.edu/lic/ApprovedProviders.aspx?17> Correspondence schools are listed at the bottom of this list. Your parents must submit an application to get permission for you to enroll in a driver education correspondence program. The application can be found at: <http://ipl.unm.edu/traf/lists/toc.htm>

What to do if your job or extra-curricular activities conflict with driver education classes

Every public school is required by statute to provide driver education at no cost to the students. Schools should work to meet the needs of their student population. You may qualify to enroll in a correspondence driver education course (see above).

Web-based driver education classes on the internet are not certified

Currently, there are no web-based/on-line driver education courses that are certified by the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau. These classes are set up to be supplemental training. They do not meet New Mexico training requirements.



University of New Mexico
School of Law
Institute of Public Law

If you have questions about obtaining your instructional permit and/or driver's license, please contact your local MVD office. A list of MVD field offices can be found at: http://www.tax.state.nm.us/trd_fone.htm#mvd

Good Luck and Drive Safely!

