

- The motorcycle learner permit is valid for 12 months and may be renewed for one additional six-month period.
- Required testing includes vision, traffic signs, and the motorcycle knowledge test.

Each driver license test must be passed separately. Applicants for a CDL Class A, B or C license should study the required chapters of the *CDL Handbook*. Applicants for a motorcycle endorsement or motorcycle learner permit should study the *Motorcycle Handbook*. The *CDL Handbook* is available from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. You may also obtain the CDL, Regular and Motorcycle handbooks on the DMV website and at the local driver license offices. Visit the DMV website at [www.ncdot.gov/dmv](http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv).

## Test Requirements for an Original Driver License

### *Vision*

Whether you are applying for a learner permit, an original license or a renewal license in person, your vision must be checked to see that you meet certain standards. If you need corrective lenses to bring your vision up to the required standards, you must wear the lenses at all times while driving and your license will indicate a restriction that you must wear corrective lenses. The penalty for driving without the proper corrective lenses is the same as driving without a license.

### *Traffic Signs*

All the information on the traffic signs test is in this handbook. To pass the signs test, you must identify the traffic signs by color and shape and explain what each means.

### *Knowledge Test*

The knowledge test is about traffic laws and safe driving practices. Audio tests are available, upon request, for those who have difficulty reading.

### *Driving Skills*

The driving test is an on-the-road demonstration of your driving ability. You must perform this test after you have passed all the other tests. The first time you apply for a license, you must take the driving test. You might also have to take it to renew your license. It is not required for a learner permit.

During the on-the-road test, you will be given an opportunity to perform basic driving patterns and to show your ability to drive safely with traffic.

### *Health Requirements*

Individuals may not be licensed if they suffer from a mental or physical condition that might keep them from driving safely. A person with a disability may be issued a restricted license provided the condition does not keep them from driving safely.

### *Skills observed and graded during the on-the-road driving test:*

- Approaches to intersections, stop signs and traffic signals;
- Quick stops — stopping as quickly and safely as possible when told to do so;
- Backing;
- Stopping, starting and parking;
- Use of the clutch (in vehicles with standard transmissions);
- Turn signals and use of the horn;
- Turning;
- Use of lanes;
- Following another vehicle;
- Passing and being passed;
- Yielding the right of way to pedestrians and other vehicles;
- Driving posture; and
- Three-point turnabout.

Applicants for an original driver license must take the on-the-road driving test; however, there are some cases when the on-the-road test may not be required.

## Types of Licenses, Permits and Restrictions

North Carolina has a regular driver license and a commercial driver license (CDL). The type of vehicle you will operate determines the class of driver license you must have and the type vehicle in which you must take the driving skills test. The driving skills test must be performed in a vehicle representative of the class license desired.

### *Regular Licenses*

**Class A:** Required to operate a combination of vehicles that is exempt from CDL requirements when the towed unit has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 10,001 pounds or more.

**Class B:** Required to operate any single vehicle that is exempt from CDL requirements with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more, and any such vehicle towing a vehicle with a GVWR not in excess of 10,000 pounds.

**Class C:** Required to operate any noncommercial single vehicle with a GVWR of less than 26,001 pounds; and a vehicle towing a vehicle which has a combined GVWR of less than 26,001 pounds operated by a driver 18 years old or older. *Most drivers need only a Regular Class C license to operate personal automobiles and small trucks.*

## TIP

### *Three-Point Turnabout*

(1) Start from the extreme right side of the road. Look for other traffic and if clear, give a left signal and proceed forward slowly while turning the steering wheel to the left. Stop within several inches of the left curb or edge of the street.

(2) Then proceed backward slowly while turning the steering wheel to the right. Stop within several inches of the right curb or edge of the street.

(3) Proceed forward slowly while turning the steering wheel to the left. This should complete your turnabout.