



Driver's License Guide

The State of Florida has the authority to grant, deny, suspend, or revoke driver's licenses and requires applicants to submit evidence of lawful status, or of their efforts to obtain lawful status in order to obtain a driver's license.

This guide provides information on how international students or other non-U.S. citizens may apply for a Florida Driver's License or State Identification (ID) card with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Note: New F-1 students must complete their ISS Onboarding process at Florida Poly **before** they are eligible to apply for a driver's license or state ID, so they can provide the required Form I-20 to verify they are in active status.

When you are ready to apply you must make an appointment online with the: [Lakeland Florida DMV](#)

Location & Hours: 916 N. Massachusetts Ave., Lakeland, FL 33801 | 863.534.4700 | Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4:00pm

Documents Required

Click on the hyperlink applicable to your current status to identify the documentation and process to apply:

- [Non-Immigrants](#)(e.g., F or J students)
- [Immigrants](#)(e.g., green card, Asylum)
- [Canadians](#) (students whose home country is Canada)

Driver License & ID Card Requirements

If you have a foreign driver's license from your home country: You may obtain a Florida driver's license with the required documentation and application completed. (Follow [Steps 2-3](#) below)

If this is your first driver's license: You must submit the required documentation, pass a traffic law and substance abuse education course, vision, hearing, road rules, sign, and driving tests. (Follow [Steps 1-4](#) below)

If you do not want a driver's license and only seek to obtain a State ID Card: You will not be required to complete a driving course or pass tests, but you must provide the required documentation listed under [Documents Required](#). **Please Note:** You will not be allowed drive with the Florida ID card.

Steps to Apply for Driver's License

Step 1: Complete the 4-hour [DATA Course](#) (Drug Alcohol Traffic Awareness.) This online course covers topics on how drugs and alcohol affect your driving, and laws and responsibilities as a driver. When you successfully complete this course, the information will automatically be transmitted to the Florida DMV.

Step 2: Study the [Florida Drivers Handbook](#) on traffic laws and roads sign. If you are age 18 or older you will need to go to a DMV office to pass the Permit Exam with a score of 80% or better. This exam is only available at DMV offices. If you are aged 15, 16, or 17 you can take the Permit Exam online.

Step 3: Pass the DMV Test ([Permit Test](#)). Once you complete both the 4-hour DATA Course and pass the Permit Exam you can receive the [Learner's Permit](#), which allows you to **practice driving**. You must have someone age 21 or older in the passenger seat next to you with a valid driver's license at all times with a Learner's Permit.

Step 4: Once you are comfortable driving make an appointment to take the [Driving Road Test](#) at a DMV office. Once you pass the Road Test you are eligible to receive the Florida driver's license.

NOTE: The Florida DMV may utilize [SAVE Case Check](#) to verify your status with USCIS.