



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

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DRIVER'S LICENSE INFORMATION

Any person who operates a motor vehicle, motor-driven cycle, or moped on the public streets and highways in Colorado is required to be at least 16 years of age and have a valid driver's license. International students who plan to drive in Colorado must apply for a Colorado driver's license within 90 days of moving to the state. This is to ensure you know the rules of the road and avoid any potential problems with police officers who may not be familiar with foreign licenses. 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 state or from Canada, France, Germany, South Korea or Taiwan.

To apply for a Colorado Identification Card you must:

- 1) Submit a valid foreign passport, U.S. visa, F-1/J-1 school documents I-20/DS-2019 (photocopies are not accepted), and printed copy of electronic I-94 card from <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home#section>. Students who transfer from another school must bring both their "continued attendance" I-20s. Note: Students on Optional Practical Training (OPT) will need to get a new I-20 stating their OPT status has changed from "pending" to "approved." Alternatively, students may bring in an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), if they have one. This can speed up processing times.
- 2) Supply one document that proves 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, lease or rent receipt for an apartment or house, utility bill, telephone bill, credit card statement, bank statement, or other item with an address (dated within the past 12 months) to be reviewed by the Division of Motor Vehicles official.
- 3) Be fingerprinted (C.R.S. 42-2-107) and photographed (C.R.S. 42-2-114).
- 4) Pay the required fee(s). You can pay using cash, check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover Card.

In addition to the Identification Card requirements, if you are applying for an Instruction Permit you must:

- 1) Pass the vision screening: Your vision will be tested to determine if you 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.
- 2) 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: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/DR2337.pdf>.

In addition to the Identification Card requirements, if you are applying for a Driver's License you must:

- 1) Pass the vision screening: Your vision will be tested to determine if you 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.
- 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) 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/jboss/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. You may also take the test and additional training through a third party driving school listed at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/BOST%20Public%20List%206.1.18.pdf>.

For more information on obtaining a driver's license or permit visit the state website at <http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dmv> or call the Colorado Department of Revenue, Driver's License Office at (303) 205-5600. The Fort Collins 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.

Please note:

- A Colorado driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card issued to individuals able to demonstrate temporary lawful presence in the U.S. cannot be used for federal ID purposes, such as for entering a federal building or traveling on an airplane. You will still need to use your passport for federal ID purposes.
- Please wait 10 days after entering the U.S. before applying for a Colorado driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card.
- 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. If you have not received it after 30 days, report it to the Driver's License Office and they will re-issue it to you at no charge as long it is within 60 days.
- A Colorado driver's license, instruction permit, or ID card is valid for 3 years (or until your 21st birthday), regardless of the dates on your I-20 or DS-2019. Therefore, if you intend to apply for OPT or STEM OPT, it is best to renew your driver's license first.
- Students with a driver's license from South Korea, Canada, Germany, Taiwan 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 as long as your current license is still valid or expired for less than one year.
- You can bring an interpreter to the appointment or written test if you wish. 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.
- 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.
- 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 your insurance company (on the company's letterhead paper) as proof of insurance.
- 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: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dmv/registration-requirements>.