

# Colorado Graduated Driver Licensing Laws (GDL)



For drivers under 18 years of age, Colorado implemented GDL laws to help teenagers gain important driving skills gradually while limiting dangers by restricting the number of passengers, banning cellphone use and setting a curfew.

## Types of training that may be required or recommended before obtaining a license:

**Instruction permit:** All new drivers under age 18 require a parent/legal guardian's signed "Affidavit of Liability and Guardianship" to get an instruction permit.

**50 hours of logged driving time** (10 of the 50 hours must be at night): Completed under the supervision of the Colorado-licensed parent or legal guardian who signed the Affidavit of Liability, or a Colorado-licensed alternate permit supervisor appointed by the parent/guardian.

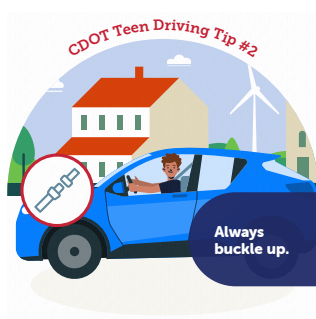
**Driver's education:** An approved 30-hour classroom or internet-based course that covers all aspects of driving, as recommended by the USDOT.

**Driver awareness program:** A 4-hour classroom course on safety and driver education.

**Behind-the-wheel training:** 6 hours of driving, in traffic situations, with an instructor employed or associated with an approved driver education course.

For a list of state-approved driving schools, visit the website for the Colorado Department of Revenue Division of Motor Vehicles at [colorado.gov/revenue/dmv](https://colorado.gov/revenue/dmv).

**Driver's license:** Teens can apply for a license after having a permit for a full 12 months.



## Penalties for permit violations:

Violation	Minimum Fine	License Points
No approved supervisor	\$70	3
Cellphone use	\$50 1st offense \$100 2nd offense	1

## Penalties for restricted license violations:

Violation	Minimum Fine	Hours of Community Service	License Points
Unauthorized passenger	\$50 1st offense \$100 2nd offense \$150 3rd offense	8 to 24	2
All occupants must wear seat belt; more than one passenger front seat; more passengers than seat belts in rear	\$65 1st offense \$130 2nd offense \$195 3rd offense	8 to 40	2
Curfew	\$50 1st offense \$100 2nd offense \$150 3rd offense	8 to 24	2

## Additional Resources:

[coteendriver.com/parent](https://coteendriver.com/parent)

[colorado.aaa.com](https://colorado.aaa.com)

[drivesmartcolorado.com](https://drivesmartcolorado.com)

[csp.state.co.us](https://csp.state.co.us)

# Steps to getting a driver's license

The training required before you can apply for a license depends on how old you are when you start the process. Colorado requires teens to have a driving permit for 12 full months before applying for a license. So, if you want to get your license on your 16th birthday, you'll need to start the process before you turn 15.

## Permit/Learner stage:

### Age 15 to 15 and 6 months

- Complete 30-hour driver's education course.
- Apply for permit (permit must be held for one year).
- Log 50-hours of supervised drive time.
- Complete 6 hours of behind the wheel training.

### Age 15 and 6 months to 16

- Complete 4-hour driver awareness program **or** 30-hour driver's education course.
- Apply for permit (permit must be held for one year).
- Log 50 hours of supervised drive time.
- Complete 6 hours of behind the wheel training.\*

### Age 16 to 17

- 4-hour driver awareness program **or** 30-hour driver's education course.\*
- Apply for permit (permit must be held for one year).
- Log 50 hours of supervised drive time.
- 6 hours of behind the wheel training.\*

\* Indicates not a requirement for this stage but recommended

## Restricted license stage:

### Age 16 to 18

- Restricted license for 12 months.
- Drivers are granted a restricted license after passing a road test.

### Restrictions:

- Cannot drive between midnight and 5 a.m.
- No passengers who are not family members under the age of 21 for the first 6 months.
- After 6 months, no more than one passenger under 21.

## Full privilege stage:

After 12 months, or at age 18 (whichever comes first) drivers are no longer under GDL restrictions.

### Start at age 15 up to 15 and 6 months:

Complete 30-hour driver's education course

Apply for permit (minimum age 15)

Log 50-hours driving time

+

6 hours behind-the-wheel training is mandatory if under age 16 and 6 months at time of applying for a license

### Start at age 15 and 6 months up to 16:

Complete 4-hour classroom driver awareness program

or

Complete 30-hour driver's education course

Apply for permit

Log 50-hours driving time

+

6 hours behind-the-wheel training is optional if age 16 and 6 months or older at time of applying for a license.

### Start at age 16 - 17:

No requirements prior to applying for permit. Driver's education and behind-the-wheel training strongly recommended.

Apply for permit

Log 50-hours driving time

+

6 hours behind-the-wheel training is optional

Apply for license after 12 full months with permit.

All drivers under age 18 must follow restrictions outlined in this brochure. Violating them can result in a revoked license and lost driving freedom.

## For a list of state-approved driving schools

visit the website for the Colorado Department of Revenue Division of Motor Vehicles at [colorado.gov/revenue/dmv](https://colorado.gov/revenue/dmv)

