



International Student Services

Applying for a Driver's License or State ID in Minnesota

The information below is a basic overview for students in F-1 status. The referenced documents, fees, and regulations may change without notice. Please review the information on the Minnesota Department of Public Safety- Driver and Vehicle Services website for full and up-to-date details of the process.

MN Driver and Vehicle Services- [MN State ID Card Webpage](#)
MN Driver and Vehicle Services- [MN Driver's License Webpage](#)

Minnesota State ID Card

You are not required to apply for a Minnesota State ID, but as an F-1 student studying at Century College, you are eligible to apply for a [MN State ID card](#) if you would like.

If you are a first-time applicant, you will need to:

1. Go to a DVS [Office Location](#) that accepts first time ID Card applications.
2. Bring the following documents:
 - valid original passport
 - visa
 - valid original I-20
 - your I-94 (2 pages, including travel history)
 - transcript from Century College (request directly from the Records Office, with the date of birth stamp)
 - Social Security Card (if you have one)
3. Fill out the application form at the DVS Office
4. Pay the required fee (currently \$19.25) by check or cash (or credit card at some locations)
5. Have your photo taken at the DVS Office

Additional Information:

- Your new state ID will be mailed to you in four to six weeks.
- Carry your current identification and the stamped yellow receipt you receive when you apply until it arrives.

A Note About REAL ID

The [REAL ID](#) is a State ID Card that can also serve as identification for air travel inside the United States. International students can use their passport for air travel and do not need a REAL ID. However, if you prefer to apply for the REAL ID, you must have a Social Security Card. Remember, international students can only apply for a social security number/card for employment purposes. You cannot apply for a social security card for the purposes of obtaining a REAL ID. If you choose to apply for a REAL ID, bring along all of the above documents, your social security card, and any other required documents from the list on the [REAL ID website](#).

SEE PAGE 2 FOR DRIVER'S LICENSE INFORMATION

Minnesota State Driver's License

If you are interested in applying for a [Minnesota driver's license](#), the standard type is Class D. To obtain a Minnesota driver's license, you must pass knowledge (written) test, a vision test, and a driving test.

What to do:

1. Prepare for the written test and road sign test by studying the [Minnesota Driver's Manual](#).
2. Go to a DVS [Office Location](#) that accepts first time Driver's License applications. Bring required [identification](#) to a [Driver and Vehicle Services Exam Station](#) during certain hours. You will have your photo taken and take both your vision test and a knowledge (written) test there.
 - a. You must bring with you:
 - valid original passport
 - visa
 - valid original I-20
 - your I-94 (2 pages, including travel history)
 - transcript from Century College (request directly from the Records Office, with the date of birth stamp)
 - Social Security Card (if you have one)
3. Receive a driver's instruction permit and start practicing driving with a licensed driver in the front passenger seat.
4. Pass the road test. The road test is only given at limited locations. To find a location for the road test see: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/locations/Pages/find-office-locations.aspx>
5. Apply for a Minnesota driver's license after you have passed the test.
 - You must bring with you the same documents listed above.
 - Present your current MN instruction permit or non-Minnesota driver's license.
 - Present white and yellow copy of your successful road test results.
 - Pay the appropriate fees (currently \$25.25) by check or cash (or credit card at some locations)

Status Check

International students, you will have a Status Check date on your Driver's License. This date reflects the program end-date on your Form 1-20 (or shortly thereafter). **Before the status check date on your license**, you must go to the Driver's License Renewal Office and present a copy of a new or extended visa status document. You may be asked to fill out additional documents. If you do this before the Status Check date, you will not be charged a fee.

You should receive a letter from the Department of Public Safety, but if you do not, you are still responsible for going to the Driver's License Renewal Office before the date of your status check. If you do not do this, you will have to pay for a new Driver's License. In addition, if you are caught driving past the date of your status check you may be arrested or cited and fined.

Century College is a member of Minnesota State. We are an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator. This document can be available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling 651.773.1745 or emailing access.center@century.edu.

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