I'm not a robot

Table Of Content Applying for your Massachusetts learner’s permit or driver’s license may seem rigorous. Fortunately, we’re here to make it easy for you! Learn about the required documents, license process, cost, and much more. Pass your written and driving test on the first attempt and get in the driver’s seat faster! How to Get Your Driver’s License in Massachusetts Like any other state, you must have a valid Massachusetts driver’s license to drive legally in the state. Here are the steps you need to follow to get your MA driver’s license: Apply for a Learner's Permit and practice driving while being supervised. Apply for a Junior Operator License to drive with certain restrictions. Apply for a Full (Adult) License and drive without restrictions. Driver’s License Classes in Massachusetts Massachusetts driver's licenses are categorized into various classes based on the type of vehicle. Here’s an overview of the different license classes in the Bay State: Class D This is the standard license for operating passenger vehicles, vans, and small trucks. It’s the most common license for everyday drivers. Class M This license is for motorcycle riders. It allows you to operate motorcycles and mopeds on public roads. CDL (Commercial Driver’s License) There are three classes of CDL licenses: Class A: For operating large vehicles like tractor-trailers or combination vehicles. Class B: For single vehicles like buses or large trucks. Class C: For smaller vehicles that transport hazardous materials or carry 16 or more passengers. Each license class has its requirements and tests, so it’s important to know which one you need based on the vehicle you plan to drive. Stage 1: How to Get Your Massachusetts Learner’s Permit Applying for a learner's permit is the first step toward getting a driver's license. You must pass a written knowledge test and meet the age and residency requirements to obtain it. The permit allows you to practice driving with a licensed adult before taking your road test. Eligibility Criteria To be eligible for a learner's permit, you must: Be 16 years old Be a resident of Massachusetts Provide parental consent (if you’re under 18) Validity Permits are valid for two years or the duration of your stay in the US. Documents Required You’ll need the following documents for your MA learner’s permit: Proof of Identity: U.S. Passport or Birth Certificate Proof of Social Security Number: Social Security card, W-2 form, or a pay stub with your full SSN. Proof of Lawful Presence: U.S. Passport, Permanent Resident Card, or other immigration documents. Proof of Massachusetts Residency: Utility bill, bank statement, or lease agreement showing your Massachusetts address. Parental Consent (if under 18): Signed consent from a guardian or parent. Make sure all documents are original or certified copies. Process Here’s the process to get a Massachusetts learner’s permit: First, select your identification type. You can choose between a REAL ID permit, which is valid for federal purposes, or a Standard permit, which isn’t. Put together your documents (mentioned above). Fill out the learner’s permit application online or at a Massachusetts RMV service center. It’s preferable to do it online to get a jumpstart on the licensing process. Visit an RMV service center to apply in person. Bring your application form and the required documentation. If you are under 18, you will require parental consent. Make sure to obtain signed consent from a parent or guardian. Pay the $30 fee for the learner’s permit. Many payment methods, including cash, money orders, checks, and debit or credit cards, are accepted. However, it’s a good idea to verify the payment methods are accepted at the location. Upon failing the written exam, you'll need to repay the fee to retake it. Take and clear the vision test. You can skip the vision test if you provide an RMV vision screening certificate. Get your photo and signature taken electronically. Make sure to keep a natural expression. Take the written knowledge test and pass it (preferably on your first attempt). The test is available on walk-ins once your application has been submitted. Read the handbook thoroughly and take multiple practice tests to prepare. If you fail, you can retake the test as soon as you’re ready. Once you pass the test and pay the fee, you’ll receive your Massachusetts learner’s permit. Learner’s Permit Restrictions Follow these restrictions to comply with the permit regulations and ensure driving safety. Learners are only allowed to drive with a 21 and above licensed adult in the front passenger seat. Only one non-family member passenger is allowed in the vehicle. That is unless you’re accompanied by a licensed driver who is 21 or older. Driving is prohibited between midnight and 5 a.m. unless accompanied by a licensed adult. Even with hands-free capability, you cannot use a cell phone or other electronic devices while driving. All passengers must wear seat belts at all times. Stage 2: How to Get Your MA Junior Operator License Eligibility Criteria To be eligible for a Massachusetts junior operator license, you must: Be between 16 ½ and 18 years old Be a resident of Massachusetts Hold a learner’s permit Validity A Massachusetts Junior Operator License (JOL) is valid until you turn 18. At that point, it automatically converts into a full adult driver's license. That is only if you have no outstanding violations or suspensions. Documents Required To apply for a Massachusetts Junior Operator License (JOL), you'll need the following documents: Learner's Permit: A valid Massachusetts learner's permit Proof of Identity: U.S. Passport or Birth Certificate Proof of Social Security Number: Social Security card, W-2 form, or a pay stub with your full SSN. Proof of Lawful Presence: U.S. Passport, Permanent Resident Card, or other immigration documents. Proof of Massachusetts Residency: Utility bill, bank statement, or lease agreement showing your Massachusetts address. Driver's Education Certificate: Completion certificate from a Massachusetts RMV-approved driver’s education program. Supervised Driving Log: A completed driving log documenting at least 40 hours of supervised driving (30 hours if you completed a driver skills development program). Parental Consent (if under 18): Signed consent from a guardian or parent. Make sure all documents are original or certified copies. Process Here’s the process to get a Massachusetts JOL: Hold your learner’s permit for at least six months without any violations. If your permit gets suspended, the 6-month period resets once the suspension is lifted. Enroll in a driver education program at a public high school or a licensed driving school. Finish 30 hours of classroom instruction, 12 hours of behind-the-wheel training, and 6 hours of observing other drivers. Once completed, you’ll receive a driver education certificate. Get your guardian or parent to verify that you’ve completed 40 hours of supervised driving. If you took a driver skills development program, 30 hours of supervised driving will suffice. Your guardian or parent must attend two hours of instruction on the driver’s education curriculum unless they’ve done so in the past five years. Pay the $35 fee for your JOL online before or after your road test. If you pay in advance, your license will be mailed automatically after clearing the test. Schedule your MA driving test by calling 866-627-7768 or booking an appointment online. You can cancel or reschedule online or through the RMV Contact Center as long as you give over 72 hours' notice. Be aware that road tests might be canceled due to bad weather. Bring your completed road test application, learner’s permit, and required documentation. Show up for your road test with a qualified sponsor in a registered and equipped vehicle. If you pass, your learner’s permit will be stamped and serve as your temporary license. Your permanent one will arrive in the mail within four weeks. After passing your road test, you’ll receive your official license in the mail within four weeks. If it doesn’t arrive, contact the RMV. Junior Operator License Restrictions Here are the key restrictions for a Massachusetts Junior Operator License (JOL): You are prohibited from driving between 12:30 AM and 5:00 AM unless with a parent or legal guardian. For the first six months, you cannot drive with any passengers under 18 except for immediate family members. This restriction is waived when traveling with a licensed adult (21 or older) sitting next to you. You are prohibited from using any mobile or electronic device while driving, even if it’s hands-free. Any speeding ticket will result in a mandatory license suspension. Other serious traffic violations can also lead to suspension and require you to complete additional courses or exams. You cannot operate any commercial vehicles with a JOL. Stage 3: How to Get Your Massachusetts Full Driver’s License Eligibility Criteria To be eligible for a Massachusetts full driver’s license, you must: Be at least 18 years old Hold a learner’s permit Be a resident of Massachusetts Validity A Massachusetts full driver’s license is valid for five years. The expiration date is set on your birthday and printed on the front of the license. Documents Required You only need your learner’s permit to get your MA adult driver's license. Process Here's how to get your Massachusetts driver’s license: Schedule your road test online or call the RMV Automated Service Line at 866-627-7768. You can cancel or reschedule online or through the RMV Contact Center with no extra fees if you give more than 72 hours notice. Pay the $35 test fee online before or after your test. If you’ve paid, your driver's license will be sent to you automatically after you pass, so there is no need to visit an RMV Service Center. Bring a completed road test application and your learner's permit. If you obtained your permit before March 26, 2018, you might need to provide additional documents to prove your U.S. citizenship or lawful presence. This is necessary whether you're applying for a Standard Driver's License or a REAL ID. Pass the road test. Come with a qualified and licensed sponsor. Your vehicle must be registered and equipped. If you don’t pass, you can reschedule, but you’re limited to six attempts in a 12-month period. If you pass, the examiner will stamp your learner’s permit, which will act as a temporary driver’s license. Keep an eye out for your mail, as your permanent license will arrive within four weeks. If you’re over 21 and your photo was taken when you were under 21, you’ll need to visit a service center to get your license. If your license doesn’t arrive after four weeks, contact the RMV. MA Adult Driver’s License Restrictions In Massachusetts, adult drivers (18 years or older) with a full driver's license have fewer restrictions. However, there are still some important rules to follow: Using a handheld mobile device while driving is illegal, except in emergencies. Hands-free use is allowed, but it's best to limit distractions. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is strictly prohibited. A first offense can result in fines, license suspension, and mandatory alcohol education programs. All drivers and passengers must wear seatbelts. Failure to do so can result in fines. Accumulating a certain number of points from traffic violations can lead to increased insurance rates, fines, and even license suspension. Access 150+ road sign questions Massachusetts Written Knowledge Test The MA written knowledge test is a critical step in getting your learner’s permit and driver’s license. Inspired by the Driver’s Handbook or vice versa, the written exam aims to test your knowledge of the state’s road rules, road signs, and traffic regulations. Here are some frequently asked questions about the Massachusetts written test: The Massachusetts Written Knowledge Test features 25 MCQs that cover road signs, traffic laws, and safe driving practices. You need to score at least 72% to pass the Massachusetts written knowledge test, which means you must answer at least 18 MCQs correctly to pass. Common mistakes include misinterpreting road signs, not understanding speed limits and confusing traffic rules. Read each question carefully and review the driver’s manual thoroughly before the test. The Massachusetts permit test is available in multiple languages, including English, Spanish, Portuguese, and others. Check with the RMV for the complete list. If you fail the MA written test, you can retake it. You must pay the fee again and schedule a new test appointment. There's no limit on how often you can retake it, but you should review your mistakes and study before trying again. The ideal way to prepare for the test is to thoroughly read and understand the Massachusetts Driver’s Manual. Reinforce your learning by taking free online practice tests to familiarize yourself with the question format and topics. Eventually, take mock exams to test your knowledge. The MA written test covers topics from the Official MA Driver’s Manual, like road signs, traffic laws, safe driving practices, and how to handle various driving conditions. The knowledge test can only be taken in person at an RMV service center or testing location. The MA learner's permit test costs $30. The fee covers the cost of the application and written test. For more commonly asked questions you can visit our Massachusetts Driver License FAQs page. Massachusetts Driving Skills Test The road test is the final step in obtaining your Massachusetts driver's license. You must demonstrate your ability to operate a vehicle safely and follow the road rules. Conducted by a licensed examiner, the test includes a series of maneuvers such as parallel parking, backing up, and three-point turns. What Happens Before the Skills Test? Scheduling the Road Test You can schedule your road test online or by calling 866-627-7768. Rescheduling or canceling is possible through the Contact Center or online. Make sure to arrive 15 minutes prior to the scheduled appointment. If you arrive late, you won't be allowed to take the test, and you'll need to pay the driving test fee again to reschedule. Test Necessities Bring the following to your MA driving test: A completed road test application Learner's permit A vehicle for the test, along with registration A qualified sponsor (Note: If you show up alone, you won’t be allowed to take the test.) Proof of insurance if your vehicle is registered out of state. It must meet Massachusetts' minimum coverage requirements. If you're using a rental car, bring the rental agreement and a letter from the rental company authorizing you to use the car for the road test. Conducting a Vehicle Inspection The vehicle you bring to the test must be in safe, working condition and meet these requirements: Clean, adequate seating for the examiner (beside you) and your sponsor (in the back) No "donut" spare tires An accessible parking brake for the examiner to use in case of an emergency All specialized features, such as backup cameras, backing sensors, and automatic parallel parking, must be disabled or turned off. Weather Considerations Road tests may be canceled if the weather is severe, such as heavy rain, snow, or icy conditions. Make sure to check the weather forecast before your test and confirm with the RMV if there's any concern about cancellations. What Happens During the Road Skills Test? Who Can Stay in the Car Only the driving examiner and qualified sponsor can stay in the car during the test. The driving examiner will sit in the front passenger seat, and your qualified sponsor must sit in the back seat. Driving Skills to Demonstrate Be ready to demonstrate these skills: Using hand signals Starting and stopping the engine and vehicle Parallel parking and backing up the vehicle for 50 feet Making both right and left turns Handling the vehicle on a hill, including starting, stopping, and turning Performing a three-point turn Entering and leaving intersections safely Recognizing and obeying all traffic signs, signals, and road rules The examiner will also evaluate your overall driving habits, including: Maintaining proper posture with both hands on the wheel Staying in the correct lane Regularly checking your surroundings Signaling appropriately before lane changes Keeping a safe distance from the car in front of you Adjusting your speed according to the speed limits and traffic conditions Yielding the right-of-way when required Being aware of the road situation and your actions. Driving Errors that May Lead to Disqualification You'll automatically fail the road test if you: Cause a crash involving another vehicle, pedestrian, or object Drive in a way that endangers yourself or others Break any motor vehicle law, rule, or regulation Demonstrate a lack of experience in safely operating the vehicle Refuse to follow the examiner's instructions What Happens After the Driving Test? The examiner will let you know if you’ve passed or failed and will go over any driving mistakes. If you pass the driving test, have paid in advance, provided proof of lawful presence, and have no other issues, your permit will be stamped. You will then have a temporary license that will be valid for up to 60 days. Your permanent license will arrive by mail. If you fail, you can reschedule the test and pay another fee. Remember you’re limited to 6 road tests within 12 months. Massachusetts Driver’s License for New Residents If you plan to drive in Massachusetts, you must transfer your current driver's license to a local license as soon as you get your residency. Determining MA Residency You are considered a state resident if you live in Massachusetts for reasons other than a temporary or short-term stay. If you’re just visiting, driving with your foreign driver's license is allowed for up to a year from your arrival in the U.S. However, your license must be from a recognized country. Applying for an MA Driver’s License with an Out-of-State License Eligibility Your legal immigration status must be more than 12 months to be eligible for a Massachusetts driver's license. Process Here’s how to apply for an MA driver’s license if you have an out-of-state license: First, you must decide between a REAL ID and a Standard license. You can refer to the RMV Interactive Guide for this. The guide will also help you put together the necessary documents and complete your application. Print and collect documents. Generally, you’ll need: A document proving your lawful U.S. presence in the Two documents supporting your Massachusetts residency A document verifying your SSN Go to an RMV Service Center with your completed application and documents. Provide your driving record. If converting a license from Canada, Mexico, or a U.S. Territory, your driving record must be no older than 30 days. Take a vision exam. Pay the $115 fee. Various payment methods are available. Give in your current out-of-state license. You'll receive a receipt to use as a temporary license until your new one arrives within 7-10 working days. Validity Your new license will be valid for five years unless your U.S. lawful status is shorter. Important Points to Note If you have a valid out-of-state driver's license or one that expired less than a year ago, you’ll need to bring the required documentation and pass a vision test. If your license expired between one and two years ago, you must also pass the knowledge exam. If it’s been over two years since your license has expired, you must take both the knowledge and road tests. Applying for an MA Driver’s License with a Foreign License Eligibility Your legal immigration status must be more than 12 months to be eligible for a Massachusetts driver's license. Process The process for transferring your foreign driver’s license from the following countries to Massachusetts is similar to transferring an out-of-state license: U.S. territory (including Puerto Rico) France Germany Taiwan Canada Republic of Korea Mexico Note: If you have a valid license from the above-listed countries, you won’t have to take any tests. You will, however, have to surrender your foreign license. If your license is from a country not listed above, you cannot transfer it. Instead, you’ll need to apply for a Massachusetts driver's license as if you never had one. Follow the requirements for obtaining an MA Learner's Permit. Validity Your new license will be valid for five years unless your U.S. lawful status is shorter. Pass on your first try Start Practicing Now The road test route will likely be different than the routes you are used to driving, so it is important to familiarize yourself with it ahead of time. The examiner will likely take you on a variety of roads, including residential streets, highways, and busy intersections. 2. Know the rules of the road. There are a number of rules of the road that you need to know in order to pass your road test. These include things like yielding the right-of-way, turning at intersections, and using proper lane markings. Be sure to brush up on these rules before your test. 3. Be prepared to parallel park. One of the most common maneuvers required during a road test is parallel parking. Be sure that you know how to properly parallel park before taking your test. 4. Be prepared to do a three-point turn. Another common maneuver that may be asked of you during your road test is a three-point turn. Be sure you know how to complete a three-point turn safely and efficiently. 5. Make sure your car is in good working order. Your car should be in good working order before you take your road test, including having properly functioning lights, brakes, and tires. If there are any problems with your car, get them fixed before taking your test. 6. Arrive 10 minutes early for your road test appointment. Be sure to arrive 10 minutes early for your appointment so that you have time to get situated and prepare for your road test. If you are late for your appointment, you may not be allowed to take the test. 7. Bring your license, registration, and proof of insurance. Make sure you have all the required documents with you when you take your road test. These include your driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance. If you do not have these documents, you will likely not be allowed to take the test. 8. Be prepared to pay the road test fee. There is a fee associated with taking your road test, so be sure to bring enough money to cover the cost. The fee varies depending on which state you are taking your test in. 9. Be polite and attentive during the road test. It is important to be polite and attentive during your road test, as this will demonstrate to the examiner that you are a safe driver. Make sure to follow all instructions given by the examiner and do not get distracted while driving. 10. Follow all instructions given by the examiner. The examiner will give you a set of instructions to follow during your road test, so it is important that you follow them carefully. If you do not follow the instructions, you may be penalized or even fail the test. We know that taking your Massachusetts driving test can be nerve-wracking. With a little preparation and insight into the test itself, there's nothing to be worried about. This guide will make sure you know the specific requirements in Massachusetts, what you can expect on the road test itself and give our best practice tips. Here's exactly what you need to know to pass your Massachusetts behind-the-wheel test.What to know before your Massachusetts driving testPrior to completing your test, you need to ensure that you have completed an adequate amount of practice so that you are comfortable and prepared behind the wheel. The vehicle that you take should be the same one you have been practicing in as different cars will operate a little differently. Whether you decide to practice with an experienced family driver, take driving lessons or book with our car and driver road test service, you need to be prepared to understand both the technical and practical sides of the test. This encompasses studying the right material and utilizing that knowledge on the driving test.Once you believe that you are comfortable enough, you can schedule your road test. This is not an option, walk-ins are not possible. Save yourself the time and ensure that you have booked your road test in Massachusetts. Certain RMVs will have higher pass rates. Those are your best bet to ensure that you pass.Prepare yourself for success...The night before your driving test, you will want to ensure that you do your own pre-test inspection. The worst situation would be to bring your vehicle to the road test and not have it operating properly. Any cracks in the windshield will lead to an automatic reschedule. Ensure that the vehicle is in pristine shape and that your mirrors are adjusted to allow you to have maximum visibility. Any requirements and vehicle details that must be met in the state of Massachusetts should be looked over.Your paperwork will need to be completed and accompanied with your permit, insurance, registration, and social security number details. Once all of that is ready, you should review the material. From road signs to hand signals to the features on your vehicle, it is a good thing to be prepared. On the day of your test, you can have a licensed driver accompany you to the test.Once you've verified your road test, car paperwork, and car requirements, it’s time for more practice. In Massachusetts, you can practice anywhere except the neighborhood around the RMV where you'll be taking your driving test. We recommend practicing in parking lots and neighborhoods and have listed the maneuvers below that you can expect to be tested on.What are the vehicle requirements for the Massachusetts driving test?In Massachusetts, your vehicle is required to demonstrate the following vehicle and driver safety items within the pre-drive checklist. It is a good idea to check all of these prior to going to the testing center.Current registration, insurance, and inspection stickerEmergency hand brake at the center consoleA windshield with no cracks or debris that would obstruct the viewWorking doors: the driver and passenger doors must open from inside and outsideWorking lights: brake lights, front and back turn signal lights, headlights and taillightsKey safety requirements: working speedometer, horn, rearview mirror, seatbelts, and windshield wipersNo service or warning lights illuminated on the dashboardIn addition, valid vehicle registration and inspection stickers are mandatory. There needs to be proof of insurance equal to the minimum requirements of $20,000 - $40,000 for bodily injury and $5000 for property damage.If you don’t have a car or yours doesn’t meet these requirements, you have a few options. You can get a car through a driving school, see if a friend or family member is available to accompany you and lend their car, or Skip offers a car and driver service for Massachusetts road tests, which you can reserve ahead of time online.What to know the day of your Massachusetts driving testHere's what to expect on your Massachusetts driving test. We recommend practicing these maneuvers:Parallel parking3-point turnBacking up: You'll be asked to back up in a straight line for at least 25 yardsSecuring your vehicle on hills: Remember how to face your wheels when parking uphill and downhillKnow your hand signals. Left, Right, Slow Down and Stop. The Massachusetts RMV examiner will ask these before you even get in the car, so make sure to review these.Remember the E-brake: You'll be asked to use your center console e-brake during the test, so make sure to un-brake afterwards. We've seen a lot of people forget to do this and get an immediate fail.Turning: Right and left turns will be on your test. Be sure to turn into the same lane you're turning from. Turning into the wrong lane is a top mistake people make on the Massachusetts driving test.Lastly, remember to look in the direction you're driving. The examiner wants to see you use all of your mirrors and that you physically turn and look. People lose points for missing this all the time. Whether you're turning, backing up or going straight, always look in the direction you're driving.More Massachusetts driving test tipsJoin Moe as he explains what you need to know on the Massachusetts driving test, from beginning to end. He points out how you should be driving, what you should be looking for, and what you need to know to be a safe driver, maximizing your chances of passing the driving test in Massachusetts.What happens after my Massachusetts road test? Congratulations on completing your driving test! Regardless of the result, you should be proud for going through the test.If you passed, you will be given a temporary license. It will serve as your license to drive until your actual laminated one comes in the mail.When you are driving with an experienced driver or a professional, it feels a lot safer knowing that they are there to provide support and quick decision making, but once you are driving on your own, there are precautions you must take. Not all drivers will be able to read your mind, which is why you should always drive defensively. You are responsible for your passengers, so remind everyone in your vehicle to buckle up. Be a diligent driver and play your part in ensuring that the roads are safe for other drivers.If you failed your RMV driving test, don't worry! Most people usually pass on their second try, and it gives you another opportunity to learn and try again. Call your instructor to find out where you went wrong. This will provide benchmarks to help you adapt and test again. In Massachusetts, you can retake the test in two weeks. Each time, make sure you have a licensed driver and car for your road test. In the meantime, keep practicing and reschedule your road test when you feel ready. Master Your Driver’s Test: The Ultimate Checklist to make sure you’re ready for your Driving Test. Always bring 3 pieces of identification for your driver’s test. That way, you’ll have a backup in case something goes wrong. In the state of Massachusetts, you must bring your social security card, proof of identity, age, and residency in the state. See P. 126 for full details on identification. Yes, you can turn right on a red light unless signs prohibit it. To turn right at a red light you must first come to a complete stop at the correct stopping position. Give way to all other road users. When the way is clear, you can proceed. If you’re uncomfortable turning on a red light during a driver’s test, you can wait for the green. Yes. In the state of Massachusetts , you are required to parallel park for your driver’s test. Depending on where you are in the state, you will be required to parallel park on the road or in the parking lot with cones. You DON’T stop for a length of time at a STOP sign before proceeding. Rather, you bring the vehicle to a complete stop at the correct stopping position. After stopping at the correct stopping position, treat the intersection as a yield, give way to all other road users, and then proceed. The examiner will NOT tell you to move to the right lane after turning left. You must do that automatically. Only if the examiner tells you to turn left in the next couple of blocks do you stay in the left lane. OR the road that you’re on narrows to one lane and you have to merge left. Slower traffic must stay right – this applies to all traffic, both in the city and on the highway. And because you are going to be travelling the speed limit for your test, you are going to be travelling slower than the traffic flow. Revisit the fundamentals in the parking lot. Working with pylons in the parking lot will teach you mastery of the primary controls (accelerator, brake, steering, and clutch). More importantly, these slow-speed manoeuvres will teach you where your vehicle is in space and place. In other words, where your vehicle is in relation to other road users and fixed objects. When turning right and the lane is blocked, turn into the right lane. After you turn right, change lanes to the left lane immediately. In the state of Massachusetts, vehicles cannot park within 30 ft (10m) of a controlled intersection. You can use a backup camera for your driver’s test. You just CAN’T use it as your primary line of site. You check the backup camera as you would check your mirrors before reversing. Do a 360° scan around your vehicle before putting the vehicle in motion. In other words, look all around the vehicle before backing. For the duration of your backing, you will be looking out the rear window. You must shoulder check 2X every time you turn, every time you move the vehicle sideways. If you fail to shoulder check for a driver’s test, you will NOT be successful. Or worse, you could be involved in a crash and risk injury or death! At a controlled intersections, you stop: 1) before the STOP line, 2) before the crosswalk line or the sidewalk. 3) If those conditions don’t exist, then you stop before where the two roads meet. In other words, just before entering the intersection. Yes. You get one pull-up on a slow-speed- or parking maneuver. After the one correction, you will be assigned demerits. In some instances, it may be better to be a bit farther from the curb, or not quite centered in the parking space than risk “mucking” it up further on a correction. The speed limit in urban districts in Massachusetts is 30mph unless otherwise posted. In other words, if there aren’t signs stating that the speed limit is different, then travel at 30mph. And for your driver’s test, travel at either the posted speed limit or the flow of traffic – whichever is less. No. Driving examiners know that you’re nervous and they know that you don’t have a high skill level. They are not going to trick you and endanger both their safety and that of other road users. Driver’s Test First Time Course Package. This course is completely guaranteed. If you don’t pass the first time, we’ll refund your money and do everything in our power to help you pass your driver’s test and get your license. Also included in this great course package in the Defensive and Winter Driving Smart courses. Even if you don’t get snow and ice, the Winter Driving Smart Course will teach you how to drive safely in inclement weather (sleet, rain, fog, & glaring sun etc.) Not only will these courses teach you to pass your driver’s test the first time, but they will also ensure that you become a safer, smarter driver after getting your driver’s license. CLICK TO LEARN MORE! The hazard obstruction sign is the most common traffic sign on the roadway. Now that we’ve pointed it out, you’ll see these traffic signs everywhere. These traffic signs will prevent you from colliding with a fixed object along the roadway. When merging onto an interstate, you have to floor the accelerator (push it right to the bottom) to get the vehicle up to speed as quickly as possible. As you’re coming out on the onramp and out onto the acceleration lane, pick your spot and aim for that spot. Other drivers will help you out as much as they can. However, know that the onus of responsibility is on the merging driver. Pick your spot, get the vehicle up to speed, and don’t hesitate. For a driving test, red and yellow traffic lights are the same color. In other words, if the light turns yellow and you can get the vehicle stopped, you must bring the vehicle to a stop. Before jamming on the brakes, check to see if there is a vehicle tailgating you. If you proceed through the intersection and the examiner looks up through the windshield and sees the traffic light turn red when you’re in the intersection, you will automatically fail your driver’s test. Yes. You must come to a stop and pull over to the shoulder of the road as soon as you see the emergency vehicle. Only if the lights are activated and the sirens are blaring do you have to bring the vehicle to a stop. If you’re at an intersection, oftentimes your best option is to simply stay stopped and the emergency vehicle will find its way through the intersection. Yes. Signal any time that you turn, or move the vehicle sideways. And signal both when moving forward and when in reverse. One of the fundamental components of a driver’s test is to communicate effectively with other road users. There is not a specific amount that you’re allowed to go over the speed limit. However, if you consistently go 8-10mph over or under the speed limit, it’s unlikely that you’re going to be successful. Your speed management is directly linked to your scanning pattern. You should be checking your instrument panel as part of your scanning pattern every 8-12 seconds when driving. If you aren’t adjusting your speed every few moments, it tells the examiner that you don’t have your scanning pattern in place. Yes. When you show up for your driver’s test–unless signs prohibit this–back into the parking space. Look for the reserved parking for the driver’s tests. Backing into the parking space will minimize the stress when starting your test. Yes. There will be a mini pre-trip inspection on your vehicle to ensure the lights work, the registration is up to date, and other functionalities. Be sure you do a pre-trip before showing up for your test. It’s also recommended that you wash and vacuum out your vehicle. Remember: you don’t get a second chance to make a first impression. Your following distance behind other vehicles should be 2-3 seconds under ideal road conditions. If road conditions deteriorate, increase your following distance. When stopped in traffic, stop so that you can see the tires of the vehicle in front making clear contact with the road surface. With this landmark, you’ll have approximately one vehicle length between your vehicle and the vehicle in front. And if the vehicle in front breaks down, you can get around without reversing in traffic. As a general rule, you should signal approximately 1/2 block before the turn. The only time you may signal at a shorter distance is if it might confuse other road users. Before making lane changes, you must signal a minimum of 3 flashes on the turn signal before moving the vehicle. Keep your signal on until you’re completely in the other lane. Be sure to signal any time that you turn or move the vehicle sideways – both forward and in reverse. Yes. It is critical that you shoulder check on the left-hand turns to see pedestrians, other vulnerable road users, and those drivers that may cut on the inside. The maximum speed limit on highways in the state of Massachusetts is 50 mph unless otherwise posted. This is the maximum speed limit under ideal conditions. If the road conditions deteriorate—congestion, weather, or bright sunlight—your speed should be reduced. Driving into an intersection you cannot clear. • An action contrary to a regulatory sign. • Speeding in a school zone when school is in session. • Striking a fixed object. • Driving in a manner that causes another driver to take evasive action. • A driving action that causes the driving examiner to intervene and take control of the vehicle. • Backing up at an intersection. Get Your FREE Checklist Here Feeling stressed about your Massachusetts class D or M road test? Don’t worry! This guide is your one-stop shop for everything you need to know to ace the exam and earn your driver’s license. From Massachusetts driving test requirements to application tips, we’ll cover it all. Let’s get you ready with the checklist to hit the road! 1. Road Test/License Fees Must Be Paid Online, With a 72-hour Cancellation Requirement. You need to pay Class D and M road test and license fees online by visiting the fees section of the Mass.Gov/RoadTest. To avoid going to the Service Center, pay online. If you need to cancel or reschedule, provide 72 hours’ notice. if you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment with less than 72 hours notice, you will be expected to pay both the road test charge for the original and new appointments. 2. Applicant Requirements Applicants should meet the following requirements for class D or M road test: Come to the RMV location with your sponsor at least 15 minutes before. Bring your original, readable learner’s permit (or a duplicate). Bring your completed application for a road test with you. It is available for download and printing at Mass.Gov/RoadTest. If you have answered Yes to questions 1 or 2 in the mandatory questions sections of the road test application. Before the road test, the application needs to be approved by a designated RMV employee. The application needs to be signed by a parent, guardian, child guardian division, or headmaster of a boarding school if you are under eighteen. If the person signing the application is not a parent, appropriate documents proving the applicant’s eligibility to sign should be presented at the time of the road test. Class D applicants should be accompanied by the sponsor who is: And who had a valid U.S. license which is issued by U.S. territory, and one year of driving experience. The physical license should be presented to the examiner. The electronic image of the license is not acceptable. An individual with a foreign, non-U.S. license can not serve as a sponsor. Class M applicants should be 18 years of age, if under 18 then you can not take the RMV class road test and must complete a Massachusetts Rider Education Program (MREP) basic rider course to obtain a Class M license. Applicants for motorcycle road tests DO NOT need a sponsor. Read all the requirements on the back of the information sheet and be aware of all the reasons why the RMV may reject your vehicle, cancel your road test before it begins, or reject your application. During the test, only the applicant and sponsor can be in the vehicle. Service animals that have received training and language interpreters are exempt. Kids/children are not allowed to ride along during the test. During the road test, it is highly recommended though not mandatory that all vehicle occupants wear facial covers. Learn the hand gestures that are used to indicate stops and turns. At the beginning of the test, you will be required to demonstrate such safety signals. 3. Vehicle Requirements Vehicles that will be used for Class D or M road tests should meet the following requirements and they will be inspected before the test. This covers cars equipped with adaptive equipment for a competency test as well as cars with ignition interlock devices. Be capable of passing the safety check. Take with you a valid registration and current inspection sticker. Have a back seat to accommodate the Massachusetts road test sponsor requirements, including a rear seat for the sponsor behind the driver and sufficient space for the examiner to sit near the operator. Be designed to allow the examiner to apply the parking brake in an emergency. You won’t be charged for the road test if the vehicle can not be used for the road test. Any car with a center console that does not include a parking brake CANNOT be used. Any vehicle that does not provide the examiner with clear access to the parking brake CANNOT be used. 4. Out-of-state Registered Vehicles Carry proof of insurance coverage in the form of a policy that specifies the scope of coverage. Insurance coverage must meet Massachusetts’ minimum requirements of $20,000/$40,000 for personal injury and $5,000 for property damage coverage for vehicles used in the state. 5. Rental Vehicles To take the road test, bring the rental agreement and written permission on the rental company’s letterhead, signed by an authorized representative, with the car title. 6. Cancelled and Rejected Road Test Road tests may be canceled because of the road, weather, or other conditions such as: A state of emergency has been declared in the area where your driving test is planned. In case of adverse weather, check Mass.Gov/RMV or Twitter.com/MassRMV for service updates before heading to your road test location. The Road Test Examiner may refuse or cancel your road test for safety concerns, or in cases where the Road Test Examiner: Identifies whether the applicant or sponsor is under the influence of alcohol or other substances. Detects cannabis or alcohol odors on the applicant or sponsor, including clothing and the vehicle used for the road test. Observe that animals aside from certified service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II—or minor children including infants in car seats are present and cannot be left unattended at the Service Center during the road test. In case of a failure, rejection, cancellation with less than 72 hours notice, or no-show, you are liable for the road test charge. The applicant is responsible for the rescheduling. 7. Exception of Ethical and Professional Behaviors Any kind of act or attempt by the sponsor, applicant driving school, or any other individual who is associated with applicants to influence the outcome of the road test by offering gifts, money, bribes, or any other goods is prohibited by Massachusetts law. Any kind of threats, physical abuse, or verbal abuse towards the Road Test Examiner by any of the parties involved in the road test will not be tolerated and the applicant’s ability to schedule a follow-up driving test may be delayed by the RMV. If the licensee did not fulfill the legal minimum requirements for the road test, the Registrar retains the authority to cancel and recall any license. Pass Your Road Test In First Try With CMSC Driving School CMSC Driving School can help you prepare for the RMV road test in several ways. They provide classroom instruction on the rules of the road and safe driving practices. They also offer behind-the-wheel instruction with experienced instructors who can teach you the skills you need to pass the test, such as parallel parking, backing up, and making turns. Additionally, CMSC can help you ensure your vehicle meets all the requirements for the road test. For those who prefer instructions in Spanish, CMSC also offers Spanish Driving School services, making it accessible to Spanish-speaking applicants. By taking advantage of these services, you can increase your chances of passing the road test on the first try. If you want more tips to boost your confidence and driving skills, read 7 Professional Tips for New Drivers by CMSC Driving School. This article provides valuable advice from instructors that can significantly impact your driving test preparation. Ishant Sharma is a Google Ads and Meta Ads specialist, SEO strategist, and paid media expert with over 10 years of experience in digital marketing. He’s passionate about search trends, performance marketing, and the evolving ad ecosystem. Known for his analytical mindset and creative edge, Ishant writes to simplify complex topics and stay ahead of digital shifts. Every resident who operates a motor vehicle in the state. Every resident of at least 16 years of age whose driver’s license has never been revoked. You can obtain a learner’s permit if your are at least 16 years of age. You may obtain a Class D or Class M driver’s license after you have successfully held your permit for 6 months and have completed a driver education training program. Yes. Your photo will be captured by the RMV. You are not allowed to wear eyeglasses, hat, head cover or anything that hides any facial features. Yes. You must score at least 20/40 in your better eye, with or without correct lenses, and at least 120 degrees of horizontal peripheral vision. No, but you may provide a letter from your physician if you have any mental or physical condition that may affect your driver’s abilities. Birth certificate or any document proving your date of birth; Proof of residency; Pre-existing document containing your signature; Social Security Number. A complete list of all the Acceptable Forms of Identification can be found in the Massachusetts Driver’s Manual available at . Yes, you must pass a vision exam and a written learner’s permit exam. Yes. You must have the consent of a parent/legal guardian/social worker/ boarding school headmaster, who will sign the back of your permit. 2 years. Yes. You must be accompanied by a licensed driver of at least 21 years of age, who has held a license for at least 1 year and who occupies the seat beside you. You may not drive between 12 am and 5 am, unless a licensed parent/legal guardian is riding in the car with you. You can apply for a Junior Operator License (JOL). Have a clean driving record for at least 6 consecutive months; Complete a Registrar-approved driver education and training program: 30 hours classroom instruction, 12 hours behind-the-wheel training, 6 hours in-car experience; Complete additional 40 hours of supervised driver training; You parent / guardian must complete a 2 hours instruction on the driver’s education curriculum; Pass the final road test. Yes. For the first 6 months you may not carry any person under age 18, unless a licensed driver of 21 years of age is riding in the car, sitting beside you. This restriction is valid for 6 months or lifted before this period if you turn 18; You are not allowed to drive between 12:30 am and 1 am and between 4 am and 5 am. You are not allowed to operate a motor vehicle that requires a CDL (Commercial Driver’s License); You are not allowed to use any mobile device while driving. If you are under 18 you will be suspended for one year; If you are aged 18 to 21 you will be suspended for 180 days. Additional suspension periods can be given for specific offenses. 25 multiple-choice questions. You have 25 minutes to correctly answer at least 18 questions. Study the Massachusetts Driver’s Manual and take our DMV written test. You should be able to answer questions about Massachusetts motor vehicle laws and safe driving practices, alcohol misuse, rules of the road and road signs. Yes. Study again, practice and take the test whenever you feel you are ready. Visit the official Massachusetts RMV website at www.massrmv.com. Have a completed road test application signed by a parent/guardian; Have your learner’s permit; Bring a qualified sponsor; Provide an equipped and properly registered vehicle. Be in time. Arrive at least 5 minutes early for your appointment. If you use a rented vehicle, be sure that the rental agreement authorizes you to use it for a driver’s license road test; Be sure that your vehicle is safe and in good working order. It will be inspected by the examiner; Remember to bring a sponsor who is at least 21 years old, has at least 1 year driving experience and has a valid driver’s license. Use hand signals Start the engine Start and stop the vehicle Parallel Park Back