

DRIVER EDUCATION

Course Syllabus/Description of Activities

Students in the Driver Education program receive driving instruction and are taught the rules of the road. Driving skills are practiced on the driving range, on a four-lane divided highway, in the parking lot while practicing perpendicular and parallel parking, on a congested four-lane highway, in downtown traffic, on county roads and interstate highways. Two sources are used for classroom assignments: *Responsible Driving* textbook and *Tennessee Driver Handbook*. Questions from the handbook and textbook are customized to be answered in reading order. Grades are determined by student driving during class time, weekly assignments, and a semester test.

Driving activities include the following:

- Car Orientation
1. Driving Range Experience: acceleration, braking, controlling speed before a curve, hand-over-hand and push-pull steering, and reverse driving
 2. Four-Lane Driving: use of mirrors, changing lanes, use of directional signals, and braking speed control into connector roads
 3. Two-Lane Driving: reading the road, attention to signage, controlling speed on various road grades, complete stops, sharing the road, three-second rule distancing, and one-lane bridge etiquette
 4. Perpendicular Parking; reference-point positioning of car, tight turns, loose turns, centering/squaring in space, and backing out in the correct lane
 5. In-Traffic Driving: use of turn lanes, cues and reading traffic at a yield sign, looking ahead at the turn, perpendicular parking beside a car in a parking lot, parking lot yielding, ground sighting, fast-food drive-in entries and exits, with traffic turns, suicide turns, fast-paced protected lane changes, choosing a lane, city signaling, proper stopping distance behind vehicles, and judging oncoming traffic speeds
 6. Downtown Driving: reading traffic at a yield sign, lane changing, looking ahead at the turn for white and yellow lines, one-way/two-way traffic combination driving, anticipating pedestrian traffic, traffic/pedestrian etiquette, one-way left turn lane matchups, and anticipating traffic mistakes in one-way left turns
 7. Interstate: traffic sighting, high-speed merging, four second rule distancing, high-speed exiting, and road markings to interstate
 8. Driving Directions: taking directions from back-seat partner, which includes most of the above driving situations over a forty to forty-five minute drive
 9. Parallel Parking: reference-point steering in reverse, dry turning, parking within eighteen inches from the curb

Classroom activities include: instruction in boosting a battery, checking tire pressure, gauging tread depth, changing a tire, test review games, video-taped presentations, related stories concerning attitudes and car safety.

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DRIVER EDUCATION

Matt Traylor, Instructor

Synopsis of Course Content

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Achieve a sense of familiarity and security in handling an automobile.
2. Identify the driving task within the highway transportation system.
3. Explain traffic laws, signs, signals, and roadway markings that govern a driver's behavior.
4. Understand the natural laws that influence motor vehicle safety.
5. Learn techniques for cooperating with other highway users.
6. Understand the major systems of the car and how to maintain them.
7. Recognize the effects of physical and mental impairments on the driving process.
8. Discuss the effects of alcohol and drugs, and alternatives to driving while impaired.
9. Respond to emergency driving situations.