

# APPLYING FOR A CALIFORNIA DRIVER'S LICENSE AS A F-1 VISA STUDENT

(18 YEARS OR OLDER)

# Applying for a CA Driver's License

## **This PowerPoint addresses:**

- ▣ What is the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)?
- ▣ How to obtain a driver's license if you are 18 years or older and on a F-1 visa?
- ▣ The Santa Monica DMV – DMV location nearest to Santa Monica College
- ▣ What is the contact information for the Santa Monica DMV?
- ▣ What are their office hours?
- ▣ Driving/Public transportation directions

# What is the Department of Motor Vehicles?

In the U.S., the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is the government agency in charge of areas having to do with driving a vehicle (i.e. vehicle registration, driver's license, safety inspections, etc.).



# Driving in California...



If you plan to drive a car while in the U.S., you must have a driver's license. California law states that if you are visiting and have a valid driver's license from your home state or country, you may drive in our state without getting a California Driver's as long as your home state/country license remains valid; however, it is recommended that you apply for a CA driver's license as soon as possible if you plan to drive in CA as a student.

# CA Driver's License Checklist

## Basic Requirements to Receive a CA Driver's License

- Schedule an appointment to take the Written Test
- Bring all the documents you need to take the Written Test
- Pass the Written Test and receive your Driver's Permit
- Schedule an appointment to take the Driving Test
- Take the Driving Test
- Pass the Driving Test and receive your interim Driver's License
- Wait for your new photo license in the mail

# Who Needs to Take the CA Written Test?

1. Any F-1 visa student over 18 yrs. old who wants to obtain a CA driver's license and has a valid
  - International driver's license;
  - Driver's license from another U.S. state;
  - Or driver's license from another country or another state in the US.
2. Any F-1 visa student over 18 yrs. old who wants to obtain a CA driver's license but does not have a valid driver's license will need to take and pass the DMV written test.



# Preparing for the CA DMV Written Test

## Three Steps to Prepare for the CA DMV Written Test

1. Schedule an appointment to take your written test.

- ❑ **Option One** - To reduce your wait time, the IEC recommends scheduling an appointment online

- Go to [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov)
- Click on **Online Services**
- Click on **Appointments**

- ❑ **Option Two** - Schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-777-0133

The screenshot shows the California Department of Motor Vehicles website. The header includes the CA.GOV logo, the text 'CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES', and contact information: 'Telephone: 1-800-777-0133 Hearing Impaired: TTY 1-800-368-4327'. The navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Offices', 'Online Services', 'Forms', 'Driver License', 'Vehicle Registration', 'Publications', and 'DMV Info'. Below the navigation, there are sections for 'Vehicle Registration Renewal' and 'Driver License Renewal'. A section titled 'Online Services | To Alphabetical List' lists various services such as 'Driver Record - Online', 'Vehicle Record Request - Online', 'Vehicle Registration Fee Calculator - Online', 'Vehicle Registration Suspension Program - Online', 'Affidavit of Non-Use - Online', and 'Appointment(s) - Online'. A search bar is visible at the top right, and a 'Save time. Go online!' button is at the bottom left.

# Preparing for the CA DMV Written Test

## Three Steps to Prepare for the CA DMV Written Test

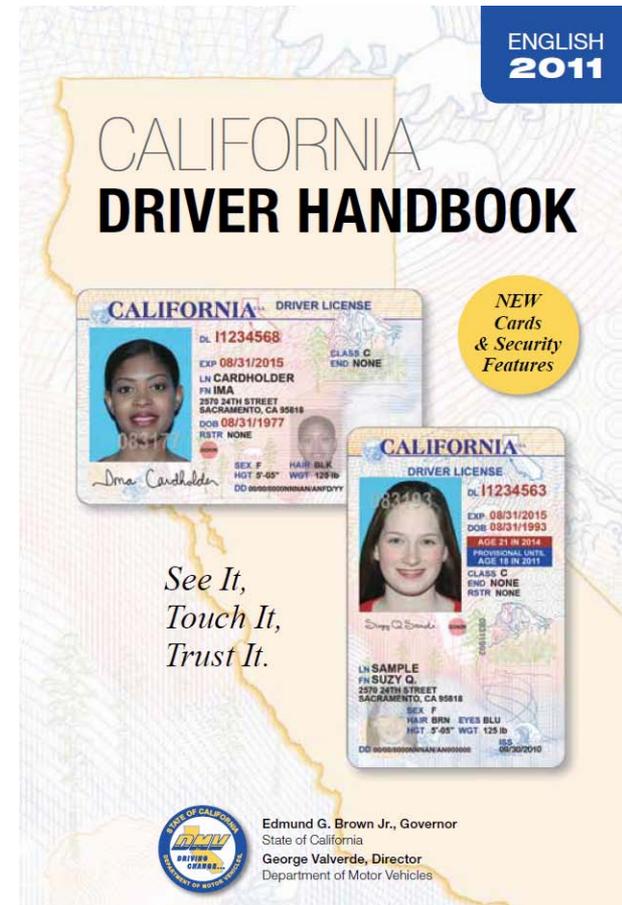
2. Review the California Driver License Handbook prior to taking the written test at the DMV.

❑ **English Version**

<http://dmv.ca.gov/pubs/dl600.pdf>

❑ **Handbook Versions in other languages**

<http://dmv.ca.gov/pubs/pubs.htm>



# Preparing for the CA DMV Written Test

## Three Steps to Prepare for the CA DMV Written Test

3. Practice taking one or all of the Class C sample written tests. At the DMV, the written test is available in English and many other languages. Click “sample written tests” for examples.

[Sample Written Tests](#)



# Interpreters and the CA DMV Written Test

The Department of Motor Vehicles provides interpreters, including American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, at no cost to the customer

If you need a language interpreter schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-777-0133 and indicating foreign language assistance is needed.

For the California Relay Telephone Service from TDD phones, call 1-800-735-2929 or, from voice phones, call 1-800-735-2922 for assistance in contacting DMV and making arrangements for an ASL interpreter.

# Taking the CA DMV Written Test

## The CA DMV Written Test in Seven Steps

1. Bring the following original documents (no photocopies) to your written test appointment (You may wish to arrive earlier)
  - ❑ Passport/F-1 Visa/I-94
  - ❑ I-20 – Bring your current SMC I-20 and if different, also bring the I-20 with the Port of Entry stamp. Transfer students who do not have a SMC I-20 with a Port of Entry Stamp, should bring their current SMC I-20 and their original (non-SMC) I-20 with the Port of Entry Stamp.
  - ❑ Social Security Card (if issued one)
  - ❑ DMV application fee (you can pay by Cash, U.S. Check, Money Order, or ATM/Debit Card. The DMV does not accept credit card payments. For the current fee table, click [Current Fee Table](#).)

# Taking the CA DMV Written Test

## The CA DMV Written Test in Seven Steps

2. Complete the Driver's License or ID Card Application – DL44 Form. This form is only available at the DMV Office. Do not make photocopies of this form. Copies will not be accepted.
3. Pass the vision test
4. Provide your thumb print
5. Have your picture taken
6. Take the written test
7. Pass the written test



# The CA Driver's Permit



A CA Driver's Permit also referred to as a learner's permit, learner's license or provisional license is a restricted license that is issued by the DMV to a person who is learning how to drive, but still has not satisfied the requirements to obtain a driver's license.

- \* If you are issued a permit and are at least 18 yrs. old, you must have an accompanying adult (18 yrs. or older) with a valid CA license while you practice driving. This person must be close enough to you to take control of the vehicle. It is illegal for you to drive alone.

# Who Should Take the CA DMV Driving Test?

1. Any F-1 visa student over 18 years old who has a valid
  - International driver's license (possession of a valid CA Driver's Permit)
  - Driver's license from a foreign country/state (possession of a valid CA Driver's Permit)
  - California Driver's Permit
2. Any student on a F-1 visa who does not have a valid driver's license or has been licensed in another state but do not have the license to surrender must also take and pass the DMV Written Test

**\* If you have a license from another state in the U.S., the driving test can be waived.**

# Preparing for the CA DMV Driving Test

## Five Steps to Prepare for the CA DMV Driving Test

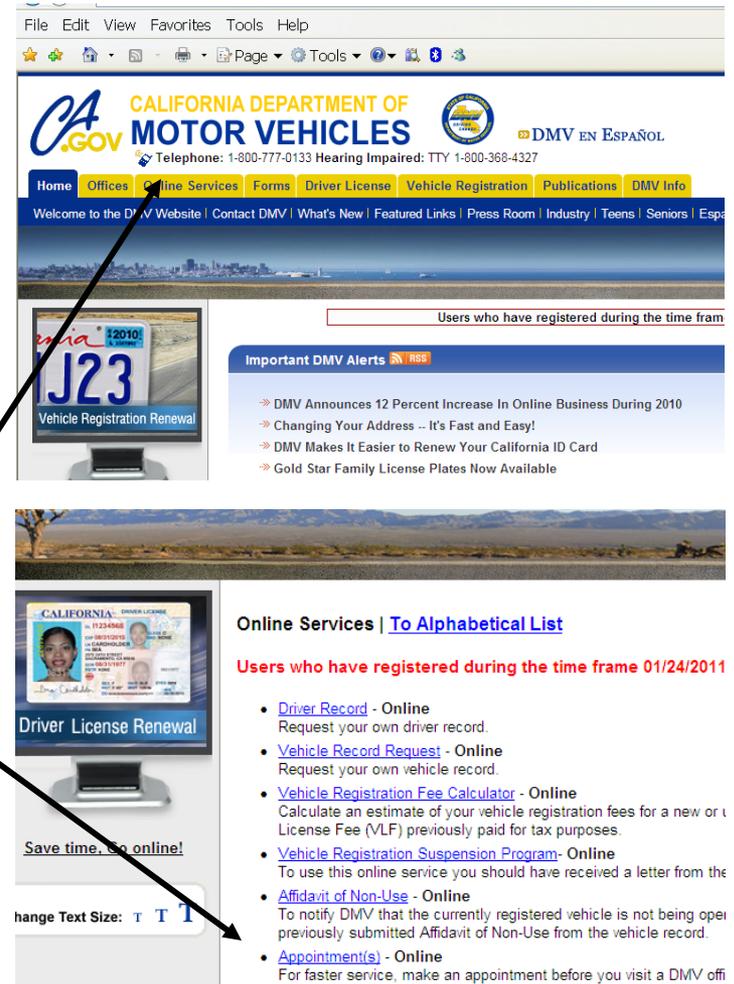
1. Schedule an appointment to take your Driving Test.

❑ **Option One** Schedule an appointment online

- Go to [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov)
- Click on **Online Services**
- Click on **Appointments**

❑ **Option Two** - Schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-777-0133

**\* You cannot take the Driving Test without an appointment!!!**



The screenshot shows the California Department of Motor Vehicles website. The header includes the CA.GOV logo, the text 'CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES', and 'DMV EN ESPAÑOL'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Offices, Online Services, Forms, Driver License, Vehicle Registration, Publications, and DMV Info. A search bar is visible on the right. The main content area features a banner for 'Vehicle Registration Renewal' with a license plate 'J23' and a '2010' sticker. Below this is a section for 'Important DMV Alerts' with several news items. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Online Services' with a link to 'To Alphabetical List' and a list of services including Driver Record, Vehicle Record Request, Vehicle Registration Fee Calculator, Vehicle Registration Suspension Program, Affidavit of Non-Use, and Appointment(s).

# Preparing for the CA DMV Written Test

## Five Steps to Prepare for the CA DMV Written Test

2. Review various methods recommended by the CA DMV. Click [Preparing for the Driving Test](#) for more information.
3. At your driving test appointment, you must provide proof of financial responsibility. For more information click [Insurance Information](#).

\* Liability insurance is required for all drivers of motor vehicles in California.

# Preparing for the CA DMV Written Test

## Five Steps to Prepare for the CA DMV Written Test

4. Take and pass the driving test.

\* You have three chances to pass the driving test. If you fail, you may practice for a while, then make another appointment. There is no waiting period, but you must make an appointment. If you fail to successfully complete the driving test on the first attempt, you must pay a fee for each additional driving test that is administered under an application for an original or renewal driver license.

5. You may drive on your interim license (up to 60 days only) until you receive your new photo license in the mail.

# Interim Driver's License

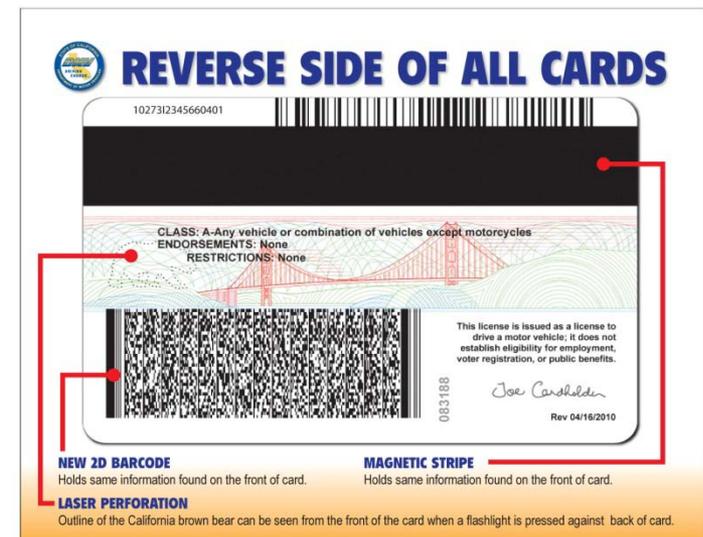
Double-check your address before you leave the DMV. If you have moved or if your address is incorrect notify the DMV representative. If you have not received your license after 60 days, call 1-800-777-0133 and they can check on the status for you. Have your interim license with you to provide information when requested.



# California Driver's License

Learning to drive safely does not end with your driving test. Use the same, safe driving habits and the responsible attitude you demonstrated on your driving test. For a safe driver checklist click

[DMV Safe Driver Checklist](#)



# Santa Monica DMV Office

The nearest DMV office to the Santa Monica College campus is the Santa Monica Location. This office is familiar with assisting the SMC international community.

2235 Colorado Avenue  
Santa Monica, CA 90404  
(800) 777-0133

**Wait Time and Office Hours**



# Santa Monica DMV Office

- \* **Services offered by this DMV include Driver License and ID Card Processing, Vehicle Registration, Payment of fees by check, money order, cash or ATM/Debit Card. Credit Cards are not accepted in DMV offices.**



# Santa Monica DMV Office

## Office Hours\*

Monday	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



\* This DMV Office is closed on weekends. To find out which holidays this DMV will be closed, visit the CA DMV website: [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov). For faster Service, schedule an appointment on the CA DMV website.

# Santa Monica DMV Office

## **Driving directions from SMC to the Santa Monica DMV Office**

- Head northeast on Pico Boulevard. toward 20<sup>th</sup> Street (344 ft.)
- Turn Left at 20<sup>th</sup> Street (0.6 miles)
- Turn Right at Colorado Ave. – Destination will be on the left (0.2 miles)



# Santa Monica DMV Office

## Public Transportation to the Santa Monica DMV Office

- Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Sunset Line from SMC Campus
- Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Line 5
- For more information on how to ride the Santa Monica Big Blue Bus, visit <http://www.bigbluebus.com/home/ride-free.html>
- For L.A. Metro transit riders, visit <http://www.metro.net/>
- For Culver City transit riders, visit <http://www.culvercity.org/Government/Transportation/bus.aspx>



Ride Big Blue Bus for FREE!