

Obtaining a South Carolina Driver's License/ID Card



Helpful Links:

[Department of Motor Vehicles \(DMV\)](#)

[Driver Training Schools in SC](#)

[SC Driver's Manual](#)

In the United States, a driver's license serves as both permission to drive and official identification. If you will not be driving in the U.S., you may apply for a state identification (id) card. Both are issued through the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (SCDMV).

Students with a driver's license from another country or U.S. state are permitted to drive in the United States for a period of 90 days after their arrival. Before the 90 day period has expired, students must replace their driver's license with a South Carolina driver's license.

Students who have a valid International Driving Permit (IDP), along with a valid license from his or her home country should also have a South Carolina driver's license before the 90 day period expires. The IDP must be obtained in your home country prior to entering the U.S.

To get a South Carolina license, students will need to prove proficiency in their driving ability through a written test of the South Carolina traffic laws followed by a road skills test. To study for the written test, a copy of the South Carolina Driver's Manual may be downloaded (see helpful links). After passing the written test, a road test (or driving test) is required at the SCDMV located at 1630 Shop Road. Students must provide their own car or a friend's car in order to take the test. The driving test may be taken more than once if necessary.

South Carolina waives the requirement for written and driving testing for first time applicants from those **countries** that have established a formal reciprocity agreement with South Carolina, as long as the applicant's out-of-country driving credential has not expired.

To apply for or renew a driver's license, or to change the local address on the license, the [following documents must be presented to the SC Department of Motor Vehicles](#) (DMV):

Student Visa Holders:

- Passport, Visa and I-94 card
- SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019
- Verification of Enrollment from Registrar's Office which lists student's current local address. Verification is valid for 90 days
- Social Security card OR letter from the Social Security Administration stating ineligibility for social security number. Letter is valid for 90 days

Spouse/Dependent Child of Student Visa Holders:

- Passport, Visa and I-94 card
- SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019 of F2 or J2 Dependent
- Verification of Enrollment from Registrar's Office which lists student's current local address. Verification is valid for 90 days
- Letter from the Social Security Administration stating ineligibility for social security number (letter is valid for 90 days)*

***Social Security Administration Location:** 4 Civic Center Blvd Ext, Anderson, SC 29625; Hours & Phone: Mon-Tues, Thurs-Fri 9:00AM-3:00PM, WEDNESDAY 9:00AM-12:00 Noon; 864-231-7057; National 1-800-772-1213

Note: Children must be at least 15 years old in order to get a beginner's permit. The beginner's permit must be held 180 days before taking the road test and they must also complete a driver's education course before receiving their license.

SC DMV Seneca Location:

Service Wait Times

13009 South Radio Station Road

Seneca , SC 29678

Phone: 864-882-8698

Weekdays Open: **M-F**

Mon-Tues, Thurs-Friday Hours: **8:30-5:00**

Wednesday Hours: 9:30-5:00

Saturday Hours: **Not Open**

Driver License Issuing: **Yes**

Motorcycle Road Tests: **Yes**

Road Test Appointments: **2:00-4:30**

International Customers: **Yes**