

TO APPLY FOR orRENEW a TEXAS DRIVER'S LICENSE or TX ID CARD:

→*You must reside in Texas for at least 30 days before you can apply for a TX DL or ID card*←

*For international students, scholars, or those applying for or on OPT, and their dependents:
Take the documents listed below to a Texas Driver's License Office to apply:*

- 1. Passport**
- 2. Visa or immigration documentation indicating your status, such as an I-20, or DS-2019.**
- 3. I-94**
- 4. And for first-time applicants: bring two acceptable documents from the list below establishing proof of residency, one of which must demonstrate the applicant has lived in Texas at least 30 days.**

For a complete list of acceptable residency documents and additional details, please visit <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/residencyReqNonCDL.htm>.

The 30-day requirement is WAIVED for applicants who surrender a valid, unexpired driver license from another state in the United States, but two documents establishing proof of residency are still required.

Note: You do NOT need a Social Security card in order to apply for a Texas Driver's License.

Note: If you are under age 25, and a FIRST TIME applicant for a Texas Driver's License, you must take an approved Adult Driver Education course (for example, <http://adultdriversed.idrivesafely.com>) BEFORE you can apply for a Driver's License, which then exempts you from having to take the written test at the Driver's License Office (if you take and pass the exam at the school.

If, under age 25, and you already have a currently valid license from another state in the USA, you are not required to take a driver's license education course. (If 25 or over as a first time driver's license applicant, you will have to take the written test at the Driver's License Office, unless you take and pass the written exam at an approved driver education class.)

Before buying any used car, especially from an individual, have the car checked out by a mechanic. Take an American friend along with you for assistance.

TEXAS DRIVER'S LICENSE Frequently Asked Questions

Written Test: \$25.00 Driver's Permit \$25.00 Texas Driver's License: \$25.00 Renew Driver's License: \$25.00

1. Where are the closest Driver's License Offices to the University of Houston?

9206 Winkler, Houston, phone number 713 943 0725 (11 miles south; closer but usually busier)

2783 Red Bluff Road, Pasadena, phone 713 473 3232 (14 miles southeast; farther, usually less busy).

Or visit www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/driver_licensing_control/rolodex/search.asp

for all driver's license office locations in the Houston area.

2. What is the best day (least busiest) to visit the Driver's License Office?

Thursday, around 10 am or 2 pm, or Wednesday; Monday and Friday are the busiest days.

3. A driver's license from another country is good for 90 days from day of arrival in Texas. To get a Texas driver's license, you will then need to take both the written test and a driving test. **An "International Driver's License" is good for one year after your arrival in Texas;** then you will need to take the written and driving test.

4. A currently valid (not expired) driver's license from another state in the USA is good for 90 days from your arrival date in Texas. To get a Texas Driver's License you will need only to transfer your valid driver license from that state in the USA. **A driver's license from another state which has expired requires that you** take a written test and then a driving test to get a Texas driver's license.

5. You can take the Texas driver's license written test anytime without an appointment. Be sure to arrive at least one hour before closing.

6. Can I now schedule a driving test online instead of having to go in person to the nearest DPS office to make an appointment? Yes! Go to:

a. <http://bit.ly/4E3EJ> Scroll down to Houston Winkler or Pasadena (the closest to the University if Houston), schedule a driving test online, then Select Service: Driving test for a regular car or truck.

7. You can pick up a Texas Driver's handbook to study for the written test at any Texas Department of Public Safety office or go online: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/internetforms/Forms/DL-7.pdf>.

8. If you fail the written test or driving test, you can retake the test the very next day or later. You have 90 days to retake either to pass. If you don't pass either in 90 days, you will need to repay the fee gain.

9. A learner's or driver's permit allows me to practice driving with a licensed driver in the front passenger seat. How do I get one and how much does it cost?

Take the written test; the \$25 permit is good for six years. Tell the TX DPS person before you take the written test that you are taking it for a permit (not a driver's license).

10. I've never driven before. Are there driving schools that can teach me how to drive?

Yes; google "learn to drive schools, Houston, Texas" for a list of area schools. Cost is about \$40 per hour.

Note: A Defensive Driving Course (DDC) is only for those who have received a speeding or other kind of traffic ticket; the DDC is not a course to teach you how to drive.

(Please see additional information on the back.)

11. **I need to change my non-Texas license plates to Texas plates.** For instructions on how to do this, go to: www.registeredtexas.com/new-to-Texas-heres-how-to-register/ (at a different location, not the DPS office).

TEXAS ID CARD Frequently Asked Questions Cost: \$16.00

12. **Do I have to get a Texas ID card, or is it optional?**

It's optional and voluntary and no test is required to apply for one. They will take your picture. It serves to identify you in Texas and elsewhere and can be used to board an airplane, check into a hotel, show at government offices, write a check at a store, and other day-to-day activities that require a state issued ID card.

13. **Please note: A Texas ID card is NOT the same thing as a Texas driver's license, Cougar Card, Green Card, Permanent Resident card, Social Security card, or Houston Metro Q bus card.**
14. **If I will be getting a Texas driver's license soon, do I need a Texas ID card?** It's not necessary.
15. **After I apply for a Texas ID card or Driver's License, they will give me a receipt. How long after that before I receive the actual Driver's License or Texas ID card in the mail?** 4-6 weeks.
16. **Is the Texas Department of Public Safety office open on the week-end?**
No, it's open Monday-Friday, and is closed for holidays, some of which fall on Monday.

17. **Students living in a UH dormitory:**

For documents showing proof of residency, you may use a:

- A. Dormitory lease or dormitory contract which as one document showing proof of residency.
- B. Car insurance card showing your street address and room number.
- C. Car registration papers showing your Texas street address and room number.
- D. A bank statement showing your street address and room number.
- e. NOTE: Post Office Box numbers on documents are not accepted as proof of residency; you must have a street address and apartment or dormitory room number.

*NOTE: ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS
SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME.*