

TO APPLY FOR or RENEW 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*←

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.

*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: an I-20, or DS-2019.**
- 3. I-94 (to print out, go to website <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov>)**
- 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, but neither of which is over 90 days old.**

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

Please see next page for more residency document information.

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.)

International Students, please note: You do NOT need a Social Security card in order to apply for a Texas Driver's License.

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.

A. University of Houston international student living in a UH dormitory:

You will need at least two documents for proof of residency to take to the Driver's License Office:

1. You may use your dormitory contract as one document, showing your dormitory street address and room number (post office box numbers as an address are not accepted).
2. You will still need another document showing your dormitory room number and dormitory street address. The Department of Public Safety (DPS, where you apply for a driver's license) does not accept documents that show a post office box number.

For example, if you have a bank account document online or mailed to you which shows:

Your Name

Room # 111

Calhoun Lofts

4700 Calhoun Road

Houston, TX 77004

If online, you may print it out, or if mailed to you, you may bring it with you along with your dormitory contract.

B. University of Houston student living in an apartment with your name on the apartment contract:

You may use an electric, water, gas, satellite TV, cable TV, or NON-cellular phone bill which shows your street address and apartment number. Post office box numbers are not acceptable.

C. University of Houston student living in an apartment and someone else's name is on the apartment contract: provide the signed Texas Residency Affidavit, and two acceptable residency documents. The person signing the TRA must come with you to the Driver's License office.

D. UH student living in a home of a family member: provide the signed Texas Residency Affidavit, and two acceptable residency documents. The person signing the TRA must come with you to the Driver's License office.

E. UH student living in a home not belonging to an immediate family member: provide the Texas Residency Affidavit; the person signing the affidavit must go with you to the Driver's License office and also present a valid Texas driver's license or Texas identification card.

For the Texas Residency Affidavit, go to: www.txdps.state.tx.us and

click on: [Driver License, New Licenses and ID cards, Choose One, Texas Residency Texas Residency Affidavit.](#)

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 Permit" is good for 90 days after your arrival in Texas, as long as you also have a valid unexpired driver's license from that same country as well;** then prior to 90 days are up 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 or from Canada, France, South Korea, Germany, or Taiwan, 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 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 three chances in 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 who is 21 or older 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.

11. **I need to change my non-Texas license plates to Texas plates.** For instructions on how to do this, go to:

<https://www.dmv.org/tx-texas/car-registration.php#Registering-a-Vehicle-in-TX>

(at a different location, not the DPS office).

New Texas residents can legally drive with a valid, unexpired driver license from another U.S. state, U.S. territory, **Canadian province**, or qualifying country for up to 90 days after moving to Texas.

Prior to the end of the 90 day grace period, a new Texas resident must apply for a Texas license in person at any driver license office to continue to drive legally. When applying for the new Texas license the individual must surrender any unexpired driver license in their possession from another U.S. state, U.S. territory or a **Canadian province**.

Adults (18 and Older)

Applicants who have a valid, unexpired driver license from another U.S. state, U.S. territory, or from **Canada must surrender their out of state/country driver license and are not required to take the knowledge or skills exams** (the written test or driving test). Texas also has license issuance reciprocity with **France, Germany, South Korea, and Taiwan only**. Applicants who have a valid, unexpired driver license from one of these countries are not required to take the knowledge or skills exams **if they surrender their out of country driver license. However, if the applicant does not wish to surrender their out of country driver license, they must take and pass all required exams**

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?** 2-3 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.
