

GDL Q&A

1. At what age does the graduated licensing process begin, and how many licensing steps or phases are there in the system?

The process begins with an instruction permit as early as age 14. The intermediate license is available as early as age 16 and the full license as early as age 17. Each requires the written consent of a parent, guardian, or custodian. Graduated licensing does not apply to anyone who is age 18 or older.

2. Does a parent/guardian/custodian have to provide behind-the-wheel driving experience beyond what is provided in a driver's education course?

Yes. To move from an instruction permit to an intermediate license, a young driver's parent, guardian, or custodian must submit an affidavit showing that the young driver has accumulated a minimum of 20 hours behind-the-wheel driving experience, at least two hours of which must be between sunset and sunrise. This driving must be done with the young driver's parent, guardian, custodian, instructor, a person certified by the Iowa DOT, or a person at least 25 years old who has written permission from a parent, guardian, or custodian to accompany the young driver. This is in addition to any driving done in an approved driver education course. To move from an intermediate license to a full license, the young driver's parent, guardian, or custodian must submit an affidavit showing that the young driver has accumulated at least 10 additional hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience, at least two hours of which must be between sunset and sunrise. This driving experience must also be done with the young driver's parent, guardian, custodian, instructor, a person certified by the Iowa DOT, or a person at least 25 years of age who has written permission from a parent, guardian, or custodian to accompany the young driver.

3. Is there a nighttime driving restriction on the intermediate license, and if so, what about work or late-night school activities?

Yes. The young driver must be accompanied by a qualified driver between 12:30 a.m. and 5 a.m. A "qualified driver" is a person who holds a driver's license valid for the vehicle operated and who is the parent, guardian, or custodian of the young driver, a member of the young driver's immediate family who is at least 21 years old, an approved driver education instructor, a prospective driver education instructor who is enrolled in a practitioner preparation program with a safety education program approved by the state board of education, or a person at least 25 years old who has written permission

from the young driver's parent, guardian, or custodian, and who is actually occupying a seat beside the young driver. However, the young driver may drive a vehicle to and from school-related extracurricular activities and work without an accompanying driver between the hours of 12:30 a.m. and 5 a.m. if the young driver possesses an Iowa DOT waiver. The waiver form (Waiver of Intermediate Driver's License Hour Restriction, Form 431170) may be found at www.iowadot.gov/forms, and is also available at schools, Iowa DOT driver's license stations and county treasurer driver's license issuance sites.

4. Must the young driver maintain a clean driving record?

Yes. To move from an instruction permit to an intermediate license, the young driver must be crash- and violation-free for six consecutive months immediately before applying for the intermediate license. To move from an intermediate license to a full license, the young driver must be crash- and violation-free for 12 consecutive months before applying for the full license. During these periods, the young driver's driving privilege must not be expired or withdrawn.

5. What happens if the young driver commits a moving violation or contributes to a crash?

If the young driver is involved in one moving violation or a crash to which the young driver contributed, the DOT may suspend his or her driving privilege, impose additional driving restrictions, and/or require additional testing. Possible restrictions to be imposed include, but are not limited to:

- A. No driving between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, or custodian.
- B. No passengers, unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, or custodian.

The crash- and violation-free period that must be completed before moving to an intermediate license or a full license begins again on the date the traffic violation or contributive crash occurred or on the date of reinstatement if the young driver's driving privilege is withdrawn or suspended.

6. If a qualified intermediate driver who is 17 and has not yet moved to a full license is involved in a contributive crash or commits a moving violation, will that delay the move to a full license?

Yes. An intermediate license holder MUST be crash- and violation-free for the 12-month period immediately before the application for a full license is submitted. Qualified intermediate license holders are therefore encouraged to upgrade to a full license as soon as they become eligible.

7. What is a school license, and how does it fit in GDL?

A school license is a special minor's license issued for travel to and from school. A young driver does not have to obtain a school permit to proceed through the GDL process, and in fact not all young drivers are eligible for a school license: a school license may only be issued to a person between the ages of 14 and 18 who has already obtained an instruction permit, and who has obtained certification of a special need from the school board, superintendent, or principal of the young driver's school, and who has successfully completed an approved driver education course. (Completion of the course is not required if the young driver demonstrates to the Iowa DOT's satisfaction that completion of the course would impose a hardship upon the applicant.) The school license entitles the young driver to operate a motor vehicle (1) during the hours of 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. over the most direct and accessible route between the young driver's residence and schools of enrollment or the closest school bus stop or public transportation service, and between schools of enrollment, for the purpose of attending duly scheduled courses of instruction and extracurricular activities within the school district; (2) to a service station for the purpose of refueling, so long as the service station is the station closest to a permissible route; and (3) at any time when the licensee is accompanied by a qualified driver (see Q&A question "3" for a full explanation of who is a "qualified driver").

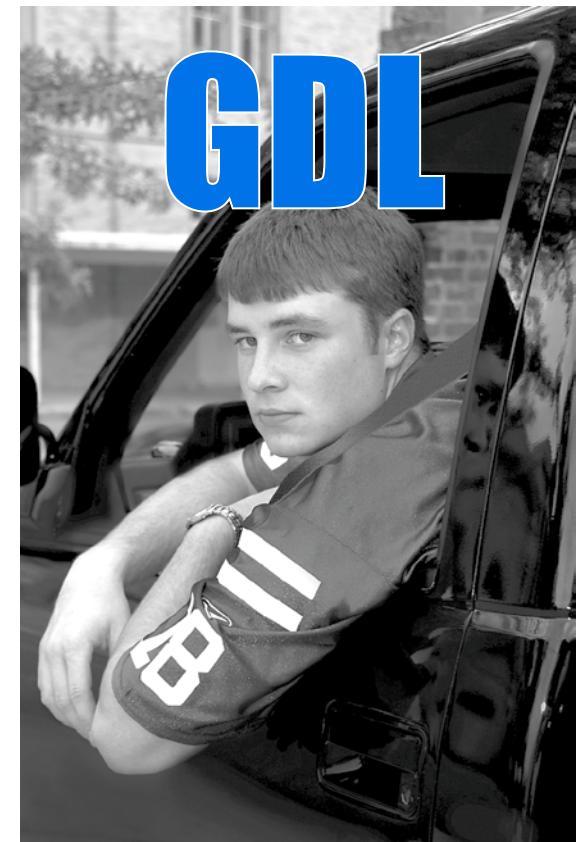
An applicant for a school license must drive crash- and violation-free for six consecutive months immediately before applying for the school license. A school license holder may not drive between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. without being accompanied by a qualified driver. Unlike an intermediate license holder, a young driver holding and operating under a school license may not obtain a nighttime driving waiver (see Q&A question "3" for a discussion of this waiver).

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**For questions about the GDL system,
call 515-244-9124 or 800-532-1121.**

Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416 or Iowa Department of Transportation's affirmative action officer. If you need accommodations because of a disability to access the Iowa Department of Transportation's services, contact the agency's affirmative action officer at 800-262-0003.

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Information on Iowa's
**GRADUATED
DRIVER
LICENSING**
system for drivers
under the age of 18



Iowa Department
of Transportation

IOWA'S GDL SYSTEM

1. INSTRUCTION PERMIT

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must be at least 14.
- Must have written consent of parent, guardian or custodian.*
- Must successfully complete a vision screening and a knowledge test.

CONDITIONS

- A qualified driver must supervise all driving (see Q&A question "3" for a full explanation of who is a qualified driver).
- Number of passengers limited to number of safety belts available in vehicle.
- Instruction permit will have the words "under 18" printed on it; issued for four years.

2. INTERMEDIATE LICENSE

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must be at least 16.
- Must have written consent of parent, guardian or custodian.*
- Must have held an instruction permit for at least six consecutive months before applying for the intermediate license; the instruction permit may not be expired or withdrawn during this six-month period.
- Must have driven crash- and violation-free for six consecutive months immediately before applying for the intermediate license (see box far right).
- Must have completed at least 20 hours of supervised driving; a minimum of two hours must have been between sunset and sunrise (see Q&A question "2" for discussion of persons that may supervise this driving).

- Must have successfully completed an Iowa-approved or comparable driver education course, including:
 - 30 hours of classroom instruction, which must include four hours of substance abuse education, a minimum of 20 minutes on railroad crossing safety and information on organ donation.
 - Six hours of drive time with an instructor. The behind-the-wheel drive time may not be waived by a parent, guardian or custodian.

CONDITIONS

- May drive:
 - Without supervision from 5 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.
 - Without supervision between 12:30 a.m. and 5 a.m., but only with an Iowa DOT waiver and only to and from work or school-related extracurricular activities. The waiver form (Waiver of Intermediate Driver's License Hour Restriction, Form 431170) may be found at www.iowadot.gov/forms, and is also available at schools, Iowa DOT driver's license stations and county treasurer driver's license issuance sites. The form must be signed and approved by the school or the employer.

All other driving between 12:30 a.m. and 5 a.m. must be supervised by a qualified driver (see Q&A question "3" for a full explanation of who is a qualified driver).

- Number of passengers limited to number of safety belts available in vehicle.
- Intermediate license will have the words "under 18" printed on it; issued for two years.

Note: The intermediate license does not expire at age 18. A person who is 18 or older and holds an intermediate license is not entitled to full driving privileges with no restrictions until that person obtains a full license.

3. FULL LICENSE

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must be at least 17.
- Must have written consent of parent, guardian or custodian.*
- Must have held an intermediate license for at least 12 consecutive months before applying for the full license; the intermediate license may not be expired or withdrawn during this 12-month period.
- Must have driven crash- and violation-free for 12 consecutive months immediately before applying for the full license (see box far right).
- Must have completed at least 10 additional hours of supervised driving; minimum of two hours must be between sunset and sunrise (see "Q&A" question "2" for discussion of persons that may supervise this driving).

Note: These requirements do not apply to a person who has turned 18 and is seeking a full license.

CONDITIONS

- Full driving privileges with no restrictions.
- For drivers under age 18 or age 21, the license shall have the words "under 18" or "under 21," respectively, printed on it; issued for five years to person age 17 years and 11 months or older, and for two years to person younger than 17 years and 11 months.



* **Written consent of parent/guardian/custodian is required. This consent may be given using one of two options:**
(1) The parent/guardian/custodian accompanies the teenager to the driver's license station to sign the consent form in the presence of the examiner.

(2) The parent/guardian/custodian downloads the Parent's Written Consent to Issue Privilege to Drive form or Affidavit to Obtain Duplicate License Form #430018 (www.dot.state.ia.us/forms) and signs the form in the presence of a notary public. The young driver may then present the completed and notarized form to the examiner and the parent/guardian/custodian would not have to accompany the young driver to the driver's license station.

REMEDIAL DRIVER IMPROVEMENT

Drivers under the age of 18 will be suspended and/or given additional restrictions, and may be subject to additional testing, if the driver:

- Commits a moving violation.
- Is involved in a crash to which the driver contributed.

Possible restrictions include, but are not limited to:

1. No driving between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless accompanied by parent, guardian, or custodian.
2. No passengers, unless accompanied by parent, guardian, or custodian.

The license holder must begin a six-month (instruction permit holder) or 12-month (intermediate license holder) crash- and violation-free driving period from the date the traffic violation occurred or the date of the contributive crash to qualify for the next licensing level. If a person's driving privilege is suspended, the new period begins on the date the privilege is reinstated.