

Office of International Students & Scholars



Nevada Driver License FAQs as of 5/5/2010
For International Students

1. Do I have to get a Nevada Driver License?

(If you will not drive in Nevada, then you will not need a Nevada Driver License.) An international student who wants to drive in the state of Nevada must have a valid international driver license or a valid Nevada Driver License. A foreign driver license is not acceptable. Even if you have a driver license from another US state, the Nevada law says you must obtain a Nevada driver license within 30 days of moving to Nevada. The exception for out-of-state students does not necessarily apply to international students because you are not a 'resident' of another state in the US. When you are driving, if a policeman stops you and you do not have a Nevada driver license or an international license, you could be in big trouble.

NOTE: When purchasing auto insurance in Nevada, you save money by having a Nevada driver license instead of an international driver license.

2. Why do I need a Nevada ID card?

A Nevada ID card is NOT required. However, even if you will not drive in Nevada, you may wish to apply for a Nevada ID card for convenience. It is much safer to carry a Nevada ID card when you need to show ID than it is to carry your passport. Also, a Nevada ID card is commonly accepted as a form of ID. Other forms of ID may or may not be accepted at some places.

3. Who can apply for a Nevada driver license or ID card?

An international student who is in good F-1 or J-1 visa status can apply for a Nevada Driver's License or Nevada ID card.

4. Where can I apply for a Nevada Driver License or ID card?

The DMV locations and office hours are on the web at <http://www.dmvnv.com/locat.htm>

5. What do I need to bring for a license or an ID?

The DMV can often change their requirements. As of May 5, 2010, the requirements are:

1. Valid Passport
2. I-94 that has the words "F-1 D/S" or "J-1 D/S" on it
3. **If** you have a Social Security number, you will need to show your original Social Security card or a W-2 tax form or other tax form that has your Social Security number on it.
If you do NOT have a Social Security number, you will be able to write that on the DMV form when you meet with the DMV staff person. The requirement to get a Social Security rejection letter (SSA-L767) is no longer in effect.
4. You will need to give them your complete Nevada mailing address.
5. Money – there are several fees. This website explains the fees
<http://www.dmvnv.com/dlfees.htm>
6. Although an I-20 or DS-2019 is not required, we still recommend you bring your current one in case you are asked for it. If you are on OPT, we recommend that you bring your OPT card.
7. If you already have or had a driver's license in another U.S. state, you will need to show them that license. (this does not apply to ID cards)

6. What if I never had a driver license before?

You can still apply for a Nevada driver license as follows –

1. Take and pass the written test ("Knowledge test") to obtain an Instruction Permit
2. Schedule an appointment for the driving test
3. Take and pass the driving test ("Skills Test")

If you need to learn how to drive, there are many Driving School companies in Las Vegas where you can take classes. The DMV has a list of schools on their website at <http://www.dmvnv.com/dlschoolsprd.htm>. Remember, you may not drive a vehicle in Nevada even just to practice unless you have an Instruction Permit.

7. What if I have a driver license from another state, can I just transfer my license?

Yes but even if you have a license from another US state, the Nevada DMV will still require you to take the written and driving tests. Some students have told us that they were not required to take the tests. If so, that was a mistake. The Nevada DMV rules say that a non-U.S. citizen must take all of the tests.

8. Do I have to take the written *and* driving tests?

The Nevada DMV can make you take any and all of their tests, especially the first time you get a license in Nevada. The DMV have 3 tests: Vision, Knowledge (written test), and Skills (driving test). The first two tests you can do on the same day without an appointment, but the Skills (Driving) test you have to have an appointment for. You make the appointment for the Skills (Driving) test only after you pass the written test. Even if you are transferring your driver license from another US state, don't be surprised if the DMV makes you take all 3 tests.

Remember: Even when you go to the DMV to take the driving test, bring all of the same documents with you in question 5 above.

9. What documents do I need if I just want a Nevada ID card?

You will not have to take any tests so you don't need an appointment, but you will need all of the same documents as listed in #5 above.

10. How can I study for the written (Knowledge) test?

The DMV has a book you can read on-line called the "Driver Handbook" Go to <http://www.dmvnv.com/nvdl.htm> to read it. The DMV also offers sample tests on-line too at the same website.

11. Can I get a driver's license on-line?

No. You have to go to the DMV office in person each time.

12. Advice from OISS

Whenever you go the DMV, you can avoid lots of headaches if you...

- Bring all of the documents listed in #5
- Plan to be at the DMV for a minimum of 3 hours, don't try to do it in just one hour because you will get frustrated
- Never argue or get angry at a DMV worker – that makes it worse for YOU
- Ask questions carefully and slowly if you do not understand what the DMV worker is telling you. Keep calm and smile! They will help you if you are polite.
- If you have any doubts about going to the DMV, come to our office first to ask questions OR you can read the DMV website at <http://www.dmvnv.com/>
- If experience a problem at the DMV even though you have all of the necessary documents with you, don't leave the DMV. Try to call our office, 702-895-0143, from your cell phone to see if we can help. **OR** If you have a problem at the DMV, please come and see an advisor in our office so that we can help you.