California Driver License Application Information

International students must enroll in a minimum of 12 units for undergraduates and 8 units for graduates to be eligible to apply for a California driver license or a California State ID card from the Department of Motor Vehicles office. The California driver license and the State ID card are considered the official documents for routine identification purposes in California.

If you are 18 years of age or older and applying for a driver license, follow the instructions below (information obtained from http://www.dmv.ca.gov/dl/dl_info.htm):

- Obtain and study a copy of the “California Driver Handbook” from the DMV. Become familiar with California traffic laws.
- Make an appointment with the DMV at http://www.dmv.ca.gov/foa/welcome.do
- Visit the DMV office and bring your valid I-20 and I-94 immigration documents.
- Complete application DL 44 (see attached). Copies of form DL 44 will not be accepted.
- Give a thumb print
- Have your picture taken
- Provide your Social Security Number. It will be verified with the Social Security Administration while you are in the office. If you are ineligible for a Social Security Number please read the information on the other side of this sheet.
- Verify your birth date and legal presence (valid foreign passport with a valid I-94).
- Provide your true full name
- Pay the application fee
- Pass a vision exam
- Pass a traffic laws and sign written test. There are 36 questions on the test. A passing score is at least 31 correct answers. You have three chances to pass (for a sample test go to http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/interactive/tdrive/exam.htm).
- You will then be issued a permit if you have never been licensed before. To take your driving test you will need to:
  - Call or go online to set up a DMV appointment (http://www.dmv.ca.gov/foa.welcome.do). Driving tests are not given without an appointment.
  - Provide proof of financial responsibility.
- After you pass your driving test, you will be issued an interim license valid for 60 days until you receive your new photo license in the mail.

Please review the DMV website (www.dmv.ca.gov) for more information.

International students who are ineligible for a Social Security Number (SSN)

According to the State of California Department of Motor Vehicles’ web site (http://www.dmv.ca.gov/dl/dl.htm), individuals who are legally present in the U.S. but are ineligible for a Social Security Number (SSN) are exempt from the SSN requirements to obtain a driver's license. The Social Security Administration will not assign a SSN to individuals holding F-1 status to comply with a state law requiring a SSN for the issuance of a driver’s license.
In lieu of a Social Security Number, students will provide proof of legal presence in the form of a valid passport with a valid Record of Arrival/Departure (Form I-94).

**Important Information**

Government legislation passed in 1998 to curb fraud and misuse of the system now requires the DMV to send documents to US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for verification before issuing California driver license or ID card to applicants who are non-US citizens.

**Local DMV offices:**

- **Long Beach**
  3700 E. Willow Street.
  Long Beach, CA  90815

- **Fullerton**
  909 W. Valencia Drive
  Fullerton, CA  92832

- **Torrance**
  1785 W. 220th Street
  Torrance, CA  90501

- **Compton**
  2111 So. Santa Fe Avenue
  Compton, CA  90221

- **Westminster**
  13700 Hoover Street
  Westminster, CA  92683

- **Bellflower**
  9520 E. Artesia Blvd.
  Bellflower, CA  90706

Phone Number:  (800) 777-0133
Office Hours:
8am – 5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
9am – 5pm Wednesday
www.dmv.ca.gov