

ALBERTA DRIVER EDUCATION STANDARDS: PASSENGER VEHICLES

Overview

Regulating agency: Alberta Transportation

Effective date of regulations enacted:

AGE REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum enrolment age: 14, with Class 7 learner's licence

EDUCATIONAL SETTING

- High schools
- Private driving schools
- Home computer-based instruction
- Other

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

- High school student status
- Must hold a valid Learner's licence
- Registration/enrolment fee
- Course fees subsidized for students
- Parent/guardian consent
- Other requirements

COURSE STRUCTURE

In-classroom

- Minimum total number of hours: 15 hours
- Number of sessions
- Length of each session: Weekday evenings are usually 3 to 4 hours, and weekends 6 to 8 hours
- Additional sessions available

In-vehicle, on range/track

- Minimum total number of hours
- Number of sessions
- Length of each session
- Additional sessions available

In-vehicle, on road

- Minimum total number of hours: 10 hours; 6 if you hold a non-GDL licence
- Number of sessions
- Length of each session: 2 hours is recommended, 4 hours maximum
- Additional lessons available

Driving simulator

- Minimum total number of hours
- Number of sessions
- Length of each session
- Additional sessions available

Parent / guardian session(s)

- Minimum total number of hours
- Number of sessions
- Length of each session
- Additional sessions available

CURRICULUM CONTENT*

- Basic driving procedures and manoeuvres
- Braking
- Crashes and injury prevention
- Defensive driving
- Driver communication skills

- Driver distractions
- Driver fitness to drive
- Driver impairments
- Driver observation skills / visual tracking
- Driver psychology
- Driver responsibility
- Emergency situations / manoeuvres
- Fuel efficient driving
- Graduated driver licensing system
- Hazard perception and recognition
- Highway driving
- Insurance
- Lane changes / Safe passing
- Legal awareness
- Night driving
- Parking
- Pre-driving checks and procedures
- Risk perception / management
- Rules of the road
- Sharing the road
- Signs, signals, and road markings
- Space management
- Standard transmission (optional)
- Traffic and roadway conditions / environmental conditions
- Turns and U-Turns
- Vehicle control
- Vehicle systems / parts and performance

*These are general topics and some jurisdictions may contain curriculum components that are more in specific, i.e. 2- or 3-points turns, parallel parking, etc.

COMPETENCY MEASURES

Pre-assessment:

- In-classroom
- In-vehicle

Intermediate assessment:

- In-classroom
- In-vehicle

Final exam:

- In-classroom
- In-vehicle: An assessment by the instructor, rather than an exam

INSTRUCTOR REGULATIONS (IN-CLASS)

- Certifications / designations: Must successfully complete knowledge and practical tests, administered by Alberta Transportation
- Minimum age
- Licence held: Class 5
- Driver / criminal record check: See in-vehicle instructor regulations below
- Minimum driving experience: 3 years

TRAINING VEHICLE

- Vehicle class used: Class 5
- Dual control brakes: If vehicle is supplied by the driver training school or instructor
- Automatic / manual transmission: Either
- Required insurance: The holder of a driver training school licence must maintain the following insurance:
 - a Driver Training School Standard Endorsement Form number 6d under the Insurance Act in respect of each motor vehicle owned by the holder that is used or intended to be used for driver training by the school;
 - a non-owned automobile liability insurance policy in respect of each motor vehicle not owned by the holder that is used or intended to be used for driver training by the school.
- Vehicle signage:
 - A motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle or moped, that is being used for driver training by a driver training school must have a sign that:
 - (a) is securely mounted on the vehicle
 - (b) is not more than 100cm wide and 50cm high;

- (c) includes the name of the driver training school, and
- (d) has the words "student driver" in letters at least 10cm high, with a stroke of 1.5cm, and are clearly visible at all times to other drivers in front of and behind the vehicle.

- Passenger restrictions: Instructor may be the only passenger, however, additional passengers may include:
 - another student;
 - another driving instructor;
 - a manager of the driver training school;
 - an interpreter, if required;
 - if the student is an inmate of a correctional institution, a correctional officer; or
 - an employee of the Department who is reviewing
 - (i) the qualifications or teaching methods of driving instructors, or
 - (ii) the operation of a driver training school.
- Additional vehicle requirements: Training vehicles must be inspected annually if the vehicle is more than 1 year old

INSTRUCTOR REGULATIONS (IN-VEHICLE)

- Certifications/designations: Must successfully complete knowledge and practical tests, administered by Alberta Transportation
- Minimum age
- Licence held: At least Class 4
- Minimal driving experience: 3 years as the holder of a Class 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 operator's licence, or an equivalent driver's licence issued by another jurisdiction
- Driver/Criminal record:
 - The Registrar may refuse to issue an instructor's licence to a person if during the 5 years immediately preceding the application date,
 - (i) the person was convicted of an offence under the Criminal Code (Canada) that is related to the functions, duties or business of a driving instructor, including, without limitation, the offences of forgery, the use of false pretences, bribery, extortion, conspiracy to defraud or theft or an offence involving moral turpitude or the unlawful operation of a vehicle, and
 - (ii) the conviction is final by reason of the expiry of the time for appeal without the appeal's having been made or the final disposition of the appeal by the courts
 - The Registrar must refuse to issue an instructor's licence to a person if
 - (a) the person's operator's licence has been suspended or cancelled during the 2 years immediately preceding the application date, or
 - (b) the person has accumulated 7 or more demerit points under the Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation when the application is made
- Location in vehicle while instructing
- BAC level while instructing
- Additional regulations: Instructors must maintain a minimum number of teaching hours over a two year period to have their instructor's licences renewed

COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

- Successfully complete minimum in-classroom instruction hours
- Successfully complete in-classroom evaluation
- Successfully complete minimum in-vehicle instruction hours
- Successfully complete in-vehicle evaluation

FOLLOWING PROGRAM COMPLETION

- Driver education certification issued to student
- Time-reduction in GDL program (number of months)
- Insurance discount: Drivers already holding a Class 5 non-GDL licence must complete at least 15 hours of classroom and 6 hours of in-vehicle training to receive a Course Completion Certificate, used for an insurance discount.

PRACTICE DRIVING (WITH PARENT/GUARDIAN)

- Minimum practice driving hours
- Maximum period to complete the practice hours
- Practice hours recorded on a log sheet

SUPERVISOR (PARENT/GUARDIAN) REGULATIONS

- Minimum Age: 18 years old
- Licence held: Non-GDL
- Time licensed
- BAC level while supervising

- Location while supervising
- Driver log

ADDITIONAL FEATURES

LIST OF APPROVED DRIVER EDUCATION SCHOOLS IN ALBERTA

DRIVER EDUCATION REGULATORY INFORMATION

Regulating Agency:

Alberta Transportation
Twin Atria Building
4999-98 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6B 2X3
Ph: In Alberta toll free 310-0000, outside of Alberta 1-780-427-2731
Fax: 1-780-466-3166
Website: <http://www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca/>

How to choose a driving school and what to expect -
http://www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca/INFTRA_Content/docType47/Production/class-5roadtestchoosingschool.pdf

Legislation:

(Consolidated up to 101/2006)
ALBERTA REGULATION 316/2002
Traffic Safety Act
DRIVER TRAINING AND DRIVER EXAMINATION REGULATION
http://www.qp.gov.ab.ca/documents/Regs/2002_316.cfm?frm_isbn=0779741064