

# ONTARIO DRIVER EDUCATION STANDARDS: PASSENGER VEHICLES

## Overview

Regulating agency: Ontario Ministry of Transportation

Effective date of regulations enacted: O. Reg. 473/07 – Licenses for Driving Instructors and Driving Schools (BDE); BDE Curriculum Standards – Minister's announcement - TBA

## AGE REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum enrolment age to driver education program:

## EDUCATIONAL SETTING

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

## ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Highschool student status (for high schools offering the BDE program only)
- Must hold valid Learner's permit
- Registration/enrolment fee
- Course fees subsidized for students
- Parent/guardian consent (for high schools students under the age of 18, must provide written consent from parent or legal guardian)
- Additional requirements

## COURSE STRUCTURE

### In-classroom

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

### In-vehicle, on range/track – N/A

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

### In-vehicle, on road

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

Driving simulator (where available – flexible instruction hours to a maximum of 10 hrs.) – responds to individual student learning needs)

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

Parent / guardian session(s): (not a requirement but strongly supported/recommended where possible)

- 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
- 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: No requirement – some driving schools conduct a pre-evaluation

- In-classroom
- In-vehicle

Intermediate assessment:

- In-classroom
- In-vehicle

Final exam:

- In-classroom
- In-vehicle

### **INSTRUCTOR REGULATIONS (IN-CLASS)** (See O. Reg. 473/07)

- Certifications / designations
- Minimum age
- Licence held
- Driver / criminal record check
- Minimum driving experience

### **TRAINING VEHICLE** (See O. Reg. 473/07)

- Vehicle class used
- Dual control brakes (service break actuator)
- Automatic / manual transmission
- Required insurance
- Vehicle signage
- Passenger restrictions
- Additional vehicle requirements:
  - safety Standards Certificate
  - currently validated vehicle permit
  - number plates displayed in accordance with the Act

**INSTRUCTOR REGULATIONS (IN-VEHICLE)** (See O. Reg. 473/07)

- Certifications/designations
- Minimum age
- Licence held
- Minimum driving experience
- Driver/Criminal record check – not subject to a court order, conditions of parole, or undertaking to an officer
- Location in vehicle while instructing
- BAC level while supervising
- Additional regulations:
  - ability to operate and instruct in the safe operation of a Class “G” motor vehicle
  - meet the requirements of ‘accompanying driver’
  - meet medical/vision requirements (O. Reg. 340/94)
  - fit & proper
  - if licensed by another jurisdiction – driving record meets Ontario requirements

**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) (4-month time reduction with certificate only)
- Credits towards highschool graduation – N/A
- Insurance discount (varies, dependant upon insurance carrier)

**PRACTICE DRIVING (WITH PARENT/GUARDIAN)** – Strongly recommended/supported, but not mandatory at this time

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

**SUPERVISOR (PARENT/GUARDIAN) REGULATIONS**

- Minimum Age
- Licence held
- Time licensed (accompanying driver)
- BAC level while supervising
- Location while supervising
- Driver log – N/A

**ADDITIONAL FEATURES**

**LIST OF APPROVED DRIVER EDUCATION SCHOOLS IN ONTARIO**

Ministry-Approved Beginner Driver Education Courses - <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/dandy/driver/gradu/approve.htm>

**DRIVER EDUCATION REGULATORY INFORMATION**

**Regulating Agency:**

Ministry of Transportation  
1201 Wilson Avenue  
Downsview, ON M3M 1J8

Ministry of Government Services – Service Ontario Driver and Vehicle Contact Centre  
Ph: 1-800-387-3445 or 416-235-2999 in Greater Toronto Area

Website: <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca>

**Legislation:**

Highway Traffic Act - [http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_90h08\\_e.htm#BK56](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90h08_e.htm#BK56)