



Teenagers

Driving carries extra risk for them.

Graduated driver licensing introduction

Teenage drivers have the highest crash risk per mile traveled, compared with drivers in other age groups. Young drivers tend to overestimate their driving abilities and underestimate the dangers on the road. Graduated driver licensing (GDL) laws reduce this risk by making sure teens gradually build up driving experience under lower-risk conditions as they mature and develop skills. That means limiting nighttime driving, restricting teen passengers and making sure teens get lots of supervised practice. Graduated licensing has reduced teen crashes 10-30 percent on average.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have a three-stage GDL system. The United States doesn't have a national GDL law. State lawmakers decide what provisions to adopt and how to enforce them. Institute research has shown that states with the strongest laws enjoy bigger reductions in teen driver deaths than states with weak laws. Some states make teens wait a little longer before they get their learner permits and full-privilege licenses. This also saves lives.

The table and maps below show licensing requirements and restrictions on intermediate license holders for every state and D.C. In many states, the law doesn't set a specific age at which restrictions are lifted. In those cases, the table reflects the lowest possible age at which someone could hold an unrestricted license, given the minimum time periods required for the learner's permit and intermediate stages. To look up a specific state's requirements, use the "By state" tab above.

Use the "Calculator" tab above to see the estimated effects of strengthening or weakening five key GDL provisions in any state or D.C. The projections are based on research showing what matters most when it comes to preventing fatal crashes and collision claims among teen drivers.

Effective dates of graduated driver licensing law components in every state and D.C.

Table **Map: minimum age for unsupervised driving** **Map: night restriction start times**
Map: restrictions on passengers

State	Learner stage			Intermediate stage: restrictions on driving while unsupervised			Unrestricted stage: when restrictions may be lifted	
	Minimum entry age	Mandatory holding period	Minimum amount of supervised driving	Minimum age	Unsupervised driving prohibited	Restriction on passengers (family members excepted unless otherwise noted)	Nighttime restrictions	Passenger restrictions
AL	15 ¹	6 months ¹	50 hours (none with driver education)	16	midnight-6 a.m. secondary enforcement	no more than 1 passenger secondary enforcement	17 and licensed for 6 months (min. age: 17)	17 and licensed for 6 months (min. age: 17)

AK	14	6 months	40 hours, 10 of which must be at night or in inclement weather	16	1 a.m.-5 a.m.	no passengers younger than 21	6 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)	6 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)
AZ	15, 6 months ²	6 months	30 hours, 10 of which must be at night (none with driver education)	16	midnight-5 a.m. secondary enforcement	no more than 1 passenger younger than 18 secondary enforcement	6 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)	6 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)
AR	14 ³	6 months ³	none	16 ⁴	11 p.m.-4 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 21	until age 18 (min. age: 18)	until age 18 (min. age: 18)
CA	15, 6 months ⁶	6 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night	16 ⁶	11 p.m.-5 a.m. secondary enforcement	no passengers younger than 20 (limited exception for immediate family) secondary enforcement	12 months after initial license (min. age: 17)	12 months after initial license (min. age: 17)
CO	15 ⁵	12 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night	18	midnight-5 a.m. secondary enforcement	first 6 months—no passengers, second 6 months—no more than one passenger secondary enforcement	12 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17)	12 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17)
CT	16 ⁷	6 months ⁷ (4 months with driver education)	40 hours ⁷	16, 4 months ⁷	11 p.m. - 5 a.m.	first 6 months—no passengers other than parents or a driving instructor; second 6 months—no passengers other than parents, driving instructor or members of the immediate family	until age 18 (min. age: 18)	12 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17, 4 mos.)
DE	16 ⁸	6 months ⁸	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night ⁸	16, 6 months ⁸	10 p.m.-6 a.m. ⁸	no more than 1 passenger ⁸	6 months or the issuance of a class D license (min. age: 17)	6 months or the issuance of a class D license (min. age: 17)
DC	16 ⁹	6 months ⁹	40 hours in learner's stage; 10 hours at night in intermediate stage	18, 6 months ¹⁰	September-June: 11 p.m.-6 a.m. Sun.-Thur., 12:01 a.m.-6 a.m. Sat.-Sun.; July-August: 12:01 a.m.-6 a.m. ¹⁰	no passengers ¹⁰	6 months or until age 21, whichever occurs first (min. age: 18) ¹⁰	6 months or until age 21, whichever occurs first (min. age: 18) ¹⁰
FL	15 ¹¹	12 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night	16	11 p.m.-6 a.m. for 16 year-olds; 1 a.m.-5 a.m. for 17 year-olds	none	until age 18 (min. age: 18)	none
GA	15	12 months	40 hours, 6 of which must be at night	16 ¹²	midnight-5 a.m. secondary enforcement	first 6 months—no passengers; second 6 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 21; thereafter, no more than 3 passengers secondary enforcement	until age 18 (min. age: 18)	until age 18 (min. age: 18)

HI	15, 6 months	6 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night	16 ¹³	11 p.m.-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 18 (household members excepted)	6 months and age 17 (min. age: 17)	6 months and age 17 (min. age: 17)
ID	14, 6 months ¹⁴	6 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night	15 ¹⁴	sunset to sunrise	licensees 16 and younger can have no more than 1 passenger younger than 17	until age 16 (min. age: 16)	6 months or age 17 (min. age: 15, 6 mos.)
IL	15 ¹⁵	9 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night	16 ¹⁶	starts 10 p.m. Sun.-Thur., 11 p.m. Fri.-Sat., ends 6 a.m.	first 12 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 20	until age 18 (min. age: 18)	12 months or until age 18 (min. age: 17)
IN	15 ¹⁷	6 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night	16, 3 months ¹⁷	first 6 months, 10 p.m.-5 a.m.; thereafter, 11 p.m.-5 a.m. Sun.-Fri.; 1 a.m.-5 a.m. Sat.-Sun. ¹⁸	no passengers ¹⁸	6 months and age 18 or until age 21, whichever occurs first (min. age: 18) ¹⁸	6 months or until age 21, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 9 or 17, 3 mos. without driver education) ¹⁸
IA	14 ¹⁹	12 months ¹⁹	20 hours, 2 of which must be at night ²⁰	16 ^{19,20,21}	12:30 a.m.-5 a.m.	parental discretion ²²	12 months and age 17 or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17)	none
KS	14 ²³	12 months	25 hours, in learner phase; 25 hours before age 16; 10 of the 50 hours must be at night ²²	16 ²³	9 p.m.-5 a.m.	no more than one passenger younger than 18	6 months or age 17, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)	6 months or age 17, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)
KY	16 ²⁴	6 months ²⁴	60 hours, 10 of which must be at night ²⁴	16, 6 months ²³	midnight-6 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 20 unless supervised by a driving instructor secondary enforcement	6 months or age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17)	6 months or age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17)
LA	15 ²⁶	6 months	50 hours, 15 of which must be at night	16 ²⁶	11 p.m.-5 a.m.	no more than one passenger younger than 21 between the hours of 6 pm-5 am; no passenger restriction from 5 am-6 pm	until age 17 (min. age: 17)	until age 17 (min. age: 17)
ME	15 ²⁷	6 months ²⁷	70 hours, 10 of which must be at night	16 ²⁷	midnight-5 a.m. ²⁷	no passengers ²⁷	9 months (min. age: 16, 9 mos.) ²⁷	9 months (min. age: 16, 9 mos.) ²⁷
MD	15, 9 months	9 months ²⁸	60 hours, 10 of which must be at night	16, 6 months	midnight-5 a.m. ²⁹	no passengers younger than 18 secondary enforcement	until age 18 (min. age: 18)	5 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 11 mos.)

MA	16 ³⁰	6 months ³⁰	40 hours ³¹	16, 6 months ³²	12.30 a.m.-5 a.m. (between 12.30 a.m.-1 a.m. and 4 a.m.-5 a.m. the night driving and passenger restrictions are subject to secondary enforcement; enforcement is primary at all other times)	no passengers younger than 18 (between 12.30 am-1 am and 4 am-5 am the night driving and passenger restrictions are secondarily enforced; enforcement is primary at all other times)	until age 18 (min. age: 18)	6 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17)
MI	14, 9 months ³³	6 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night	16 ³⁴	10 p.m.-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 21	6 months and age 17 or until age 18 (min. age 17)	6 months and age 17 or until age 18 (min. age 17)
MN	15 ³⁴	6 months ³⁶	40 hours, 15 of which must be at night ³⁷	16 ³⁸	midnight-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 20; second 6 months—no more than 3 passengers younger than 20	6 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)	12 months or at age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17)
MS	15	12 months ³⁹	none	16 ⁴⁰	10 p.m.-6 a.m. Sun.-Thur., 11:30 p.m.-8 a.m. Fri.-Sat.	none	6 months or age 17, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)	none
MO	15	6 months	40 hours, 10 of which must be at night	16	1 a.m.-5 a.m.	first 6 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 19; thereafter, no more than 3 passengers younger than 19	entire intermediate stage (min. age: 17, 11 mo.)	entire intermediate stage (min. age: 17, 11 mo.)
MT	14, 6 months ⁴¹	6 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night	15 ⁴²	11 p.m.-5 a.m.	first 6 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 18; second 6 months—no more than 3 passengers younger than 18	12 months or at age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16)	12 months or at age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16)
NE	15 ⁴³	6 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night (none with driver education)	16	midnight-8 a.m. secondary enforcement	no more than 1 passenger younger than 19 secondary enforcement	12 months or at age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17)	6 months or age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)
NV	15, 6 months	6 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night	16 ⁴⁴	10 p.m.-5 a.m. secondary enforcement	no passengers younger than 18 secondary enforcement	until age 18 (min. age: 18)	6 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)

NH	15, 6 months ⁴⁵	none	40 hours, 10 of which must be at night	18	1 a.m.-4 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 25	until age 18 (min. age: 18)	6 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)
NJ	16 ⁴⁶	6 months ⁴⁶	none	17 ⁴⁶	11 p.m. - 5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger (exception is limited to drivers' dependents)	12 months or until age 21, whichever occurs first (min. age: 18)	12 months or until age 21, whichever occurs first (min. age: 18)
NM	15 ⁴⁷	6 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night	15, 6 months ⁴⁸	midnight-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 21	12 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)	12 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)
NY	16	6 months	50 hours, 15 of which must be at night	16, 6 months	9 p.m.-5 a.m. except for NYC (unsupervised driving prohibited at all times) and Long Island (limited daytime unsupervised driving) ⁴⁹	no more than 1 passenger younger than 21 ⁴⁹	until age 17 with driver education; until age 18 without (min. age: 17) ⁵⁰	until age 17 with driver education; until age 18 without (min. age: 17) ⁵⁰
NC	15 ^{51,52}	12 months ⁵²	60 hours, 10 of which must be at night, learner phase; 12 hours, 6 of which must be at night, intermediate phase	16 ^{53,54}	9 p.m.-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 21; if a family member younger than 21 is already a passenger then no other passengers younger than 21 who are not family members	6 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)	6 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)
ND	14	<16: 12 months; 16: 6 months or until age 18, whichever comes first	<16: 50 hours; ≥ 16: none	16, 15 for a parent requested restricted license ⁵⁵	The holder of a restricted license may only drive a car belonging to a parent or guardian and may not drive between the later of sunset or 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.	none	until age 16 (min. age: 16)	none
OH	15, 6 months	6 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night	18 ⁵⁶	midnight-6 a.m. (first 12 months), 1 a.m.-5 a.m. (second 12 months) secondary enforcement	first 12 months—no more than 1 passenger	24 months (min. age: 18)	12 months (min. age: 17)
OK	15, 6 months ⁵⁷	6 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night ⁵⁸	16	10 p.m.-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger ⁵⁹	6 months with driver education, 12 months without or until age 18 (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)	6 months with driver education, 12 months without or until age 18 (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)

OR	15	6 months	50 hours ⁶⁰ (100 hours without driver education)	16 ⁶⁰	midnight-5 a.m.	first 6 months—no passengers younger than 20; second 6 months—no more than 3 passengers younger than 20	12 months or age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17)	12 months or age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17)
PA	18	6 months	65 hours, 10 of which must be at night and 5 of which must be in inclement weather	16, 6 months	11 p.m.-5 a.m.	first 6 months— no more than 1 passenger younger than 18, thereafter, no more than 3 passengers	12 months and age 17 if completed driver education or age 18 (min. age: 17)	12 months and age 17 if completed driver education or age 18 (min. age: 17)
RI	16 ⁶¹	6 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night	16, 6 months ⁶²	1 a.m.-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 21	12 months or age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17, 6 mos.)	12 months or age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17, 6 mos.)
SC	15	6 months	40 hours, 10 of which must be at night	15, 6 months	6 p.m.-6 a.m. EST; 8 p.m.-6 a.m. EDT	no more than 2 passengers younger than 21 unless transporting students to and from school	12 months and age 17 if intermediate license has been held for at least 6 months (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)	12 months and age 17 if intermediate license has been held for at least 6 months (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)
SD	14 ⁶³	6 months (3 months with driver education)	none ⁶³	14, 6 months (14, 3 months with driver education)	10 p.m.-6 a.m.	none	until age 16 (min. age: 16)	none
TN	15 ⁶⁴	6 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night ⁶⁴	16	11 p.m.-6 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger	12 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17)	12 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17)
TX	15 ⁶⁵	6 months	30 hours, 10 of which must be at night	16 ⁶⁵	midnight-5 a.m. secondary enforcement	no more than 1 passenger younger than 21 secondary enforcement	until age 18 (min. age: 18)	until age 18 (min. age: 18)
UT	15 ⁶⁷	6 months	40 hours, 10 of which must be at night ^{67,68}	16 ⁶⁹	midnight-5 a.m.	no passengers secondary enforcement	until age 17 (min. age: 17)	6 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)
VT	15	12 months	40 hours, 10 of which must be at night	16 ⁷⁰	none	first 3 months—no passengers without exception, second 3 months—no passengers secondary enforcement	none	6 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.)

VA	15, 6 months ⁷¹	9 months ⁷¹	45 hours, 15 of which must be at night	16, 3 months ⁷²	midnight-4 a.m. ⁷¹ secondary enforcement	first 12 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 21; thereafter, no more than 3 passengers younger than 21 secondary enforcement	until age 18 (min. age: 18)	until age 18 (min. age: 18)
WA	15 ⁷³	6 months	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night	16 ⁷⁴	1 a.m.-5 a.m. secondary enforcement	first 6 months—no passengers younger than 20; second 6 months—no more than 3 passengers younger than 20 secondary enforcement	12 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17)	12 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17) ⁷⁵
WV	15 ⁷⁶	6 months ⁷⁴	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night (none with driver education)	16	10 p.m. - 5 a.m.	first 6 months—no passengers younger than 20; second 6 months—no more than 1 passenger younger than 20	12 months and age 17 or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17)	12 months and age 17 or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 17)
WI	15, 6 months ⁷⁷	6 months ⁷⁷	30 hours, 10 of which must be at night ⁷⁷	16 ⁷⁸	midnight-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger	9 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 9 mos.)	9 months or until age 18, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 9 mos.)
WY	15	10 days	50 hours, 10 of which must be at night	18 ⁷⁹	11 p.m.-5 a.m.	no more than 1 passenger younger than 18	6 months or until age 17, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.) ⁷⁹	6 months or until age 17, whichever occurs first (min. age: 16, 6 mos.) ⁷⁹

NOTE: Passenger restrictions vary with regard to their durations, the ages of passengers to whom they apply, and the availability of exceptions. Most states have exceptions for passengers who are related to the driver or are members of the driver's household, and there are exceptions when a supervising driver is in the vehicle.

¹ In Alabama, the supervising driver must be a parent, guardian, grandparent or driving instructor. At age 16, permit holders may drive with a licensed driver who is at least 21 years old.

² In Arizona, a driver education instructor can authorize an enrolled student who is 15 to drive only while supervised by the authorizing instructor.

³ In Arkansas, 14 year-olds can drive with an instruction permit after passing a written test. After passing a road test they are eligible for a learner's license. Unsupervised driving is not permitted by holders of either the instruction permit or learner's license. The combined holding period for the permit and learner's license is six months.

⁴ In Arkansas, applicants for an intermediate license must be 16 and must be crash/violation-free for six months. Licensees younger than 18 are prohibited from transporting passengers who are unrestrained.

⁵ In California, students enrolled in driver education may drive while supervised by an instructor. License applicants who do not take driver education must wait until age 18 for a license. They are not required to go through an intermediate license stage.

⁶ In Colorado, the minimum permit age varies. Fifteen year-olds who are enrolled in driver education may apply for an instruction permit. Their supervising driver must be a parent, stepparent, grandparent, guardian, or driving instructor. At age 15, 6 months, driver education is no longer required, but applicants for this permit must have completed a four hour driver awareness program. At 16, young drivers may apply for a permit that allows driving while supervised by a licensed driver age 21 or older.

⁷ In Connecticut, either driver education or home training is required for license applicants younger than 18. Permit holders may not carry any passengers aside from the person providing instruction, parents or guardians. Time spent practice driving with a professional instructor counts toward the 40-hour certification requirement. Before an applicant who under 18 may take the driver's test, parents or guardians must attend two hours of instruction regarding teen driving laws and related issues with such applicant. Anyone 18 years of age or older must hold an adult learner's permit for three months before obtaining a driver's license.

⁸ In Delaware, a driver education student does not need a permit to drive with a driver education instructor. After completing the on-road requirements of driver education, a driver education student who is at least 15 years, 10 months may apply for a Driver Education Learner's Permit, which allows the student to drive while supervised by an experienced driver. Upon completion of driver education, and if the student passes both the road and written tests, the student receives a Level 1 permit that for the first six months allows driving only while supervised. There also is a passenger restriction during the first six months of the Level 1 permit. No more than one passenger (family members excepted) is permitted in addition to the supervising driver. The Level 1 permit for the second six months is the equivalent of an intermediate license. During that period, holders may drive unsupervised between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. and may only carry one passenger. Applicants for a driver's license who are younger than 18 must have held a Driver Education Learner's Permit and/or a Level 1 permit for at least 12 months. Driver education is required for all license applicants younger than 18.

⁹ In the District of Columbia, license applicants younger than 21 must go through the intermediate stage until they have completed it or until they turn 21. The learner's stage is mandatory for the intermediate stage. A nighttime restriction (9 p.m.-6 a.m.) applies in the learner stage.

¹⁰ In the District of Columbia, drivers younger than 18 who have completed the intermediate stage must continue to comply with the nighttime driving restriction until they turn 18. In addition, these drivers may not carry more than 2 passengers younger than 21.

¹¹ In Florida, learners permit holders may not drive after sunset for the first three months and thereafter may not drive after 10 p.m.

¹² In Georgia, license applicants younger than 17 must have completed driver education.

¹³ In Hawaii, license applicants younger than 18 must have completed driver education.

¹⁴ In Idaho, license applicants younger than 17 must have completed driver education. There are three classes of learner's permits — a training instruction permit for people 14, 6 months taking driver education; a supervised instruction permit for practice driving with a nonprofessional supervisor; and an instruction permit for people younger than 17 who have completed driver education and supervised driving or for people 17 and older without either driver education or supervised driving.

¹⁵ In Illinois, enrollment in driver education is required for permit applicants.

¹⁶ In Illinois, license applicants 18 through 20 years of age who did not take driver's education in school must complete a 6 hour adult driver education course.

¹⁷ In Indiana, driver education determines the minimum age for permits and the intermediate license. People enrolled in or who have completed driver education must be age 15 to have a permit; otherwise, they must be age 16. The minimum age for an intermediate license is 16, 3 months with driver education and 16, 9 months, without.

¹⁸ Holders of operator licenses issued to individuals younger than 21 must adhere to both the night and passenger restriction for six months or until age 21, whichever occurs first. In addition, holders of operator licenses issued to individuals younger than age 18 have a graduated night restriction that goes beyond the initial 6 months and lasts until age 18.

¹⁹ In Iowa, drivers education graduates who have held an instruction permit for at least 6 months and are at least 14 and 6 months may apply for a school license that permits unsupervised driving between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. The school license limits drivers to direct routes to and from school for classes or school sponsored activities, other schools hosting activities, school bus stops and gas stations. Holders of a minor school license may not use electronic communication devices or electronic entertainment devices (permanently installed equipment exempted), carry more than one unrelated passenger, or drive to another school district without an extra-curricular sharing agreement.

²⁰ Iowa requires a certification of 10 additional hours of supervised driving during the intermediate stage, two of which must be at night.

²¹ In Iowa, driver education is required for an intermediate license and for an unrestricted license if the applicant is younger than 18.

²² In Iowa, parents are permitted to waive at the time of licensure a discretionary six-month passenger limit of no more than one unrelated passenger younger than 18, effective Jan. 1, 2014.

²³ In Kansas, drivers age 15 but not yet 16 may be granted a restricted license if they have completed driver training. Restricted license holders younger than 16 may not drive unless supervised other than to and from school or work via the most direct route and may not carry minor passengers other than siblings. To get a restricted license, applicants must have driven at least 25 of the 50 hours required for a full license and must have held an instruction permit for 12 months.

²⁴ Kentucky law prohibits learner's permit holders from driving between midnight and 6 a.m. or from carrying more than one passenger younger than 20 unless supervised by a driving instructor.

²⁵ In Kentucky, license holders younger than 18 must complete a driver education course or a state-sponsored traffic school.

²⁶ In Louisiana, driver education is required for a permit and an intermediate license if the applicant is younger than 18. People 18 and older must have completed a prelicensing training course including a minimum of 8 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction.

²⁷ In Maine, driver education is required for a permit and a license if the applicant is younger than 18. The learner's permit holding period and the certification of practice driving applies to license applicants younger than 21. The period of license restrictions may extend beyond the person's 18th birthday.

²⁸ In Maryland, all license applicants younger than 25 must hold a learner's permit for nine months before taking the road test and all applicants 25 and older must hold the permit for 45 days.

²⁹ In Maryland, the nighttime driving restriction only applies to intermediate license holders younger than 18.

³⁰ In Massachusetts, the night driving restriction for permit holders younger than 18 is midnight to 5 a.m., unless they are accompanied by a licensed parent or guardian.

³¹ In Massachusetts, the requirement for supervised driving is 30 hours for applicants who have successfully completed a driver skills development program in a closed, off-road course licensed by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

³² In Massachusetts, driver education is required of license applicants younger than 18.

³³ In Michigan, permit applicants younger than 18 must have completed the first segment of driver education.

³⁴ In Michigan, license applicants younger than 18 must have completed the second segment of driver education. Neither driver education nor an intermediate license is required for license applicants 18 and older.

³⁵ In Minnesota, permit applicants younger than 18 must be enrolled in driver education. An optional 90-minute supplemental curriculum for parents is to be established by July 1, 2014, to provide information concerning graduated licensing, safety risks and the potential influence of adults on driving behavior.

³⁶ In Minnesota, the permit holding period also applies to license applicants 18 and older unless they have completed driver education.

³⁷ In Minnesota, license applicants younger than 18 must provide proof that a parent has taken a course for parents of teen drivers or perform an additional 10 certified practice hours.

³⁸ In Minnesota, license applicants younger than 18 must have completed driver education. Provisional license holders must be crash-free to qualify for a full license.

³⁹ In Mississippi, license applicants 17 and older are exempt from the 12-month learner's permit holding period.

⁴⁰ In Mississippi, license applicants 17 and older are exempt from the requirement to get an intermediate license.

⁴¹ In Montana, enrollment in or completion of driver education is required for permit applicants younger than 15.

⁴² In Montana, license applicants younger than 16 must have completed driver education.

⁴³ In Nebraska, students who are at least 14 years and two months of age and who either live outside or attend school outside a metropolitan area may be issued a learner's permit (called an "LPE permit") and a limited license (called a "school permit"). The LPE permit authorizes supervised driving for the purpose of preparing for the school permit, which allows driving to and from school independently or anyplace else while supervised by a parent or guardian.

⁴⁴ In Nevada, driver education is required of all license applicants younger than 18 unless there is no driver education program offered within a 30-mile radius of the applicant's residence.

⁴⁵ New Hampshire does not issue learner's permits. At age 15, 6 months a person can drive while supervised by a licensed driver 25 or older. License applicants who are younger than 18 must take driver education.

- ⁴⁶ In New Jersey, the permit becomes an intermediate license after six months for drivers younger than 21 and after 3 months for drivers 21 and older. The graduated licensing law applies to adults, except that the night driving and passenger restrictions are waived for new drivers 21 and older. If the applicant has not completed driver education, the minimum permit age is 17 and the minimum intermediate license age is 17, 6 months. Learner's permit holders may not drive between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. and may carry only one passenger in addition to the supervising driver or any parent, guardian or dependant.
- ⁴⁷ In New Mexico, permit applicants younger than 18 must be enrolled in driver education.
- ⁴⁸ In New Mexico, license applicants younger than 18 must have completed driver education.
- ⁴⁹ In the five boroughs of New York City, Class DJ or MJ junior license holders are prohibited from driving under all circumstances, regardless of where the license was obtained; therefore, there are no applicable passenger restrictions in the city. Unsupervised New York City driving may begin as early as age 17, provided that a Class D license has been obtained and a State Education Department approved Driver and Traffic Safety Education Course has been completed. In other words, a 17 year old driver may transition from completely supervised city driving to a full unrestricted license. On Long Island, Class DJ or MJ junior license holders are limited to driving between the hours on 5 a.m. and 9 p.m. only if traveling to work, school or driver education, proof is required.
- ⁵⁰ In New York, the minimum age for an unrestricted driver's license is 18 (17 if the applicant has completed driver education). New York has a passenger restriction that applies to permit holders and license holders younger than 18 (17 if the applicant has completed driver education).
- ⁵¹ In North Carolina, driver education is required for permit applicants younger than 18.
- ⁵² In North Carolina, learner's permit holders may not drive between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. for the first six months.
- ⁵³ In North Carolina, driver education is required for license applicants younger than 18.
- ⁵⁴ In North Carolina, a person who is at least 16 but younger than 18 must complete a minimum of 12 additional hours (six of which must be at night) of supervised driving to obtain a full provisional license.
- ⁵⁵ In North Dakota, driver education is required for license applicants younger than 16.
- ⁵⁶ In Ohio, driver education is required of license applicants younger than 18. Applicants who are 18 and older and who have failed the road test must complete an abbreviated driver training course.
- ⁵⁷ In Oklahoma, 15 year-olds may drive, but only while supervised by an instructor.
- ⁵⁸ In Oklahoma, learner's permit holders may only operate a motor vehicle between the hours of 5 a.m. and 10 p.m.
- ⁵⁹ In Oklahoma, a person who has been issued an intermediate Class D license shall not operate a motor vehicle with more than one passenger unless all passengers live in the same household as the custodial legal parent or legal guardian or a licensed driver at least 21 years of age is actually occupying a seat beside the intermediate Class D licensee.
- ⁶⁰ In Oregon, driver education is required of license applicants younger than 18. However, it is waived for applicants who certify an additional 50 hours of supervised driving. The night and passenger restrictions do not apply to the holder of a provisional driver license who is 18 or older.
- ⁶¹ In Rhode Island, driver education is required of permit applicants younger than 18.

- ⁶² In Rhode Island, driver education is required of license applicants younger than 18.
- ⁶³ In South Dakota, learner's permit holders may not drive between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless under the supervision of a parent or guardian.
- ⁶⁴ Learner's permit holders in Tennessee may not drive from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- ⁶⁵ In Texas, people who are 15 or older but under 18 must satisfactorily complete and pass the classroom phase of an approved driver education course to be issued a permit.
- ⁶⁶ In Texas, the minimum license age is 18 for applicants who have not completed driver education.
- ⁶⁷ In Utah, permit holders younger than 18 may only drive under the supervision of a driving instructor, a parent or guardian, or a responsible adult who has accepted liability for the permit holder's driving by signing the permit application. Permit applicants younger than 19 must be enrolled in driver education.
- ⁶⁸ In Utah, supervised driving in the learner stage may include up to five hours in a driving simulator.
- ⁶⁹ In Utah license applicants who are younger than 19 must have completed driver education.
- ⁷⁰ In Vermont, driver education is required for license applicants younger than 18.
- ⁷¹ In Virginia, the night driving restriction and passenger restrictions apply to learner's permit holders.
- ⁷² In Virginia, driver education is required for license applicants younger than 18. Northern Virginia and nearby counties have implemented a 90-minute segment for parents of driver education students.
- ⁷³ In Washington, permit applicants must be enrolled in driver education; otherwise, the minimum permit age is 15, 6 months.
- ⁷⁴ In Washington, driver education is required for license applicants younger than 18.
- ⁷⁵ In Washington, intermediate license holders with a crash or violation history are ineligible for an unrestricted license until age 18.
- ⁷⁶ In West Virginia, learner's permit holders younger than 18 may not drive between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. and may not carry more than two passengers in addition to the supervising driver.
- ⁷⁷ In Wisconsin, enrollment in driver education is required for permit applicants younger than 18. During the learner's stage, permit holders may carry three passengers if supervised by a driving instructor in a dual-control vehicle. Permit holders 16 and older may carry one passenger 25 or older who has been licensed at least two years.
- ⁷⁸ In Wisconsin driver education is required for license applicants younger than 18.
- ⁷⁹ In Wyoming, all applicants for an unrestricted license who are younger than 17 must have completed driver education and must have held an intermediate license for at least six months.

<http://www.clarksvilleonline.com/2014/10/20/experience-matters-age-young-adult-driver-safety/>

Experience Matters More than Age with Young-adult Driver Safety

By **Bill Larson** | October 20, 2014

AAA Foundation Research Suggests States Could Reduce Crashes by Extending GDL Requirements

Tampa, FL – Experience behind the wheel may matter more than age when it comes to the safety of young-adult drivers, according to two new studies by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. These results suggest that states could reduce road crashes, fatalities and injuries by extending graduated driver licensing (GDL) laws to novice drivers beyond age 17. AAA is promoting this research as part of National Teen Driver Safety Week, which takes place from Oct. 19th-25th.

Graduated driver licensing laws are designed to help new drivers gain practical experience in a relatively safe environment by initially restricting their exposure to risky situations, such as driving at night or with young passengers. The law then gradually phases in more privileges as new drivers gain more experience.

“Turning 18 does not instantly make someone a safer driver,” said Peter Kissinger, President and CEO of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. “This new research clearly demonstrates how important experience is to safe driving and suggests that graduated driver licensing laws may be beneficial for people that begin driving at an older age.”

The findings are based on two studies that examined crash rates of new drivers. The first study looked at crash rates in both California and North Carolina, which are two states that allow driving at age 16 and have no GDL requirements for new drivers ages 18 or older. While new drivers licensed at older ages tended to be less likely to crash during their first months and years of driving than younger beginners, the research revealed an important exception: new drivers licensed at age 18 were more likely to be involved in a crash resulting in injuries during their first year of solo driving than new drivers licensed at any other age.

The second study examined crash rates in New Jersey, which has a minimum age of 17 for unsupervised driving and is the only state in the country to have a comprehensive GDL program for all new drivers up to age 21. In New Jersey, while crash rates of new drivers licensed at different ages largely converged after six months of solo driving experience, older beginners had lower crash rates overall and lower rates of injury crashes than younger beginners.

“Many teens delay getting their driver’s license and are driving less,” said John Pecchio, AAA spokesman. “This results in fewer structured hours behind the wheel during the critical learner’s permit stage.”

Although the data did not allow researchers to directly investigate whether these differences were caused by GDL provisions, collectively, the results of the two studies suggest that applying GDL to all new drivers, or at least to some new drivers older than 17, might have a protective effect and improve safety.

Graduated driver licensing programs have reduced 16- and 17-year-old driver crashes, but generally do not apply to new drivers ages 18 and older. Prior AAA Foundation research found that an estimated 36 percent of new drivers miss out on the protections of GDL by delaying licensure until age 18 or older. AAA is not calling for states to extend GDL provisions just yet, but does believe the research results are very promising in terms of pinpointing a way to keep these drivers safe. The AAA Foundation is planning to dive deeper into this area of research in the coming year.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teenagers, and drivers ages 18-20 were involved in more than 800,000 crashes in the United States in 2012. Parents and teens can learn more about teen driver issues and GDL requirements in their state by visiting AAA’s Keys2Drive website.