

ALABAMA GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE

The Graduated Driver License (GDL) program helps new drivers gain experience in stages, leading to full driving privileges over time. (Act #2010-735 | Effective July 2010)

DOES NOT APPLY IF:

- Age 18+
- Age 17+ with a valid license \geq 6 months
- Age 16+ and married/ head of household
- Legally emancipated

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

OPTION A

- 50 hours behind-the-wheel practice
- Complete and get ALEA form signed by the parent/ guardian/instructor

OPTION B

- State Department of Education-approved driver education
- Pass the road skills exam in a public or private high school driver education class

GRADUATED LICENSE STAGES

STAGE I LEARNER'S PERMIT

AGE: 15+

REQUIREMENTS

Pass written test (Alabama Driver Manual)

DRIVING RULES

Must drive with adult (21+), parent/guardian, or instructor in the front seat

STAGE II RESTRICTED LICENSE

AGE: 16+

HOLDING STAGE I

Must hold for \geq 6 months if under 18

REQUIREMENTS

- Parental/guardian permission
- Pass road skills test

RESTRICTIONS

- No driving 12 a.m.–6 a.m. unless:
 - With parent/guardian or 21+ driver
 - To/from school/religious events or work
 - Emergencies (medical, fire, law enforcement)
- Only one non-family passenger
- No handheld phones/devices

STAGE III UNRESTRICTED LICENSE

AGE

17+ (with Stage II for 6+ months)

–OR–

18+ (apply directly with road test)

IF YOU BREAK THE RULES

- GDL restrictions extend 6 months or until age 18
- No criminal penalties, but GDL rule violations = traffic violations
- No citations only for GDL rule-breaking
- 2nd moving violation or serious offense = 60-day suspension

