



**The University of Georgia**

**Office of International Education  
Immigration Services  
1324 S. Lumpkin Street, Athens, GA 30602-5407  
[immigration@uga.edu](mailto:immigration@uga.edu)  
(706) 542-2900 fax: (706) 583-0123**

**Applying for a Georgia State Driver's License**

**Location in Athens:**

Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS)  
Athens Customer Service Center #32  
1505 US Highway 29 North  
Athens GA. 30601  
706-552-4427  
Hours: Tuesday – Friday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Saturday – 8:00 am – 12 noon

**General DDS Information:**

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/>

**DDS Information for Non-U.S. Citizens:**

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/drivers/DLdata.aspx?con=1741471757&ty=dl>

**Basic Requirements:**

1. You must be at least 18 years old.
2. You must pass the Knowledge Exam.
3. You must pass the Road Skills Test.
4. You must pass the Vision Exam (bring your glasses or contacts!)
5. You must present the documents listed below in “Related Requirements” if you are a Non-U.S. citizen.

To learn more about the knowledge exam, road skills test, and vision exam, please review the Georgia Driver's Manual on the DDS website:

<http://www.dds.ga.gov/docs/forms/FullDriversManual.pdf>

**Cost:**

The cost of applying for a Regular Non-Commercial Driver's License (Class C) is \$20.

**Driving Experience / Training:**

You will be required to swear or affirm under penalty of law that you have 40 hours of supervised driving experience, 6 hours of which are at night.

**Making an Appointment**

You should call ahead to make an appointment for the driving test: 1-866-754-3687 or (678) 413-8400.

The reservation system lines are open from 7:00am until 5:15pm Monday through Friday. Appointments can be made for any location in the state up to 90 days in advance. Customer Service Centers conduct testing during most business hours. The last test of the day is scheduled about an hour and a half before closing to allow time for testing, license issuance, photo and license printing.

\*Without a reservation you will be worked in between scheduled appointments, but there is no guarantee that you can be served on a particular day.

**Related Requirements:**

*Social Security Number:* An applicant must provide either a Social Security number **or** a letter of ineligibility for a Social Security number (Form SSAL 676).

a. Social Security Number – Non-citizens who have permission from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to work in the United States can apply for a Social Security number. To apply for a Social Security number or for further details on social security numbers for non-citizens, visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). If you are eligible for a Social Security number, apply for one and wait to get your card. After receiving your card, you may apply for a Georgia Driver's License.

b. Letter of Ineligibility – If you are NOT eligible for a Social Security number, you must obtain a letter of ineligibility, Form SSAL 676, from the Social Security Administration. Social Security Administration will give you this letter if the Department of Homeland Security has not given you permission to work in the United States. In order to get the letter, you must complete the application process for a Social Security number and be rejected for a number by the Social Security Administration. The rejection letter they send to you is what you need to take to the DDS to apply for your license in Georgia.

*Identity & Legal Presence Proof:* Present the following document(s) - only originals or certified copies accepted:

- a. For F-1, F-2, J-1, J-2 status: Unexpired passport with valid U.S. visa, a valid I-94 stamp, AND I-20 (F-1/F-2) or DS-2019 (J-1/J-2). Note: the I-20 form DOES NOT NEED to have a U.S. Port of Entry stamp on it. This is a change in requirements, so please inform Immigration Services if there are problems with the office accepting your documentation if it is not stamped.
- b. If you are on a different type of visa, you will need to visit the DDS website for more information.
- c. Note: Original immigration documentation must be submitted each time

service is requested pertaining to a driver's license or identification card.

*Proof of Residency:* You must present 2 of the following:

- a. Utility bill issued within the last sixty (60) days
- b. Bank statement issued within the last sixty (60) days
- c. Currently valid rental contracts (your lease) and/or receipts for rent payments made within the last sixty (60) days
- d. Employer verification, including, but not limited to, one of the following:
  - i. Paycheck or paycheck stub
  - ii. Letter from employer on company letterhead stating applicant's full name and home address
  - iii. W-2 for current or preceding calendar year

**A note about lawful presence:**

Effective January 1, 2008, Georgia law requires DDS to verify all immigration documents presented by non-citizens through the United States Custom and Immigration Service (USCIS) via a program known as SAVE (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement.) You should wait 30 days after your arrival in the U.S. for the SAVE database to be updated.

In most cases, the SAVE verification can be completed immediately during your application for a driver's license. In some cases verification may take several days or several weeks. Until the documentation is verified by USCIS, DDS will be unable to issue a driver's license or identification card. If the SAVE verification is unsuccessful, the customer will be given a form with further instructions.

Once immigration documentation is verified with USCIS, a Georgia driver's license or identification card may be issued with an expiration date that matches the immigration documentation expiration date, up to 5 years.