

# NEW JERSEY'S GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE PROGRAM

## The road to becoming a safe new driver

### What is it?

New Jersey's Graduated Driver License (GDL) is a program teen and first-time drivers must complete to get their unrestricted basic driver license. The Graduated Driver License law became effective January 1, 2001.

### Why have it?

The program is designed to reduce the number of driving fatalities among teen and first-time drivers and their passengers. By having more experience, new drivers will be more capable of handling all types of driving situations.

### How does it work?

Depending on your age, choose the route to get an unrestricted basic driver license.

## THREE-STEP ROUTE

1

#### Special Learner's Permit (Student Permit)

Eligible Age: 16

Fee: \$10

#### Requirements:

- Obtain parent/guardian signature.
- Pass vision and written tests.
- Complete behind-the-wheel training through an approved program to receive a validated permit from MVS for a minimum of 6 months of supervised driving.
- Pass road test prior to driving unsupervised.

1

#### Examination Permit

Eligible Age: 17 or older

Fee: \$10

#### Requirements:

- Obtain parent/guardian signature if under 18.
- Pass vision and written tests to receive a validated permit from MVS for supervised driving.
- Drive supervised.
  - Under age 21: 6-month minimum
  - 21 and over: 3-month minimum
- Pass road test prior to driving unsupervised.

2

#### Provisional License

Eligible Age: 17

#### Requirements:

- Complete Student Permit or Examination Permit requirements.
- Complete a minimum of one year unsupervised driving.

3

#### Basic License

Eligible Age: 18

#### Requirement:

- Complete Provisional License requirements.

## FAQs ABOUT NEW JERSEY'S GDL

### Are there restrictions when I have a permit or a provisional license?

Yes.

- **Student Permit** drivers must be accompanied by a NJ licensed driver, 21 years or older and licensed for at least 3 years. Driving hours are restricted to 5:01 am to 11 pm. They may only have passengers from shared residence plus one additional person.
- **Provisional License** drivers can drive between 5:01 am to midnight. They may only have passengers from their shared residence plus one additional person. (If Provisional License holder is under 21 and any passenger is 21 or older, passenger restrictions don't apply. If Provisional License holder is 21 or over, passenger and hour restrictions don't apply.)
- **Examination Permit** drivers must be accompanied by a NJ licensed driver, 21 years or older and licensed for at least 3 years. Driving hours are restricted to 5:01 am to midnight. They may only have passengers from their shared residence plus one additional person. (If permit holder is under 21 and any passenger is 21 or older, passenger restrictions don't apply. If permit holder is 21 or older, passenger and hour restrictions don't apply.)

### What else should I know?

Everyone in the vehicle must wear safety belts—it's the law. The use of any interactive wireless communication device is prohibited while operating a moving vehicle (except in an emergency situation) on a GDL permit or provisional license. Never use alcohol or drugs when driving. There's a \$100 fine for violation of any of the conditions of the permits or provisional license. Hours of operation waivers are available in certain emergency situations, for work and religious activities.

For details and more information, check out our web site at [www.state.nj.us/mvs](http://www.state.nj.us/mvs)

