Obtaining a Utah Driver License

There are two types of Identification Cards available to you as an international student/scholar:

1. Driving Privilege Card (DPC) -- Only utilized for driving purposes and not considered a form of ID. Expires on user’s birth date in the first year from the date the card was issued or renewed.

2. Limited Term Driver License -- This is a form of ID as well as a driver's license.

An international student obtaining a Driving Privilege Card (DPC) or Limited Term Driver License needs to have and bring the following items to the DMV:

1) Passport/Visa
2) I-94 card
3) I-20 (Recently, in January 2010, they have been requesting students to have a travel signature on the back. This should no longer be required; however the I-20 needs to be valid/current).
4) Evidence of Utah Residence (two documents needed, like a utility bill, transcripts, bank statements, anything with name, address, and date [no older than 60 days] except personal mail or cell phone bill)
5) Evidence of Social Security Number (SSN) or a letter from the Social Security Administration indicating [current] inability to receive a SSN

NOTE: Under Utah law, the individual driver is responsible to refrain from driving if there is any uncertainty about his/her physical mental or emotional status which may affect driving safety. If the condition persists, he/she is responsible for reporting it to the Driver License Division.

Persons Who need a Utah License

Every resident of Utah who drives a motor vehicle on the highways must have a valid Utah license, learner permit or temporary permit.

Persons become residents if they:

1. Enter the state with the intention of making Utah their home.
2. Are gainfully employed in Utah. (Does not apply if you are on temporary assignment in the State.)

Persons who do not need a Utah license

Nonresidents licensed by another state may drive in Utah:

1. If at least 16 years old.
2. If visiting Utah for no more than a total of 6 months. After that time, they must apply for a Utah driver license. When applying for a Utah driver license, your privilege to drive cannot be suspended, revoked, disqualified, or denied in another state. Your out of state license must be surrendered upon application for a Utah License.

Completion of Driver Education

All individuals who have never been licensed to drive a motor vehicle must complete an approved driver education course before being licensed in Utah. A certificate of completion of the course must be furnished to the examiner at the time application is made. Remember that this certificate of completion is not a license to drive. See last item on this paper for more information.

Positive Identification

When you first apply for a Utah driver license, you must provide proof of name, date and place of birth, and proof of your social security number or a letter from the Social Security Administration indicating current inability to receive a SSN
The division considers a state certified birth certificate (not a hospital issued certificate) and social security card as best evidence of identification for licensing purposes. Other forms of identification are accepted only if the state certified birth certificate and social security card are not obtainable. The division has discretion to require any additional evidence to verify this important information.

Items on the following list are documents that the division may accept, if the state certified birth certificate and/or the social security card cannot be obtained.

- Passport
- Military documents
- Church records
- Nonresident Alien Registration
- Current driver license
- Home mortgage or lease papers
- Matricular Consular/I.D. (Utah only)
- I-94 card or INS I-551 card
- Utah State I.D. card
- Police Pistol Permit with photo
- Indian blood certificate
- School I.D. with photo
- Court of Record documents
- ITIN

**Completion of Required Tests**

Eye (Vision) Test: The Division requires 20/40 vision and peripheral fields (side vision) of 120 degrees in each eye to pass the vision test. If you fail to meet this standard with or without glasses, you will be required to get a statement from your eye doctor. The statement must be presented before your application can be completed. It should indicate specific vision problems and suggested restrictions, if any. A vision test is required on all original, lapsed, duplicate and, in some cases, renewal licenses. Everyone aged 65 and older is required to pass a vision examination every five years.

**Written Test**

Road signs - You will be tested on your knowledge of road signs. You may be shown several common road signs and asked to tell what they mean.

Written Questions - You will be asked to answer a number of written questions based upon information in the Utah Driver Handbook. The questions will be related to your specific written test(s) for the required license and/or endorsements. You are allowed to take two written tests in one day.

**Road Test**

The examiner may require you to demonstrate your driving ability. If so, you must provide the vehicle to be used. It must be properly registered and comply with vehicle safety laws, including functioning safety belts. The vehicle may be rejected if its condition could cause harm to the examiner’s person or clothes. The license applicant and the examiner are the only occupants allowed in the vehicle during the road test.

In addition to road rules and regulations, you will be judged on the use of proper driving techniques and other important elements of safe driving, such as your general behavior and attitude. During the road test, you will not be asked to do anything that is against the law.

**The following is a partial list of items on which you may be judged during the test:**

- Driving posture
- Proper use of lanes
- Left and right turns
- Starting and stopping
- Parking on hills and between cars
- Observance of traffic signs and signals
- Backing
- U-turns
- Steering coordination
- Attention at intersections

**If you fail the road test:**

You will be expected to practice before taking another test. You may take only one road test in a day and may have to wait several days or weeks before attempting additional tests. The failure to pass the required tests in three attempts will result in having to pay another fee. All tests must be completed within six months from the day you pay your fee. Any person may be asked to complete a road test if the examiner feels the applicant’s ability to drive may be in question.

**NOTE:** Those applying for a Commercial Driver License should contact a CDL office for Commercial licensing information.

**Photo**

After all requirements for a license have been successfully completed, a photograph will be taken and you will receive a temporary photo license on the same day. The completed license will then be mailed to you in approximately three weeks.

**Driving School**

Without a license from your home country, you will have to take driving lessons. Willie School of Driving can help. Their number is: **435-755-8050.** They meet T, W, Th for three weeks, starting the first Tuesday of any month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The current cost of the course (as of September 2010) is $290.00.

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