

What are GDL Programs?

Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) programs are designed to minimize the highest risk situations for a new driver while they safely gain crucial experience behind the wheel. GDL programs introduce young drivers to the road slowly with a gradual, staged approach to earning a driver's license.

GDL LAWS SAVE LIVES

Car crashes are the number one killer of teens, taking almost 3,000 young lives annually. These crashes are not just sad accidents—they are preventable crashes.

The GDL license program has reduced teen fatalities and serious injuries in the state of Montana.

50% of teens killed in car crashes were passengers driven by another teen

THREE STAGES OF THE GDL LAW:

- 1 Learner License
- 2 Restricted License
- 3 Full Privilege Driver License

It's simple. Read on to understand the different licensing stages and guidelines.

WHAT CAN TEENS, PARENTS, AND GUARDIANS DO?

By understanding, following, and enforcing GDL laws, teens, parents, and guardians can minimize the risk of a car crash and keep the roads safer for everyone.



Visit ImpactTeenDrivers.org/Montana for more information.



Understanding GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING LAWS

Montana





STAGE 2

RESTRICTED LICENSE

Once a teen passes the driver's license test, they will receive their Restricted License.

A Restricted License allows the teen driver to drive ALONE. However, they must follow these driving restrictions while in the Restricted License stage:

- For the first six months of driving, no more than one unrelated passenger under the age of 18 UNLESS supervised by a licensed driver age 18 or older*
- For the next six months of driving, no more than three unrelated passengers under the age of 18 UNLESS supervised by a licensed driver age 18 or older*
- No driving between 11:00 p.m. and 5 a.m. UNLESS travel falls under one of the state's exceptions
- Seat belts are mandatory for all people in the car

*With exceptions noted in the state law.



STAGE 1

LEARNER LICENSE

The Learner License stage is the time to gain driving experience, and it has different requirements depending on age.

The learner's stage can begin at age 14 1/2 if a teen completes an approved driver education program. Otherwise, teens who choose not to complete a driver education program may begin this stage at age 16.

Next, teens will need to study the Montana Driver's Manual before visiting a Montana Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) Office to take the written permit test. Upon passing the test, they become the proud holder of a Learner License.

All teens need a minimum of 50 hours of behind-the-wheel supervised driving time with a licensed parent or guardian, or a licensed driver age 18 years or older who is authorized by the parent or guardian. Ten of those hours must be at night. They will hold their permit for a minimum of six months before taking the driver's license test.



STAGE 3

FULL PRIVILEGE DRIVER LICENSE

After one year of safe driving, or when a teen turns 18, the passenger and nighttime restrictions are lifted. Seat belts remain mandatory for all occupants of a vehicle under Montana law.

With a Full Privilege Driver license, teens can participate in all of the privileges, responsibilities, and enjoyments that come with driving. But remember, driving is a privilege, not a right, and it is important to drive safely at all times no matter age or experience.

Congrats!

