

International students must enroll in a minimum of 12 units for undergraduates and 8 units for graduates to be eligible to apply for a California Driver's License (DL) or a California State ID card from the Department of Motor Vehicles office. The California Driver's License and the State ID card are considered the official documents for routine identification purposes in California.

How to apply for a CA ID or Driver's License:

1. If you are applying for a DL, please review the California Driver Handbook online
2. Schedule an appointment with the local DMV Office and bring your original immigration documents: passport, visa, I-20, and I-94 record
3. Complete application: DL 44
4. Give a thumb print
5. Have your photo taken
6. Provide your Social Security Number. It will be verified with the Social Security Administration while you are in the office. *If you are ineligible for a Social Security Number please read the information below).*
7. Verify your date of birth and legal presence (valid foreign passport with a valid I-94).
8. Provide your true full name
9. Pay the application fee
10. Pass a vision exam
11. Pass a traffic laws and sign written test. There are 36 questions on the test. A passing score is at least 31 correct answers. You have three chances to pass (for driver license handbooks visit <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/pubs/pubs>) and (for a sample test go to <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/interactive/tdrive/exam.htm>).
12. You will then be issued a permit if you have never been licensed before. To take your driving test you will need to:
 - a. Call or go online to set up a DMV appointment (<http://www.dmv.ca.gov/foa.welcome.do>). Driving tests are not given without an appointment.
 - b. Provide proof of financial responsibility.
13. After you pass your driving test, you will be issued a temporary license valid for 60 days until you receive your new photo license in the mail.
14. If you do not receive your Driver's License in the mail after 60 days from your driving test, please contact our office.

International students who are ineligible for a Social Security Number (SSN):

According to the State of California Department of Motor Vehicles' web site (<http://www.dmv.ca.gov/dl/dl.htm>), individuals who are legally present in the U.S. but are ineligible for a Social Security Number (SSN) are exempt from the SSN requirements to obtain a driver's license. The Social Security Administration will not assign a SSN to individuals holding F-1 status to comply with a state law requiring a SSN for the issuance of a driver's license. In lieu of a Social Security Number, students will provide proof of legal presence in the form of a valid passport with a valid Record of Arrival/Departure (Form I-94).

Local DMV Offices and Contact Information:

Long Beach 3700 E. Willow Street Long Beach, CA 90815	Compton 2111 So. Santa Fe Avenue Compton, CA 90221	Torrance 1785 W. 220 th Street Torrance, CA 90501
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Phone Number: 1-800-777-0133
Website: www.dmv.ca.gov
Office Hours M, TU, Wed, TH 8am-5pm Wednesday: 9am-5pm