

- High-school students who successfully complete an approved GLP course can receive two Grade 11 credits by taking their Declaration of Completion to their secondary school administration office.

Check out the school before you commit. Schools with approved GLP driver education courses can show you a valid Driver Training School Licence with a GLP designation.

It's easy to find a school in your area. Get a list of schools offering approved courses, along with tips on choosing a driver training school, at our driver training website www.dtcbc.com.

Why an approved driving course is a good way to go

When you choose a school offering ICBC-approved courses you can expect:

- a printed copy of the school's course outline, rates, hours of operation and refund policy
- experienced instructors teaching a curriculum that meets ICBC standards
- ways for your parent, guardian or supervisor to be involved in your education
- practice vehicles that are safe and well maintained
- at least 16 hours of classroom instruction, 12 hours of in-car instruction and four additional hours of instruction — a solid base
- active and interactive learning in the classroom
- your progress to be assessed in the middle of the course and at the end, using a standard competency checklist — you'll know where you stand
- connections made between what's taught in the class and what's taught in the car.

Drive by the rules from day one

While you're in GLP, there are several restrictions in place to protect you and others, like displaying the new driver sign, not using hand-held or hands-free electronic devices, and limitations on carrying passengers. You can be ticketed, fined and assessed driver penalty points for speeding or other traffic violations or if you don't obey GLP restrictions, so stay with the program.

With higher crash rates for new drivers, the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles closely monitors their driving records. This means you could face a review any time you receive an offence. That could mean a warning letter, probation or prohibition from driving. The prohibition may be from one month to a year or more (more points or more serious offences mean a longer prohibition). Obviously no one wants to go down this road so following the steps we've outlined is the way to go.

If you violate the blood alcohol restriction or operate a vehicle while under the influence of drugs, you may be subject to various penalties, including an immediate roadside suspension or prohibition, a fine, driver penalty points and/or have your vehicle impounded. These incidents will be recorded on your driving record and you may face a further prohibition as a result. If you plan on drinking, don't drive.

Any driving prohibition while you're a learner will extend the learner stage. That's because you won't accumulate any time toward graduating to the novice stage until you have served your prohibition and have your licence reinstated.

If you receive a driving prohibition in your novice stage, any time you have accumulated in this stage toward graduating out of GLP will be lost. The clock moves back to zero. When your licence has been reinstated, you will have to accumulate an additional 24 consecutive prohibition-free months in the novice stage to be eligible to graduate from GLP.

By following the GLP licence restrictions, you'll avoid these stiff GLP penalties and become a fully licensed driver.

What if I've just moved to B.C.?

You may use your valid driver's licence from another province, state or country for the first 90 days you live in B.C. After this time, you must have a B.C. driver's licence to drive here. You'll need to turn in your old licence and pass the applicable tests. If you hold a Canadian, American, Australian, Austrian, French, German, Japanese, New Zealand, South Korean, Swiss or United Kingdom licence, you may not be required to take all of the tests.

Graduated licensing applies to you if you have less driving experience than GLP requires. If you're a learner driver who's just moved here, you'll enter the learner stage of GLP. If you hold a full-privilege licence, but have less than 24 months of non-learner driving experience, you'll enter the novice stage. Whatever stage you're at, you will receive credit for the number of days of driving experience you have. You just have to make up the remainder. Once you've completed the experience requirements for each stage, you're eligible to take the road test that allows you to graduate to the next stage of licensing.

Need more information?

For more information on graduated licensing, call 1-800-950-1498 (toll-free throughout B.C.) or 250-978-8300 (in Victoria) or visit icbc.com.

Statement of Limitation

The information in this publication is intended to provide general information only and is not intended to provide legal or professional advice. We have used plain language to help you understand your optional policy or some of the laws related to the topic of this publication. Information in this document is subject to change without notice. You should follow the more detailed wording and requirements of current applicable statutes and regulations or policy, even if they contradict the wording and requirements set out in this publication.

graduated licensing for new drivers



the road starts here

building trust. driving confidence.



Driving is complex. Gaining the necessary skills and experience takes time. As a new driver — no matter what your age — you're more likely to be involved in a crash than experienced drivers. Statistics also show that crashes involving new drivers often are more severe, and result in more serious injuries and fatalities.

That's why in 1998, B.C. introduced the Graduated Licensing Program (GLP) to change these alarming numbers. In its first three years, GLP reduced the new driver crash rate by 16 per cent. In 2003, the time new drivers have to spend in GLP was increased, and novice stage restrictions were strengthened. New driver crash rates dropped by 28 per cent. And starting January 1, 2010, B.C.'s GLP program began restricting the use of hand-held and hands-free electronic devices while driving to help reduce crashes that result from driver distraction. But as a new driver, you're still about 45 per cent more likely to be involved in a crash than more experienced drivers. The best way to avoid becoming a statistic is to gain skills step by step.

B.C.'s GLP lets you get valuable on-road experience, while putting special restrictions on your licence that help reduce your risk of being involved in a crash. As you gain skills and experience, the restrictions are removed.

See icbc.com for additional details on B.C.'s Graduated Licensing Program and general licensing requirements (including fees and identification requirements).

The six steps of graduated licensing

1. Pick up a copy of *Learn to drive smart* or *Learn to ride smart* and study, study, study.

Visit one of our driver licensing offices and pick up a free *Learn to drive smart* guide. This guide contains all the information you'll need to learn to pass a knowledge test. The *Learn to ride smart* guide is available if you plan to get a motorcycle licence. Both guides are also available at icbc.com.

2. Get your learner's licence.

To apply for a learner's licence, visit one of our driver licensing offices. You must be at least 16 years old. For those under 19, your custodial parent or legal guardian must come with you to sign your application. Remember to bring proper identification and the fees for the knowledge test and learner's licence. Identification requirements and fees are on icbc.com.

3. Complete the learner stage (L).

Once you have your learner's licence, you'll need someone to help you learn safe driving skills and habits and to supervise your driving practice. Your supervisor must be at least 25 years old and have a valid Class 1–5 licence. If you are riding a motorcycle, your supervisor must be at least 25 and have a valid Class 6 licence. While you're driving, you must also follow the learner stage restrictions (see charts A and B).

4. Take the Class 7 or Class 8 road test.

You can take the Class 7 (passenger vehicle) or Class 8 (motorcycle) road test after holding your learner's licence for 12 months. You'll need to book an appointment for your road test. When you pass, you'll receive your novice licence and enter the novice stage. Remember that there are fees for the road test and for your novice driver's licence.

5. Complete the novice stage (N).

During this stage you have more freedom as to where, when and with whom you drive (see charts A and B). You will need to continue to pay attention to the restrictions at this stage because you could face significant penalties if you don't follow novice stage restrictions or the rules of the road. Getting you safely through this stage is our mutual goal.

6. You're almost there. Take the Class 5 or Class 6 road test.

At the end of the novice stage, you can take the Class 5 (passenger vehicle) or Class 6 (motorcycle) road test. Once you pass, you'll receive your full-privilege driver's licence. There are fees for the road test and for your full-privilege driver's licence.

How much driver training do you need?

We recommend that you get plenty of practice — at least 60 hours. You will be given a log when you receive your learner's licence. Use it to log all of your hours of practice as you learn to be a safe, skilled driver and prepare for your Class 7 or 8 road test.

Learning to drive

You can learn from a family member, friend, professional driver education program, or a combination of professional and non-professional instruction. It's up to you. Here's some information to help you decide.

Learning from a supervisor

You'll receive a *Tuning up for drivers* guide free of charge when you get your learner's licence. Use this guide with your supervisor to plan your practice sessions. *Learn to drive smart* also contains helpful, practical information.

Learning from a professional driving school

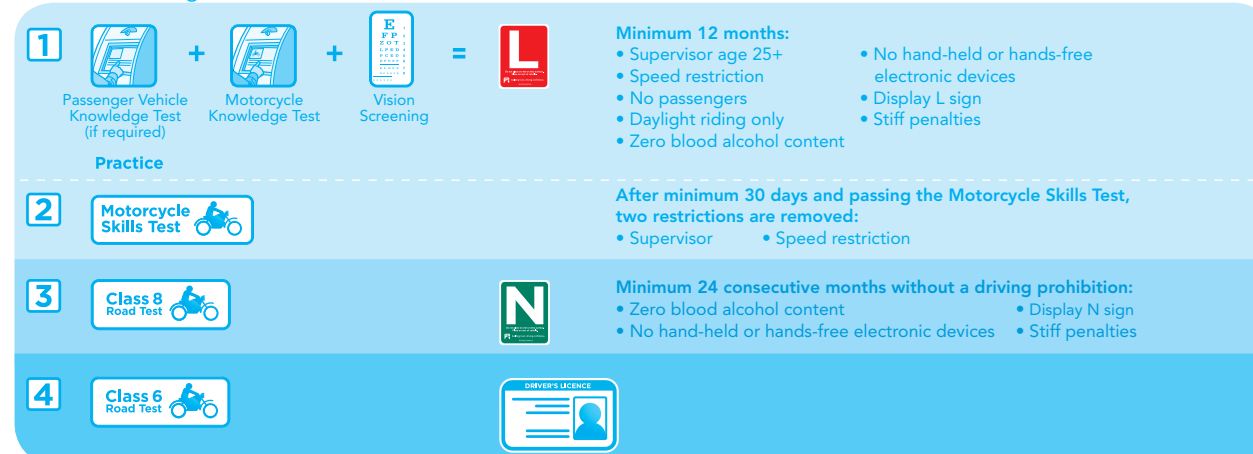
We've worked with the driver training industry to develop a graduated licensing approved driver education course that many driving schools use. There are added incentives to go this route:

- When you successfully complete an approved GLP course in your learner stage, you're eligible for a six-month reduction in the novice stage, if you remain free of prohibitions and at-fault crashes during the first 18 months of your novice stage.

Chart A: Getting a Class 5 driver's licence*



Chart B: Getting a Class 6 driver's licence*



* Consult the *Motor Vehicle Act Regulations* for a full explanation of all GLP restrictions.