

TRUCK DRIVING

The truck driving program is an intensive 12-week program designed to prepare students to operate tractor trailers proficiently and within state and Federal requirements. After successful completion of the program, the student will have a Class A CDL license and be able to operate tractor trailer/straight trucks in a safe and reliable manner as entry level truck drivers. The course includes classroom work and practical driving experience gaining up to 1000 driving miles on our unique driving range at school and the state/federal highway system.

Persons who successfully complete the program may find employment as local or over-the-road drivers or in other trucking industry jobs. The U.S. Department of Transportation requires that an over-the-road driver be at least 21 years old and in good physical condition. Some companies require a driver to be as old as 25 years. In order for a student to be accepted into this program, he/she must meet minimum qualifications and be interviewed by the Truck Driving Instructor(s), to insure that the candidate meets all the federal requirements and is suited for the industry.

Students must meet the following minimum qualifications:

1. Must be at least 21 years of age or 18 with two (2) years experience as a licensed driver (If under 21, may only drive within state of residence)
2. Must hold a valid drivers license in West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, or Pennsylvania
3. Must not have more than six (6) points against his/her driving record. (It is the responsibility of the applicant to furnish a certified original copy of his/her Department of Motor Vehicle record prior to final acceptance)
4. Must not have been convicted of any of the following crimes:
 - a. driving while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs within the past year.
 - b. transporting drugs
 - c. leaving the scene of an accident during the year prior to enrollment.
 - d. using a vehicle to commit a serious crime
 - e. be convicted of a felony offense during the year prior to enrollment

NOTE: These are minimum CDL requirements. Company hiring policies may be more stringent. It is Advisable to discuss personal situations with an instructor.

5. After payment of registration fee, the applicant must schedule and pass a Department of Transportation approved physical examination at Business Health Services in Martinsburg WV.
6. Must have no physical impairments that would interfere with their ability to drive a CMV (Carrier Motor Vehicle) as outlined in the FMCSR (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations). Certain medications are also prohibited. You can call the WV DOT @ (304)-347-5935 to determine medical eligibility.
7. Applicants who do not possess a high school diploma or GED are required to complete the Basic Skills Assessment test prior to enrollment and score at a 5th grade reading and math level. for Hazmat endorsements, a 5th grade reading level is suggested. Testing is administered at the Learning Center (Phone: 1-304-754-9712)

In order for the student to have "Final Acceptance" in the program, the following steps must be completed:

1. Visit the program any Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. to complete the interview process.
2. Schedule (if needed) a Basic Skills assessment (TABE) time with the Learning Center and pick up a Truck Driving Admission Form.
3. Final acceptance into the program will be contingent upon receipt of the \$235.00 non-refundable registration fee, completed physical examination form, drug screen results, completion of Basic skills Assessment (TABE), and copy of driving record.
4. Students will be permitted to begin after the tuition for the class has been paid or arrangements have been verified in writing from a sponsoring agency.

MAJOR UNITS OF STUDY:

- Driving Range Skills (up shifting and down shifting, several different transmissions, coupling and uncoupling of tractors and trailers, driving maneuvers with extensive backing of tractor trailers).
- Road Operations (4 lane highway, 2 lane highway, city driving, night driving, mountain driving with both empty and loaded trailers with lengths of 40', 48', and 53' long and widths of 102" wide).

All Course Activities are based on:

- Entry level driver training
- Vehicle Nomenclature and CDL Inspection
- Preventive Maintenance
- Local, State and National Vehicle Regulations
- Hours of service regulations
- Trip planning
- Defensive Driving Techniques
- Accident Procedures
- Customer and Public Relations
- Cargo Handling & Load Securement

Recruiters from various companies visit the program on a regular basis.