

What is the GRAD License Program?

The DC Graduated License Program (GRAD) is designed to minimize the highest risk situations for a new driver while they safely gain crucial experience behind the wheel. The GRAD License program introduces young drivers to the road slowly with a gradual, staged approach to earning a driver's license.

THE GRAD PROGRAM SAVE LIVES

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

The GRAD License program has reduced teen fatalities and serious injuries in Washington, D.C.

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

THREE STAGES OF THE GRAD PROGRAM:

- 1 Learner Permit
- 2 Provisional License
- 3 Full Driver License

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

WHAT CAN TEENS, PARENTS, AND GUARDIANS DO?

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



Visit ImpactTeenDrivers.org/DC for more information and to access additional resources.



WE ARE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Understanding the GRAD LICENSE PROGRAM

Washington, D.C.



Impact
Teen Drivers



STAGE 1

LEARNER PERMIT

The Learner Permit stage is the time to gain driving experience. This stage can begin at age 16. Teens will need to learn the rules of the road by studying the Washington, D.C. Driver Handbook or enrolling in a driver's education course.

Once a teen feels prepared, they should head to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to take the written knowledge exam. Once they pass the exam and meet eligibility requirements, they become the proud holder of a Learner Permit.

All teens need a minimum of 40 hours of behind-the-wheel supervised driving time with a licensed adult who is 21 years of age or older. Teens are only permitted to drive between 6am and 9pm when driving with a DC DMV Learner Permit.

They will hold their Learner Permit for a minimum of six months and must be at least 17 years old before taking the road skills test.

STAGE 2

PROVISIONAL LICENSE

Once a teen passes the road skills test, they will receive their Provisional License. A Provisional License allows the teen driver to drive alone. However, they must follow these driving restrictions while in the Provisional License stage:

- No passengers, unless they are siblings or a supervising licensed adult who is at least 21 years old
- No driving between 11pm and 6am. On Fridays, Saturdays, or any day during July or August, no driving between 12am and 6am
- No use of a wireless communications device while driving, hands-free or not
- Seat belts are mandatory for all people in the car

During this stage, teens must document at least 10 hours of driving at night with a licensed adult who is at least 21 years old.

*with exceptions noted in the DC law.



STAGE 3

FULL LICENSE WITH CONDITIONS

After a minimum of six months of safe driving, teens can apply for a full license with conditions. In this stage, drivers between the ages of 17 and 18 are allowed to drive alone and with siblings. They are not permitted to have more than two other passengers under the age of 21. The nighttime driving restrictions remain in place during this stage of driving. Once a teen turns 18 years old, the nighttime, passenger, and electronic device restrictions are lifted. Remember, hands-free is not distraction-free. Seat belts remain mandatory for all occupants of a vehicle under Washington, D.C. law.

With full driver license privileges, 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!

