

What are the 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 accidents—they are preventable crashes.

Since the inception of GDL laws, teen fatalities and serious injuries have been reduced by up to 40%!

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

THREE STAGES OF THE GDL LAW:

- 1 Instruction Permit
- 2 Intermediate
- 3 License Full Driver's License

It's simple. Read on to understand the different GDL Program 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/Washington for more information.



Understanding GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING LAWS

Washington



Impact
Teen Drivers



STAGE 1

INSTRUCTION PERMIT

The Instruction Permit stage is the time to gain driving experience.

This stage can begin at age 16. First, teens must successfully complete an approved driver training course. Teens can complete their application for a permit ten days before the course starts. Next, teens will visit the Washington State Department of Licensing to take the written permit test. Upon passing the test, they become the proud holder of an Instruction Permit.

Teens need a minimum of 40 hours of behind-the-wheel supervised driving time with a licensed adult who has five years of driving experience. Ten of those hours must be at night. They will hold their Instruction Permit for a minimum of six months before taking the behind-the-wheel driving test.

STAGE 2

INTERMEDIATE LICENSE

Once a teen passes the behind-the-wheel driving test at the Washington State Department of Licensing, they will receive their Intermediate License.

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

- For the first six months, no passengers under 20 years old, except for immediate family members. For the next six months, no more than three passengers under the age of 20 without a parent or guardian present.
- No driving between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.
- Seat belts are mandatory for all people in the car
- No cell phone use, even with a hands-free device

*With exceptions noted in the state law.



STAGE 3

FULL DRIVER'S LICENSE

After one year of safe driving, or when a teen turns 18, the passenger, nighttime, 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 law.

With a full driver's 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!

