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What follows is a summary, with more detailed information available online at <https://www.ncdot.gov/>

## North Carolina Identification Card

Students who do not plan to drive in the U.S. should apply for a North Carolina photo ID at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). This card is not related to driving, but serves as government-issued identification, and is useful when a photo ID is required locally. The following documents are needed to make the application:

### Proof of legal presence (also serves as **proof of age and identity**):

- Valid passport, I-94, I-20, and visa stamp

### Proof of North Carolina residency:

- An enrollment letter from the Registrar's Office, noting your North Carolina address will satisfy this requirement, as can an apartment lease, utility bill, etc. (can also serve as **proof of age and identity**)

### Social Security card:

- If you are eligible for a Social Security Number, you must present your SSN card for this application
- If you are not eligible for an SSN, your legal presence documents will satisfy this requirement

### Application fee:

- ID cards cost \$14 and will be issued for 5 or 8 years depending on your date of birth, or until the expiration of your legal presence

Collect the above documents and take them to the nearest DMV ([appointments](#) are encouraged) to request your ID card.

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## North Carolina Driver's License

While North Carolina DOES recognize valid driver's licenses issued by another state or country as documentation for legal driving in this state, it is strongly recommended that you apply for a North Carolina driver's license if you will be staying and driving in the state for more than a month. To get a NC driver license, follow these steps:

**1) Liability Insurance.** This insurance covers you as a driver on the road in North Carolina and is a prerequisite to getting a driver's license.

- If you own a car, you must purchase car insurance.
- If you do NOT own a car, you must do one of the following:
  - (1) Purchase a "non-owners" liability insurance policy
  - (2) Have a friend or family member add your name to their car insurance policy
  - (3) Sign an insurance waiver (DL-123) at the DMV – this will restrict you to driving only fleet vehicles (rental cars)

The DMV has a website where you can get an estimate of your insurance costs from many different insurance companies: <http://www.dmv.org/car-insurance.php>. Shop around for the best rates and coverage in your insurance policy.

**2) Documents.** Gather the following documents to take to the DMV:

- **Proof of Legal Presence** (also serves as **proof of age** and **identity**): Valid passport, I-94, I-20, and visa stamp
- **Proof of North Carolina Residency:** An enrollment letter from the Registrar's Office, noting your North Carolina address will satisfy this requirement, as can an apartment lease, utility bill, etc. (can also serve as **proof of age** and **identity**)
- **Social Security card:** If you are eligible for a Social Security Number, you must present your SSN card for this application. If you are not eligible for an SSN, your legal presence documents will satisfy this requirement.
- **Proof of Liability Insurance:** See above
- **Application fee:** \$5.50/year (license is issued for 5 or 8 years depending on your date of birth, or until the expiration of your legal presence).

**3) Tests.** Prepare to take the following tests at the DMV:

- **Written (driving knowledge) Test.** Study North Carolina driving laws included on the test with the [NC Driver's Handbook](#). This test will take place on a computer at the DMV.
- **Traffic Signs Test.** Review North Carolina's [Regulatory](#) and [Warning](#) signs.
- **Vision Test.** Make sure to bring your glasses or contact lenses with you.
- **Road (driving skills) Test.** Cars are not supplied by the DMV for this test; you must bring a car with you. The road test will be a short trip with an officer who will assess your driving abilities.

**4) Visit the DMV**

- [Appointments](#) are strongly encouraged
- New students should wait 10 days from checking in with OIP before applying for the license.

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## Registering a Car in North Carolina

*When you purchase a car, you will receive a Title from the previous owner or car dealer. You will use that Title in order to register the car in your name and receive NC license plates.*

**1) Get a NC Driver's License or State ID**

**2) Gather the following documents:** Your NC driver's license, car Title (properly signed and notarized), [MVR-1 Title Application](#), [MVR-180 Odometer Disclosure](#), proof of car insurance (in your name), a number of [fees outlined on the DMV's website](#).

**3) Visit the [nearest license plate agency](#)**

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