



Getting a Virginia driver license or identification card

If you wish to drive in the U.S., you must get a Virginia driver license within 60 days of entering the U.S. If you hold a license from another U.S. state or Canada, you must change your license to Virginia within 30 days.

Driver's licenses and state identification (ID) cards are issued by the state in which you reside; the laws for each state are different. You may obtain a Virginia driver license or ID card through the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

What you'll need to apply for a license or ID card:

- Passport with your current visa (If your visa is in an expired passport, bring both your expired passport with your visa, and your current passport.)
- Driver's license from another U.S. state or country (if applicable). Should be at least 60 days old.
- I-20 or DS-2019
- [I-94](#)
- Social Security card, if you have one. If you do not have one, you can still apply for a license or ID.
- Two documents proving Virginia residency.
- Form of payment. You may pay with cash, check, or credit card. A driver's license costs \$4 per year issued, with a minimum charge of \$20.

Proof of Virginia Residency

Applicants must show proof of residing in Virginia. The documents must show the current street address (cannot be a PO box or campus mailbox).

For primary proof of residence, you may use:

- Residential rental or lease agreement.
- U.S. Postal Service change of address confirmation form or postmarked U.S. mail with forwarding address label
- Utility bill, not more than two months old, issued to you (cell phone bills are not accepted).



For secondary proof of residence, you may use:

- Postmarked mail displaying the applicant's name and current address
- Official document or correspondence from a federal, state, or local government agency displaying the applicant's name and current address

- Billing statement or other official document from a recognizable business displaying the applicant's name and current address. Examples: Bank statement, pay stub, car insurance bill (but not cards or policies).
- Official transcript from Shenandoah University. Transcripts are free but may take up to ten business days, and are mailed via regular mail. You can request yours [here](#); select the "Transcript Request Form."

All documents must be originals; you may not submit copies.

Additional information:

In general, applicants possessing a foreign driver's license must take a knowledge test, road skills test, and vision screening test. If you need contacts or eyeglasses to drive, make sure you are wearing them when you go to apply for your license. If you are 19 or older, and you hold a valid driver's license issued by a U.S. state or territory, Canada, France, or Germany, you may not be required to take the written exam or road test.

If you need to take the knowledge exam, you can find a "[Driver's Study Guide](#)" and practice exams on the DMV website.

If you have a license from another U.S. state or Canadian province, it will be invalidated when you get your Virginia license.

Your driver license will be issued for the length of time on your I-20 or DS-2019.

State Identification (ID) Card

ID cards are commonly recognized across the U.S., and an easier way to establish identity and age than carrying your passport. You can obtain an ID card with the same documents as for a driver license. The fee is \$10.

Nearest DMV:

The local DMV is located at 4050 Valley Pike, Winchester, approximately five miles south of campus. Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 8 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturday, except holidays. You can find wait times on their [website](#).