

## Alabama State Identification

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### ***What is an Alabama identification card?***

This document is used solely for identification. This card is not valid for driving purposes. The cost of this document is \$36.25 in cash or a check payable on an Alabama bank account. The Alabama identification card is issued at the same locations as the driver's license.

Document requirements are the same.



### Jefferson State Community College

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## International Students: Obtaining an Alabama Driver's License or State ID

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OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

*Jefferson State Community College*



## Applying for an Alabama Driver's License

### **Who's eligible to apply for an Alabama driver's license?**

Anyone in a valid nonimmigrant status (F, J, H, TN, and their dependents), a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident can apply for an Alabama driver's license. Alabama law requires that the applicant must have a U.S. social security number or proof from Social Security that they are not eligible for a social security number (denial letter). Whatever the visa type, you must have 160 days remaining on your status (not including grace periods).

### **Do you need a social security number to obtain for an Alabama driver's license?**

Yes. BUT, for those individuals who do not have or are not eligible to obtain a U.S. social security number, you should go to the Social Security Administration located at 1200 8th Avenue North (also known as Reverend Abraham Woods Blvd) 1st Floor and request a proof of denial of the social security number. This letter should state that you are not eligible for a social security number and should be presented along with your immigration documents to the Driver's License Office. F-1 and J-1 students without a job will have to get a Social Security denial letter in order to get the Driver's License or State ID.

### Application Requirements

There are several places in Birmingham where most people can apply for an Alabama driver's license, but due to the complicated nature of immigration documentation Foreign Nationals must go to the following address:

Department of Public Safety  
908 Bankhead Highway  
Birmingham, AL 35204  
Phone: 205-252-7445

The written and road exams are offered Monday through Friday 8:00 a. m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Foreign Nationals can also go to the main offices in Decatur, Tuscaloosa, Dothan, Huntsville, Mobile, or Montgomery,.

### **What should you bring when applying for the Alabama driver's license?**

- Valid Foreign Passport
- I-94 card
- Bring one of the following items: DS-2019, I-20, H approval, O approval, or TN/TD approval
- Birth certificate, not required but helpful if you have it with you
- If dependent of F or H, you will need to bring a denial letter from the Social Security office to prove you are not eligible for a number. Or F-1 or J-1 student without a job you would also need a denial letter. Otherwise you need to bring your Social Security Card if you have a social security number.
- If you are an F-1 or J-1 student, you would need to submit a Letter of Good Standing from JSCC Office of International Student Affairs.
- People in Adjustment of Status to Permanent Resident must have an Employment Authorization Document (work permit) to be eligible. The expiration date on the license will be based upon the work authorization.
- Application fee (verify on [dps.alabama.gov](http://dps.alabama.gov) for current fees).

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** In order to apply for a license or renew a license, you must have at least 160 days left in your immigration status as reflected by the program or status end date on your I-20, DS-2019, or other immigration documents. This does not include any grace periods. Also, renewals cannot be done until you are within 30 days of the driver's license

### **What is required to obtain an Alabama driver's license?**

You will be required to take a written exam for the learners permit and the written and a road exam for the permanent license.

### **Should you study for the written exam?**

Yes. Driving License manuals are available on the Alabama Department of Public Safety website. Manuals can be read online or printed out at [www.dps.state.al.us](http://www.dps.state.al.us)

### **What is the cost for an Alabama driver's license?**

As of December 2014, The fee for the Alabama driver's license is \$23.50 in cash, check, or debit/credit card. Check <http://dps.alabama.gov> for current costs.

## Helpful Information

- **If you do not have an International Driver's License, you must have a licensed driver take you to the driver's license office. This licensed driver must be willing to let you use his or her car for the road test. Proof of car insurance for the vehicle is required. The officer will inspect the car. The car must be fully functional (i.e., working turn signals, horn, etc.) before the officer will let you take the road exam. It is advisable to practice driving this vehicle in a deserted parking lot prior to taking the road exam so that you're comfortable driving the automobile.**
- **Alabama automatically will give a Alabama license to citizens of Canada, Germany, and Japan if Foreign National holds a license from their home country. This is due to treaties with Alabama.**
- **Appointments can be made online at [dps.alabama.gov](http://dps.alabama.gov) for licenses**
- **If getting a denial letter from Social Security and a verification letter from the International Services office, please note they are only good for 30 days.**