

## The Minnesota Driver's License Road Test

Road tests appointments can be made on line using the DPS website, or you can call the Marshall office on either Monday or Tuesday.

Remember to bring the following items with you on the road test.

- 1) Instruction Permit
- 2) Current Insurance Information Card
- 3) Parent Supplement Course Certificate
- 4) Driving Log
- 5) White Course Completion Certificate

The test supposedly gives greater weight to the driving skills and habits that are most likely to prevent crashes. There are three 'parts' to the test.

1. Pre-trip inspection ( 10 items to demonstrate)
2. The "drive" itself, making proper turns, hill parking, parallel parking, 90 degree backing, and general control of the vehicle. The driving test will take 20 -30 minutes.
3. Your competency in "risk perception". This means how well you as a driver, using the SIPDE process, (Search, Identify, Predict, Decide, and Execute) possible dangers in the driving scene and how to react to these possible dangers. Everything you do as you proceed through the test MAY involve some risk. So you must "PERCEIVE" the risk, and you must react properly in response.  
Example: As you approach any "uncontrolled" intersection, you know that you cover the brake until your eyes tell the brain..."OK, the intersection is clear; continue through". Just remember SIPDE – you are searching for problems or hazards (dangers) that MIGHT occur; you are NOT merely reacting to what does happen.

The "PERCEIVED RISK" evaluation occurs in virtually every part of the test on which you are scored. Failing to 'perceive a risk' and reacting correctly does not cost any numeric points; BUT IF YOU FAIL MORE THAN THREE, you will fail the test.

### PRE – TRIP INSPECTION

The examiner will ask you to demonstrate your ability to use/operate the following items. Be sure everything works BEFORE you go out for your road test.

**Proof of Insurance.** Original insurance identification card or policy. Current date required

**Seat Adjustment** – Demonstrate how to adjust.

**Seat Belt** - Both passenger and driver's side must work properly.

**Mirrors/Windows** - Adjust mirrors before test begins (and they should be clean). Damaged windows may not be allowed.

**Emergency/parking brake** – apply it; release it. Use it whenever you park,

**Headlights** – Turn on, switch high-beam, low beam. Have your lights on during test.

**4-way flashers/hazard lights** - Turn them on/off. You will use them in the backing maneuver.

**Windshield wipers** – Turn on/off. Know how to activate the washer, and use it if needed.

**Windshield defroster and fan controls** – Turn on/off. Adjust fan speed. Use the A/C or heat as needed.

**Horn** – Test to make sure it works.

*This list does not include all equipment and items required by law. Make sure all equipment works.*

**More than two errors on this inspection will result in failure. The road test will not continue.**

## **Driving Test**

**Steering:** Both hands on the wheel - 9 and 3 or 8 and 4 hand position. Hand over hand steering.

**AT/Clutch:** Everything smooth, gradual and in control.

**Brake:** No abrupt stops; everything smooth and comfortable. If roadway is slippery, use brake correctly.

Standard (conventional) brakes and ABS on rear axle only....use **soft** or **threshold** braking.

ABS on all wheels: hold pedal down, don't let up; do **not** pump pedal.

**Accelerator:** Smooth, gradual, comfortable.

**Other Controls:** Low-beam headlights on; radio/tape deck/CD off.

## **Driving Skills**

**Starting:** Think **SSMOG**. (Search, Signal, Mirror check, Over-shoulder check, Go)

**90 degree backing:** Stop; turn on 4-way flashers (hazard lights); back into the **10 feet** wide space centered with the front bumper behind the **curb line**. You will be completely off the road.

**Parallel Parking:** Don't forget to signal right as **you approach** the parking spot. Park carefully and smoothly. Apply parking brake. When leaving spot, use **SSMOG** at curb; then check over the shoulder a **second time** when you know you can clear the "car" parked ahead.

**Hill Park:** Use **SSMOG**. Your park could be **up or down hill**, with or without a curb. Be sure you turn the front wheels correctly. "**UP –UP- and AWAY**" ...when a curb is present.

**Traffic Light or Stop Sign:** Be sure to check rear-view mirror before stopping. Stop smoothly and look **Left – Center – Right** before entering the intersection.

**Other signs:** React to all signs correctly. Think **SIPDE (with emphasis on SEARCH)** at all times.

**Lane Position:** Maintain your proper lane position.

**Lane Changing:** Use **SSMOG**... everytime you move your car laterally... for a lane change, parking, or passing.

**Following/stopping:** At least **3 second following distance**... 4-5 when roads are icy or wet. When you stop behind another vehicle, be sure you can see the rear tires touch the ground on the vehicle in front of you. Check rear view mirrors as you slow to a stop.

**Intersections:** Stop completely behind crosswalks.

**Right of Way: (pedestrian)** Remember that you must **STOP** for a pedestrian in a marked or unmarked Crosswalk. Do not proceed until the pedestrian is a lane (left or right) beyond your travel path. If in doubt, **stop for the pedestrian**.

**Right of way: (vehicle)** Treat all intersections as you were taught. If **uncontrolled**, first one there goes first; if both arrive about the **same time**, driver on the **left** yields to driver on the **right**. Obey all signs and signals. **Red means Stop**. Stop completely and check carefully before turning **right on red**.

**Turns:** Use **SIPDE (perceived risk)**.. signal, speed, approach lane, enter lane. You know how to do these correctly; **so remember to do these correctly**.

**Final Park:** Use **SSMOG**; at curb, and set parking brake. Remember Minnesota Statute 169.36 (unoccupied vehicle on roadway must have parking brake set.)

**Automatic Disqualification:** Any violation of law (running a stop sign, or red light; going over the speed limit; turning from the wrong lane; any dangerous action or lack of control.

## ROAD TEST CHECKLIST

**Do you have all the information you need for your road test? Here is a checklist to help you prepare for your visit:**

I am 16 years old or older.

I have made a road test appointment. Marshall Exam Station is open Mondays and Tuesdays.

I have my instruction permit to give to the examiner.

I will provide a vehicle in which to take the test.

I have **current** proof on insurance for the vehicle I will use for the test.

### **If under 18 years of age:**

I have my “white card” proving that I have completed driver education.

I have held an instruction permit for six months without a conviction for a moving violation or an alcohol or controlled substance violation.

My parent or court-appointed guardian will sign and approve my application.

I have my Supplemental Parent Class Certificate of Completion form.

I have my Supervised Driving Log signed by a Primary Driving Supervisor.

**The Driving Log must be presented at the time of the road test and submitted with the application for the provisional license.**

This log accompanied by the Parental Certificate of Completion will require students to complete **40** hours of supervised driving, **15 of which are nighttime hours.**

If the parent/guardian chooses not to complete the Supplemental Parent Class, the driving log must show that their teen has completed at least **50 hours** of supervised driving, **15 of which are nighttime hours.**

### **If 18 years of age:**

I have had my instruction permit for at least six months.

### **If 19 years of age or older:**

I have had my instruction permit for at least three months.