

DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE EXCLUSIVELY FOR ADULTS SIX-HOUR SYLLABUS FOR CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

SCHOOL NAME: _____ SCHOOL NUMBER: _____

SIGNATURE OF SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE: _____ DATE: _____

The department shall establish the curriculum and designate the educational materials which must be in a six-hour adult driver education course. Driver Education Schools that wish to offer an **adult driver education course exclusively for adults** shall submit and receive approval of the course from the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. The request for approval must include a course syllabus, inventory of educational resources/multi-media, student contract, and instructional records that will be used with the course. The adult driver education course shall consist of a minimum six clock hours that meet or exceed the minimum requirements listed in Title 19, Texas Administrative Code, §176.1007(b)(2) and Title 5, Texas Education Code, §1001.1015.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE OF THIS COURSE: The student legally and responsibly recognizes the necessity for reduced risk driving practices by accepting driving as a privilege with responsibilities, obligations, and potential consequences; and applying knowledge and understanding about alcohol and drug awareness; the traffic laws of this state; highway signs, signals, and markings that regulate, warn, or direct traffic; and the issues commonly associated with motor vehicle accidents, including poor decision-making, risk taking, impaired driving, distractions, speed, failure to use a safety belt, driving at night, failure to yield the right-of-way, and using a wireless communication device while operating a vehicle.

- Students shall receive classroom instruction from a licensed supervising teacher, driver education teacher, or teaching assistant (full).
- A copy of the current edition of the "Texas Driver Handbook" or study material that is equivalent shall be furnished to each student enrolled in the course.
- A total of 90 minutes of self-study assignments, motion picture films, slides, videos, tape recordings, guest speakers, and other instructional media that present concepts required in the driver education course exclusively for adults standards may be used as part of the required six clock hours of classroom instruction. The instructional aids shall not exceed 90 minutes of instruction and shall be presented to the entire class simultaneously.
- A minimum of 330 minutes of instruction must be provided. **The minimum recommended times in the syllabus total only 305 minutes. The remaining 25 minutes of instruction shall be allocated to the topics included in the minimum course content, excluding the Introduction or the Classroom Progress Assessment.**
- **A total of 30 minutes of break time is permitted.** Breaks must occur after the lesson introduction and before the Classroom Progress Assessment. **Revert break time to instruction time if not utilized.**
- Total length of course, including breaks, is 360 minutes.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR ADULT DRIVER LICENSE AND INSTRUCTION PERMIT

- The adult driver education course must fulfill the requirements under Transportation Code, §521.1601 and §521.222(c) and Title 19, TAC, §176.1007(b)(2) to receive course approval.
- After gaining department approval for the Six-Hour Adult Classroom curriculum, **the driver education school owner or representative should contact their local Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office** to complete any additional requirements and procedures required by DPS to comply with Transportation Code, §521.1655 and §521.167.

DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE EXCLUSIVELY FOR ADULTS SIX-HOUR SYLLABUS FOR CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

INTRODUCTION

TOPIC 1

SCHEDULED INSTRUCTION TIME: 10 MINUTES

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL (OBJECTIVE):

The student recognizes the value of legal and responsible reduced-risk driving practices and accepts driving as a privilege with responsibilities, obligations, and potential consequences.

DISCUSSION – The student is expected to:

- (A) recognize how an Adult Driver Education course provides a novice driver the foundation of knowledge, understanding, skills, and experiences necessary to continue the life-long learning process of reduced-risk driving;
- (B) know that basic knowledge of traffic laws provides a driver the foundation to formulate informed, legal, and responsible decisions to reduce risk;
- (C) recognize that driving is a privilege with risk, responsibilities, obligations, and potential consequences requiring the knowledge, understanding, and application of legal and responsible reduced-risk driving practices; and
- (D) reduce risk by recognizing the value of legal and responsible reduced-risk driving practices and accepting driving as a privilege with responsibilities, obligations, and potential consequences.

YOUR LICENSE TO DRIVE

TOPIC 2

SCHEDULED INSTRUCTION TIME: MINUTES (MINIMUM 0:20 MINUTES)

RESOURCE: Texas Driver Handbook, Chapters 1 – 3

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL (OBJECTIVE):

The student reduces risk and accepts driving as a privilege by legally and responsibly possessing a driver license, registering and having a current inspection on a motor vehicle, and obeying the Safety Responsibility Act.

DISCUSSION – The student is expected to:

- (A) describe the process, responsibility, and obligation of obtaining, possessing, and renewing a Texas driver license including the instruction permit;
- (B) recognize driver license types, restrictions, endorsements, and special information;
- (C) list and describe suspensions and revocations placed on driving privileges;
- (D) list and describe guidelines and procedures to inspect and register a motor vehicle in Texas;
- (E) recognize the benefits and obligations of the Safety Responsibility Act; and
- (F) reduce risk and accept driving as a privilege by legally and responsibly possessing a driver license, registering and having a current inspection on a motor vehicle, and obeying the Safety Responsibility Act.

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RIGHT-OF-WAY

TOPIC 3

SCHEDULED INSTRUCTION TIME: MINUTES (MINIMUM 0:50 MINUTES)

RESOURCE: Texas Driver Handbook, Chapter 4

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL (OBJECTIVE):

The student reduces risk by legally and responsibly accepting or yielding the right-of-way.

DISCUSSION – The student is expected to:

- (A) define right-of-way and list the responsibilities, obligations, and potential consequences for failure to accept or yield the right-of-way, including yielding the right-of-way to motorcyclists;
- (B) define traditional and non-traditional intersections;
- (C) describe when and the procedures to accept or yield the right-of-way at controlled intersections, uncontrolled intersections, intersecting roads with lesser or greater number of lanes, intersecting roads with different pavement surfaces, T-intersections, controlled-access roads, railroad grade crossings, turns (left and right), and entering a public road from a private road;
- (D) know when and the procedure to yield the right-of-way to emergency vehicles, school buses, and pedestrians;
- (E) state the law and describe risk-reducing procedures when passing an emergency vehicle stopped on or by a roadway;
- (F) know how the basic knowledge of right-of-way laws provides a driver the foundation to formulate and implement informed, legal, and responsible decisions to reduce risk; and
- (G) reduce risk by legally and responsibly accepting or yielding the right-of-way.

TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES

TOPIC 4

SCHEDULED INSTRUCTION TIME: MINUTES (MINIMUM 0:40 MINUTES)

RESOURCE: Texas Driver Handbook, Chapter 5

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL (OBJECTIVE):

The student reduces risk by legally and responsibly applying knowledge and understanding of traffic control devices.

DISCUSSION – The student is expected to:

- (A) list and explain the meanings of the colors and shapes of signs, signals, and pavement markings;
- (B) recognize and describe the purpose and appropriate response for traffic control devices including signs, signals, and pavement markings based on law, consequences, and driving conditions;
- (C) recognize how basic knowledge of traffic control devices provides a driver the foundation to formulate and implement informed, legal, and responsible decisions to reduce risk; and
- (D) reduce risk by legally and responsibly responding to traffic control devices.

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CONTROLLING TRAFFIC FLOW

TOPIC 5

SCHEDULED INSTRUCTION TIME: **MINUTES** (MINIMUM 0:40 MINUTES)

RESOURCE: Texas Driver Handbook, Chapters 6 – 9

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL (OBJECTIVE):

The student reduces risk by legally and responsibly applying knowledge and understanding of laws and procedures for controlling traffic flow.

DISCUSSION – The student is expected to:

- (A) define traffic flow;
- (B) relate how traffic flow is managed by traffic control devices, law enforcement, and other persons;
- (C) explain the appropriate communication to indicate a change in speed or position;
- (D) state the laws for passing and being passed, basic and special turning situations, and for stopping, standing, parking, leaving a space, backing, and coasting;
- (E) define and explain how to avoid blind spot driving;
- (F) know the importance and how to establish a safe following interval;
- (G) relate speed to stopping a vehicle based on roadway conditions;
- (H) know the importance of adjusting speed, route planning, or not driving during poor driving conditions including traffic, weather, visibility, roadway, vehicle, and driver;
- (I) state the legal minimum and maximum speed limits for Texas roadways and beaches;
- (J) state the law and purpose of vehicle lights;
- (K) state the laws and potential dangers for freeway entry, travel, and exit;
- (L) know the importance of avoiding driving when fatigued including highway (roadway) hypnosis;
- (M) describe procedures for managing a vehicle breakdown;
- (N) describe procedures for controlling a vehicle in a skid, brake failure, running off pavement, blowout, or driving down a steep hill;
- (O) explain potential dangers and countermeasures associated with winter driving; and
- (P) reduce risk by legally and responsibly applying knowledge and understanding of laws and procedures for controlling traffic flow.

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ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

TOPIC 6

SCHEDULED INSTRUCTION TIME: **MINUTES** (MINIMUM 0:50 MINUTES)

RESOURCE: Texas Driver Handbook, Chapter 10

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL (OBJECTIVE):

The student legally and responsibly performs reduced-risk driving practices by adopting zero-tolerance driving and lifestyle practices related to the use of alcohol and other drugs; and applying knowledge and understanding of alcohol and other drug laws, regulations, penalties, and consequences.

DISCUSSION – The student is expected to:

- (A) know the legal definition of intoxication in Texas;
- (B) summarize how alcohol and other drugs affect driving ability;
- (C) know laws, regulations, and penalties applicable to adults, over 21, for improper use of a driver license, Driving Under the Influence, Public Intoxication, Driving While Intoxicated, Intoxication Assault, and Intoxication Manslaughter violations;
- (D) know laws, regulations, and penalties applicable to minors and under 21 for improper use of a driver license, Driving Under the Influence by a Minor, Public Intoxication, Minor in Possession, Driving While Intoxicated, Intoxication Assault, and Intoxication Manslaughter violations;
- (E) know laws, regulations, and penalties applicable to minors and adults for Open Container Law, Open Container Enhancement Law, and Consumption Law violations;
- (F) know laws, regulations, and penalties applicable to minors and adults for Administrative License Revocation and Implied Consent violations; and
- (G) reduce risk by legally and responsibly performing reduced-risk driving practices and adopt zero-tolerance practices related to the use of alcohol and other drugs by applying knowledge and understanding of alcohol and other drug laws, regulations, penalties; and consequences to driving and lifestyles.

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COOPERATING WITH OTHER ROADWAY USERS

TOPIC 7

SCHEDULED INSTRUCTION TIME: MINUTES (MINIMUM 0:20 MINUTES)

RESOURCE: Texas Driver Handbook, Chapters 11 – 14

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL (OBJECTIVE):

The student reduces risk by legally and responsibly cooperating with law enforcement and other roadway users including vulnerable roadway users in emergency and potential emergency situations.

DISCUSSION – The student is expected to:

- (A) summarize and categorize roadway users;
- (B) understand the Good Samaritan Law and responsibilities at the scene of a traffic crash including aiding the injured;
- (C) list the laws and responsibilities of sharing the road with other roadway users such as bicyclists, trucks, motorcyclists, trucks, light rail, person on horseback, horse driven conveyance, slow-moving vehicles, work zone/construction workers, and pedestrians;
- (D) describe the responsibilities of a defensive driver;
- (E) state the laws and responsibilities regarding occupant restraints and open truck beds;
- (F) describe the responsibilities if stopped by law enforcement;
- (G) define aggressive driving and list ways to avoid personal or other roadway users aggressive driving;
- (H) explain the responsibilities for transporting cargo, using safety chains, and towing;
- (I) list the causes and consequences of carbon monoxide poisoning and state avoidance procedures; and
- (J) reduce risk by legally and responsibly cooperating with law enforcement and other roadway users including vulnerable roadway users including emergency and potential emergency situations.

DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE EXCLUSIVELY FOR ADULTS

SIX-HOUR SYLLABUS FOR CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

MANAGING RISK

TOPIC 8

SCHEDULED INSTRUCTION TIME: _____ MINUTES (MINIMUM 0:50 MINUTES)

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL (OBJECTIVE):

The student reduces and manages risk by legally and responsibly understanding the issues commonly associated with motor vehicle collisions, including poor decision-making, risk taking, impaired driving, distractions, speed, failure to use a safety belt, driving at night, and using a wireless communications device while operating a vehicle.

DISCUSSION – The student is expected to:

- (A) recognize the value of responsible reduced-risk driving practices to manage issues commonly associated with motor vehicle collisions;
- (B) recognize how poor decision-making and risk taking increase the possibility of a collision;
- (C) understand the dangers of impaired driving (including mental, emotional, and physical fatigue and illnesses);
- (D) list distractions that affect driving (including vehicle navigation systems, music systems, vehicle controls, PDA's, mobile phones, passengers and pets);
- (E) understand the dangers of speed and its impact on reduced-risk driving practices;
- (F) recognize how failure to use a safety belt while driving increases risk;
- (G) explain the potential dangers associated with driving at night;
- (H) understand the effect of using a wireless communications device or engaging in other actions that may distract a driver on the safe or effective operation of a motor vehicle (including text messaging while driving, eating & drinking while driving, personal grooming, multi-tasking, working in the vehicle, reading while driving); and
- (I) reduce risk by legally and responsibly applying knowledge, understanding and safe driving practices to manage issues commonly associated with motor vehicle collisions.

CLASSROOM PROGRESS ASSESSMENT

TOPIC 9

SCHEDULED INSTRUCTION TIME: 25 MINUTES

REQUIRED EXAM: Texas Department of Public Safety Highway Sign and Traffic Law examination.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL (OBJECTIVE):

The student reduces risk by legally and responsibly completing a Progress Assessment to evaluate classroom knowledge and understanding and measure progress (mastery equals 70% or above).

THE REMAINING 25 MINUTES OF INSTRUCTION SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO THE TOPICS INCLUDED IN THE MINIMUM COURSE CONTENT, EXCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION OR CLASSROOM PROGRESS ASSESSMENT.

TOTAL COURSE LENGTH: SIX (6) HOURS

MINIMUM INSTRUCTION TIME: 330 MINUTES

TOTAL BREAK TIME: 0:30 MINUTES SCHEDULED: (e.g. 10 min/Topic 3, etc) _____

The minimum instructional time for the Adult Driver Education Course is 330 minutes. **Thirty minutes of time, exclusive of the 330 minutes of instruction, shall be dedicated to break periods or to the topics included in the minimum course content. (Topics 2 – 8)** The total length of the course shall consist of 360 minutes.