



**COURSE OF ORGANIZED INSTRUCTION (COI)
FOR DRIVING SAFETY**

May 2022

**6-Hour Driving Safety Course
(COI-Driving Safety)**

**Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, Education and
Examination Division**

www.tdlr.texas.gov

Table of Contents

Chapter One: Course Introduction	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
Chapter Two: Course Options	1
2.1 Traditional Course.....	1
2.2 Alternative Delivery Method (ADM).	1
Chapter Three: Instructional Objectives	1
3.1 Educational Objective of this Course.....	1
Chapter Four: Curriculum Instruction Characteristics	2
4.1 General.	2
4.2 Driving Safety Topics of Instruction.	2
4.2.1 Topic One: Course Introduction	2
4.2.1.1. Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:	2
4.2.2 Topic Two: The Traffic Safety Problem	2
4.2.2.1. Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:	2
4.2.3 Topic Three: Factors Influencing Driver Performance.....	2
4.2.3.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:	2
4.2.4 Topic Four: Traffic Laws and Procedures	3
4.2.4.1. Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:	3
4.2.5 Topic Five: Special Skills for Difficult Driving Environments	4
4.2.5.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:	4
4.2.6 Topic Six: Physical Forces That Influence Driver Control	4
4.2.6.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:	4
4.2.7 Topic Seven: Perceptual Skills Needed for Driving	4
4.2.7.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:	4
4.2.8 Topic Eight: Defensive Driving Strategies.....	5
4.2.8.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:	5
4.2.9 Topic Nine: Driving Emergencies.....	5
4.2.9.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:	5
4.2.10 Topic Ten: Occupant Restraints and Protective Equipment.....	5
4.2.10.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:	6
4.2.11 Topic Eleven: Alcohol and Traffic Safety.....	6
4.2.11.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:	6
4.2.12 Topic Twelve: Human Trafficking.....	6
4.2.13 Topic Thirteen: Comprehensive Examination	6

COURSE OF ORGANIZED INSTRUCTION FOR SIX-HOUR DRIVING SAFETY

Chapter One: Course Introduction

- 1.1 Introduction.** This guide details the required course content and minimum instruction requirements for the classroom instruction for six-hour Driving Safety programs in Texas, as prescribed by the Texas Education Code (TEC) and the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). All course content and instructional material shall include current statistical data, references to law, driving procedures, and traffic safety methodology.

Course content, minimum instruction requirements, and administrative guidelines for Driving Safety classroom instruction shall include the instructional objectives established by the Department. Further, programs and instructors must meet the requirements of the Texas Administrative Code and the statutes authorizing those codes.

Lesson lengths stated in this COI are minimum state requirements. It may be necessary to extend the training time by repeating lessons to ensure the student demonstrates mastery over course content contained in each section. Schools are allowed to give breaks to students during instruction in accordance with 16 TAC §84.500(b)(1)(B).

If there is a conflict with the information contained in this guide and applicable law, the law shall control. Failure to comply with the requirements contained in this guide, applicable law, rule or order of the Commission for the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), the TDLR executive director, or an order issued by the Governor of the State of Texas, pursuant to Chapter 418, Texas Government Code, may subject the licensee to administrative penalties and/or sanctions pursuant to 16 TAC §84.400.

Questions regarding the guide should be directed to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, Education and Examination Division, P.O. Box 12157, Austin, Texas 78711, or www.tdlr.texas.gov, or call (800)803-9202.

Chapter Two: Course Options

The following course options are authorized by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR):

- 2.1 Traditional Course.** A six-hour curriculum attended in person by the student at an approved driving safety school classroom location. In a traditional classroom location, the licensee is responsible to ensure sufficient seating that allows students the ability to comprehend instructional aids.
- 2.2 Alternative Delivery Method (ADM).** A six-hour curriculum that does not require the student to be present in a physical classroom location. The curriculum shall be instructed through the alternative method approved by the Department.

Chapter Three: Instructional Objectives

- 3.1 Educational Objective of this Course.** The educational objectives of driving safety courses shall include, but not be limited to, information relating to human trafficking prevention; promoting respect for and encouraging observance of traffic laws and traffic safety responsibilities of drivers and citizens; implementation of law enforcement procedures for traffic stops in accordance with the provisions of the Community Safety Education Act (Senate Bill 30, 85th Regular Legislature (2017)); the proper use of child passenger safety seat systems; reducing traffic violations; reducing traffic-related injuries, deaths, and economic losses; motivating continuing development of traffic-related competencies; the passing of certain vehicles as described in Transportation Code §545.157; the dangers and consequences of street racing; and safely operating a vehicle around an oversize or overweight vehicle, including safe following distances and safe passing methods.

Chapter Four: Curriculum Instruction Characteristics

4.1 General. Driving Safety course content, including video and multimedia, shall include current statistical data, references to law, driving procedures, and traffic safety methodology. A driving safety course shall include, as a minimum, materials adequate to assure the student masters the following topics.

4.2 Driving Safety Topics of Instruction. All times listed are minimum instruction duration.
The minimum topics shall include but are not limited to the following instruction:

4.2.1 Topic One: Course Introduction

Minimum Instruction Time: 10 Minutes

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.

4.2.1.1. Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) purpose and benefits of the course;
- (B) course and facilities orientation;
- (C) requirements for receiving course credit;
- (D) student course evaluation procedures; and
- (E) department provided information on course content.

4.2.2 Topic Two: The Traffic Safety Problem

Minimum Instruction Time: 10 Minutes

Objective: To develop an understanding of the nature of the traffic safety problem and to instill in each student a sense of responsibility for its solution.

4.2.2.1. Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) identification of the overall traffic problem in the United States, Texas, and the locale where the course is being taught;
- (B) death, injuries, and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes in Texas; and
- (C) the top five contributing factors of motor vehicle crashes in Texas as identified by the Texas Department of Transportation.

4.2.3 Topic Three: Factors Influencing Driver Performance

Minimum Instruction Time: 10 Minutes

Objective: To identify the characteristics and behaviors of drivers and how they affect driving performance.

4.2.3.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) attitudes, habits, feelings, and emotions (aggressive driving, etc.);
- (B) alcohol and other drugs;

- (C) physical condition (drowsy driving, etc.);
- (D) knowledge of driving laws and procedures; and
- (E) understanding the driving task.

4.2.4 Topic Four: Traffic Laws and Procedures

Minimum Instruction Time: 50 Minutes

Objective: To identify the requirements of, and the rationale for, applicable driving laws and procedures and to influence drivers to comply with the laws on a voluntary basis.

4.2.4.1. Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) passing;
- (B) right-of-way, and knowledge and application of procedure to yield right-of-way to emergency vehicles described in Transportation Code §545.157, school buses, and pedestrians;
- (C) turns;
- (D) stops;
- (E) speed limits;
- (F) railroad crossings safety, including statistics, causes, and evasive actions;
- (G) categories of traffic signs, signals, and highway markings;
- (H) pedestrians;
- (I) improved shoulders;
- (J) intersections;
- (K) occupant restraints;
- (L) anatomical gifts;
- (M) litter prevention;
- (N) law enforcement and emergency vehicles (this category will be temporary until the need is substantiated by documentation from the Department of Public Safety on the number of deaths or injuries involved because of improper procedures used by a citizen when stopped by a law enforcement officer);
- (O) law enforcement procedures for traffic stops in accordance with the provisions of the Community Safety Education Act (Senate Bill 30, 85th Regular Legislature (2017)); and
- (P) other laws as applicable (i.e., financial responsibility/compulsory insurance).

4.2.5 Topic Five: Special Skills for Difficult Driving Environments

Minimum Instruction Time: 15 Minutes

Objective: To identify how special conditions affect driver and vehicle performance and identify techniques for management of these conditions.

4.2.5.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) inclement weather;
- (B) traffic congestion;
- (C) city, urban, rural, and expressway environments;
- (D) reduced visibility conditions--hills, fog, curves, light conditions (darkness, glare, etc.), and
- (E) roadway conditions.

4.2.6 Topic Six: Physical Forces That Influence Driver Control

Minimum Instruction Time: 10 Minutes

Objective: To identify the physical forces that affect driver control and vehicle performance.

4.2.6.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) speed control (acceleration, deceleration, etc.);
- (B) traction (friction, hydroplaning, stopping distances, centrifugal force, etc.); and
- (C) force of impact (momentum, kinetic energy, inertia, etc.).

4.2.7 Topic Seven: Perceptual Skills Needed for Driving

Minimum Instruction Time: 20 Minutes

Objective: To identify the factors of perception and how the factors affect driver performance.

4.2.7.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) visual interpretations;
- (B) hearing;
- (C) touch;
- (D) smell;
- (E) reaction abilities (simple and complex); and
- (F) judging speed and distance.

4.2.8 Topic Eight: Defensive Driving Strategies

Minimum Instruction Time: 30 Minutes

Objective: To identify the concepts of defensive driving and demonstrate how they can be employed by drivers to reduce the likelihood of crashes, deaths, injuries, and economic losses.

4.2.8.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) trip planning;
- (B) evaluating the traffic environment;
- (C) anticipating the actions of others;
- (D) decision making;
- (E) implementing necessary maneuvers;
- (F) compensating for the mistakes of other drivers;
- (G) avoiding common driving errors;
- (H) interaction with other road users (motorcycles, bicycles, trucks, pedestrians, etc.);
- (I) safe operation of a motor vehicle near an oversize or overweight vehicle, including safe following distances and safe passing methods;
- (J) motorcycle awareness, including the dangers of failing to yield the right-of-way to a motorcyclist and the need to share the road with motorcyclist;
- (K) distractions relating to the effect of using a wireless communication device, including texting or engaging in other actions that may distract a driver from the safe or effective operation of a motor vehicle; and
- (L) understand the dangers of speed and its impact on reduced-risk driving practices; must include the dangers and consequences of street racing in violation of Transportation Code §545.420.

4.2.9 Topic Nine: Driving Emergencies

Minimum Instruction Time: 20 Minutes

Objective: To identify common driving emergencies and their countermeasures.

4.2.9.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) collision traps (front, rear, and sides);
- (B) off road recovery, paths of least resistance; and
- (C) mechanical malfunctions (tires, brakes, steering, power, lights, etc.)

4.2.10 Topic Ten: Occupant Restraints and Protective Equipment

Minimum Instruction Time: 15 Minutes

Objective: To identify the rationale for having and using occupant restraints and protective equipment.

4.2.10.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) legal aspects;
- (B) vehicle control;
- (C) crash protection;
- (D) operational principles (active and passive);
- (E) helmets and other protective equipment;
- (F) proper use of child passenger safety seat systems; and
- (G) dangers involved in locking or leaving children in vehicles unattended.

4.2.11 Topic Eleven: Alcohol and Traffic Safety

Minimum Instruction Time: 40 Minutes

Objective: To identify the effects of alcohol on roadway users.

4.2.11.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) physiological effects;
- (B) psychological effects;
- (C) legal aspects; and
- (D) synergistic effects.

4.2.12 Topic Twelve: Human Trafficking

Minimum Instruction Time: To be Determined by Instructor

Objective: Recognize the key indicators of human trafficking.

4.2.12.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) activities commonly associated with human trafficking;
- (B) recognition of potential victims of human trafficking; and
- (C) methods for assisting victims of human trafficking, including how to report human trafficking.

4.2.13 Topic Thirteen: Comprehensive Examination

Minimum Time: 5 Minutes

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 percent or above).

Important Note: The remaining 65 minutes of instruction shall be allocated to the topics included in the minimum course content or to additional driving safety topics that satisfy the educational objectives of the course.