



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

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Specialized Driving Safety Course
(COI-Specialized Driving Safety)

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

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COURSE OF ORGANIZED INSTRUCTION FOR SIX-HOUR SPECIALIZED DRIVING SAFETY

Chapter One: Program Introduction

- 1.0 General.** This guide details the required course content and minimum instruction requirements for the classroom instruction for a Specialized Driving Safety program 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 Specialized Driving Safety classroom instruction shall include the instructional objectives, knowledge and skills, and student expectations 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:

- 2.0 Traditional Course.** A six-hour curriculum attended in person by the student at an approved specialized 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.
- 2.1 Alternative Delivery Method (ADM).** A six-hour curriculum that does not require the student to be present in a classroom location. The curriculum shall be instructed through an alternative delivery method approved by the Department.

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Chapter Three: Instructional Objectives

- 3.0 Educational Objectives of this Course.** The educational objectives of specialized driving safety courses shall include, but not be limited to information relating to human trafficking prevention, improving the student's knowledge and use of, compliance with, and attitude toward the use of child passenger safety seat systems and the wearing of a seat belt and other occupant restraint systems, safe operation of a motor vehicle around an oversize or overweight vehicle, including safe following distances and safe passing methods, the passing of certain vehicles as described in Transportation Code §545.157, the dangers and consequences of street racing, and educating the student on the proper law enforcement procedures for traffic stops in accordance with the provisions of the Community Safety Education Act (Senate Bill 30, 85th Regular Legislature (2017)).

Chapter Four: Curriculum Instruction Characteristics

4.0 General. A specialized driving safety course shall include, as a minimum, four hours of instruction that encourages the use of child passenger safety seat systems and the wearing of seat belts, etc., and materials adequate to assure the student masters the following topics and instructional objectives as a whole.

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

4.1 Topic One: Course Introduction

Minimum Instruction Time: 10 Minutes

Objective: To orient students to the classroom and help the student recognize the value of legal and responsible reduced-risk driving practices and accepts driving as a privilege with responsibilities, obligations, and potential consequences.

4.1.1 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; and
- (D) student course evaluation procedures.

4.2 Topic Two: Occupant Protection Problem

Minimum Instruction Time: 15 Minutes

Objective: To develop an understanding of Texas occupant protection laws and the national and state goals regarding occupant protection.

4.2.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) identification of Texas Occupant Protection Laws;
- (B) deaths, injuries, and economic losses related to improper use of occupant restraint systems; and
- (C) national and state goals regarding occupant protection.

4.3 Topic Three: Factors Influencing Driver Performance

Minimum Instruction Time: 25 Minutes

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

4.3.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) attitudes, habits, feelings, and emotions;
- (B) alcohol and other drugs;
- (C) physical condition;

- (D) knowledge of driving laws and procedure including law enforcement procedures for traffic stops in accordance with the provisions of the Community Safety Education Act (Senate Bill 30, 85th Regular Legislature);
- (E) understanding the driving task; and
- (F) knowing when and the procedure to yield the right-of-way to emergency vehicles, as described in Transportation Code §545.157, school buses, and pedestrians.

4.4 Topic Four: Physical Forces That Influence Driver Control

Minimum Instruction Time: 10 Minutes

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

4.4.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

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

4.5 Topic Five: Perceptual Skills Needed for Driving

Minimum Instruction Time: 10 Minutes

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

4.5.1 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.

4.6 Topic Six: Occupant Protection Equipment

Minimum Instruction Time: 35 Minutes

Objective: To identify the improvements and technological advances in automotive design and construction.

4.6.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) anti-lock brakes;

- (B) traction control devices;
- (C) suspension control devices;
- (D) electronic stability/active handling systems;
- (E) crumple zones;
- (F) door latch improvements;
- (G) tempered or safety glass;
- (H) headlights; and
- (I) visibility enhancements.

4.7 Topic Seven: Occupant Restraint Systems

Minimum Instruction Time: 60 Minutes

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

4.7.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) safety belts, airbags, and other protective equipment;
- (B) proper usage and necessary precautions;
- (C) vehicle control and driver stability;
- (D) crash dynamics and protection; and
- (E) operational principles (active versus passive).

4.8 Topic Eight: Child Passenger Safety

Minimum Instruction Time: 120 Minutes

Objective: To understand the child passenger safety law in Texas; the importance of child safety seats; and the risks to children that are unrestrained or not properly restrained.

4.8.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) misconceptions or mistaken ideas regarding child passenger safety;
- (B) purpose of child safety seats;
- (C) how to secure the child properly and factors to consider;
- (D) child safety seat types and parts;
- (E) precautions regarding child safety seats;
- (F) correct installation of a child safety restraint system;

- (G) tips regarding child safety restraint systems;
- (H) safe operation of a motor vehicle near an oversize or overweight vehicle, including safe following distances and safe passing methods; and
- (I) dangers involved in locking or leaving children in vehicles unattended.

4.9 Topic Nine: Human Trafficking

Minimum Instruction Time: To be Determined by Instructor

Objective: Recognize the key indicators of human trafficking.

4.9.1 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.

4.10 Topic Ten: 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 10 minutes of instruction shall be allocated to the topics included in the minimum course content or to additional occupant protection topics that satisfy the educational objectives of the course.