PROGRAM OF ORGANIZED INSTRUCTION (POI) FOR DRIVER EDUCATION AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

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Exclusively for Adults 6-Hour Course
(POI-Adult Six-Hour)

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, Education and Examination Division
www.tdlr.texas.gov

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NOTICE

The Program of Organized Instruction (POI) is not curriculum. It is a manual created for providers, that includes the required course content for the six-hour classroom instruction for the adult driver education course. Providers using a third-party source, or their own curriculum will use that with the POI, Driver Education & Safety laws and rules, and the current Texas Driver Handbook to create a strong driver education course.

PROGRAM OF ORGANIZED INSTRUCTION FOR ADULT SIX-HOUR DRIVER EDUCATION AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

Chapter One: Program Introduction

1.1 General. This guide details the required course content and minimum instruction requirements for the classroom instruction phase for the Exclusively for Adults driver education 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 Adult Driver Education and Traffic 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 for the topics expressed herein are to be determined by the provider to maximize effective instructional techniques and student mastery of course content. 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), or the TDLR executive director 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. An Adult six-hour curriculum attended in person by the student at an approved driver education school classroom location. In a traditional classroom location, the licensee is responsible to ensure sufficient seating and desks or tables that allows students to comprehend classroom instruction.

2.2 Online Course. An Adult six-hour curriculum that does not require the student to be present in a classroom location. The curriculum shall be instructed online as approved by the Department.

Chapter Three: Instructional Objectives

3.1 General. In Texas, the **Driver Education and Traffic Safety Program** provides new drivers the foundation of knowledge, understanding, skills, and experiences necessary for new drivers to drive legally and safely. This foundation is provided by licensed instructors, parents, guardians, or adult mentors through a classroom of culturally responsive instructional techniques that include knowledge assessment, skill assessment, guided observation, and parental/mentor involvement.

3.2 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 educational objectives of driver training courses must include promoting respect for and encouraging observance of traffic laws and traffic safety responsibilities of driver education and citizens; instruction on law enforcement procedures for traffic stops; human trafficking prevention; litter prevention; anatomical gifts; leaving children in vehicles unattended; distractions; motorcycle awareness; recreational water safety; information relating to the Texas Driving with Disabilities Program; safely operating a vehicle near oversize or overweight vehicles; the passing of certain vehicles as described in Transportation Code §545.157; the dangers and consequences of street racing; alcohol awareness and its effect on motor vehicle operation; reducing traffic violations, injuries, deaths, and economic losses; proper child passenger safety seat system use; information relating to penalties, fines, and inherent dangers such as bodily injury, death, and property damage in construction and maintenance work zones; and instilling safe driving habits through education, including Texas traffic laws, risk management, driver attitudes, courtesy skills, and evasive driving techniques.

Chapter Four: Minimum Course Content

4.1 Driving Safety Topics of Instruction. The driver education course exclusively for adults shall consist of six clock hours of classroom instruction that meets the following topics.

4.1.1 Topic One: Course Introduction

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.

4.1.1.1 Classroom Instruction Requirements:

(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; and

(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 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.

4.1.2 Topic Two: Your License to Drive

Objective: The student reduces risk and accepts driving as a privilege by legally and responsibly possessing

a driver license, registering a motor vehicle, and obeying the Safety Responsibility Act.

Resource: Texas Driver Handbook, Chapters 1-3

4.1.2.1 Classroom Instruction Requirements:

(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;

(F) reduce risk and accept driving as a privilege by legally and responsibly possessing a driver license, registering a motor vehicle, and obeying the Safety Responsibility Act; and

(G) explain the Texas Drivers with Disabilities Program and its underlying purposes and policies and the procedure by which a driver may participate in the program to place a notice on a driver license.

4.1.3 Topic Three: Right-of-Way

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

Resource: Texas Driver Handbook, Chapter 4

4.1.3.1 Classroom Instruction Requirements:

(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, traffic circles, construction or maintenance work zones, 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 "Move Over and Slow Down Law" (HB 3319, 87th Regular Legislature 2021), as described in Transportation Code §545.157, 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.

4.1.4 Topic Four: Traffic Control Devices

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

Resource: Texas Driver Handbook, Chapter 5

4.1.4.1 Classroom Instruction Requirements:

(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.

4.1.5 Topic Five: Controlling Traffic Flow

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

Resource: Texas Driver Handbook, Chapters 6-9

4.1.5.1 Classroom Instruction Requirements:

(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;

(P) reduce risk by legally and responsibly applying knowledge and understanding of laws and procedures for controlling traffic flow; and

(Q) define construction or maintenance work zones and identify inherent dangers associated with violating traffic laws in those zones such as bodily injury, death, and property damage and explain ways to promote safe driving practices.

4.1.6 Topic Six: Alcohol and Other Drugs

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.

Resource: Texas Driver Handbook, Chapter 10

4.1.6.1 Classroom Instruction Requirements:

(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, and Open Container Enhancement Law;

(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.

4.1.7 Topic Seven: Cooperating with Other Roadway Users

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, and safely operating a motor vehicle near an oversize or overweight vehicle, or in construction zones, including safe following distances and safe passing methods to reduce inherent dangers such as bodily injury, death, and property damage.

Resource: Texas Driver Handbook, Chapters 11-14

4.1.7.1 Classroom Instruction Requirements:

(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, light rail, person on horseback, horse driven conveyance, slow-moving vehicles, persons and vehicles in construction or maintenance work zones;

(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) show and explain the Community Education Safety Act (Senate Bill 30) video and instructional materials;

(H) define aggressive driving and list ways to avoid personal or other roadway users aggressive driving;

(I) explain the responsibilities for transporting cargo, using safety chains, and towing;

(J) list the causes and consequences of carbon monoxide poisoning and state avoidance procedures;

(K) reduce risk by legally and responsibly cooperating with law enforcement and other roadway users including vulnerable roadway users including emergency and potential emergency situations;

(L) reduce risk by safely operating a motor vehicle near an oversize or overweight vehicle, including safe following distances and safe passing methods; and

(M) explain the Texas Driving with Disabilities Program**.** Curriculum is expected to instruct the student on the following:

1. How to participate in the program;

2. How to identify which diagnoses may be considered a “Communication Impediment” for the Texas Driving with Disability Program;

3. Identify which form the student should have their doctor fill out and take to DPS to have “Communication Impediment” added to the front of their Driver License or Texas State ID card;

4. Explain where to find the Communication Impediment with a Peace Officer on a Driver License or a Texas State ID card; and

5. Identify which forms a student would need to complete with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to disclose their Communication Impediment or Deaf/Hard of Hearing in The Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (TLETS).

4.1.8 Topic Eight: Managing Risk

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.

4.1.8.1 Classroom Instruction Requirements:

(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 but not limited to; mental, emotional, and physical fatigue and illnesses;

(D) list distractions that affect driving including but not limited to; vehicle navigation systems, music systems, vehicle controls, mobile phones, passengers and pets;

(E) understand the dangers of speed and its impact on reduced-risk driving practices, including the dangers and consequences of street racing in violation of Transportation Code §545.420;

(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 but not limited to; text messaging while driving, eating & drinking while driving, personal grooming, multi-tasking, working in the vehicle, reading while driving;

(I) reduce risk by legally and responsibly applying knowledge, understanding and safe driving practices to manage issues commonly associated with motor vehicle collisions; and

(J) recognize the key indicators of human trafficking by:

- identifying activities commonly associated with human trafficking;
- recognizing of potential victims of human trafficking; and
- learning methods for assisting victims of human trafficking, including how to report human trafficking.

4.1.9 Topic Nine: Classroom Progress Assessment

Objective: Texas Department of Public Safety Highway Sign and Traffic Law examination. 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).

Required Exam: Texas Department of Public Safety Highway Sign and Traffic Law Examination

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