

Rhode Island

Division of Motor Vehicles



Modified Driver Skills Testing

**A guide to non-commercial
operator's license road test preparation**

July 2020

Preparation Guide

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Modified Testing

In accordance with Rhode Island General Law, prior to issuance of a first license, residents are required to pass a skills test aka “road test” in order to demonstrate that they have acquired the skills necessary to be deemed a safe driver. These tests are normally proctored by means of a motor vehicle operator examiner (MVOE) accompanying an applicant in a vehicle and directing them through a predefined route and set of maneuvers.

With the outbreak of the COVID19 pandemic in mid-March of 2020, being confined in a vehicle, for an extended period, with numerous individuals presents health concerns for the applicants and examiners.

The Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles, Road Test Office has developed this modified testing process based on the following key pillars:

- Customer and employee safety;
- Restoration of services to citizens in the safest manner possible

Closed Course Testing

Beginning in June of 2020 DMV examiners will be proctoring non-commercial skills tests on a closed course and from outside the vehicle. This testing process will consist of four segments that have been prescribed for applicants to demonstrate that they possess the basic core skills to be deemed a safe driver.

The following pages contain information intended to help prepare for these tests as well as how to be prepared for the day of the test. Please take the time to review these requirements.

Scheduling / Rescheduling

Beginning in June of 2020 DMV will be scheduling at two closed course locations, first at Providence and later in the month Cranston. Priority shall be given to any customers that have had appointments cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

DMV will be contacting all applicants that have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic to assist with rescheduling.

Any tests scheduled at branch locations (Middletown, Wakefield, or Woonsocket) may be [rescheduled](#) to one of these two closed course locations.



Modified Driver Skills Testing

Vehicle Requirements

The vehicle to be used must have a valid RHODE ISLAND registration. The only exceptions are as follows:

- If the vehicle is registered to a military person or a family member of a military person stationed in RI. (valid military ID is required)
- A driving school with a valid out-of-state registration, must have current special RI Financial Responsibility Insurance Certificate (GU-1338) on file with RI DMV.

The Road Test Examiner will conduct an inspection of the following items prior to allowing the vehicle to be used for testing:

- **Valid RI registration/plates**
- **Valid RI Inspection Sticker***
- **Directional Lights**
- **Headlights**
- **Brake Lights**
- **Hazard Lights**
- **Tires**
- **Windows (must roll down)**
- **Sunscreen Tinting**
- **Aftermarket Window Tinting**

*Vehicles less than 2 years old and under 24,000 miles are exempt

Vehicle Prohibitions

- No cameras or recording devices will be allowed during the test
- Due to the lack of modern safety features, NO tests will be permitted in antique vehicles
- No rental vehicles are allowed for the road tests
- No pets allowed in the vehicle

Arrival at the Testing Location

Your Modified Driver Skills Testing appointment will be scheduled at one of two locations:

PROVIDENCE

325 Melrose St
Providence RI 02907

CRANSTON

600 New London Ave.
Cranston RI 02920

Check your appointment receipt for your scheduled location.

Upon arrival at the scheduled testing location at your scheduled time:

- Remain in your vehicle; you will be directed by signage to a waiting lane where you can wait safely in your vehicle. The examiner will give you further instructions from a safe distance outside the vehicle when it is your turn.
- Place your permit on the dashboard in front of the driver so as to be visible from outside the vehicle
- Each applicant may be accompanied by ONE additional person
- A supervising driver or driver mentor shall remain seated in the passengers front seat during the closed course skills testing but shall not be allowed to give directions. Any coaching or intervention by the passenger shall result in an automatic failure.

We highly recommend that you use a vehicle that you are familiar with and have had an opportunity to practice in.

We also recommend that you test the required equipment and items in advance of your test date. This will avoid any situation that may prevent testing.

Pre-test Vehicle Inspection

You must be completely familiar with all vehicle controls. The examiner will perform a visual inspection of the vehicle and ask you to activate several components in order to demonstrate your familiarity with the controls of the vehicle. These shall include but not be limited to:

- **Starting the Engine**
- **Headlights (low and high beams)**
- **L and R turn signals* (front / rear)**
- **Windshield Wipers**
- **Horn**
- **Hazard Lights**

Each directive you are not able to follow will count as an error.



Basic Vehicle Control Skills Test

Preparing for Your Skills Test

With a qualified supervising driver, practice these exercises in a safe area, such as a parking lot or residential area until you can correctly complete them. Try practicing the exercises in a variety of vehicles and locations.

Test Exercises

Your basic control skills test shall consist of the following exercises:

- **Maneuverability Test**
- **Parallel Parking Test**
- **Three-Point Turnabout**
- **Backing Maneuver**

These exercises are shown on the following pages.

Instructions

The examiner will give you detailed instruction for completing the test exercises and you will be given the opportunity to ask questions.

Scoring

Reversal – A reversal is when you stop and change direction to get a better position. You will not receive points for the first two reversals. Each additional time you reverse direction it is counted as an error. Stopping without changing direction does not count as a reversal.

Encroachments – Touching or crossing over an exercise boundary line or cone with any part of your vehicle, other than the vehicle's mirrors is considered an encroachment. Each encroachment will count as an error.

Turn Signals – When performing an exercise you must use the correct turn signal to indicate the direction that you are turning. Each time you fail to use or improperly use your turn signal it will count as an error. If your turn signal cancels automatically make sure to reactivate it when necessary.

Traffic Check(s) – When performing an exercise it is important to check traffic prior to entering or exiting a roadway. You must make sure that it is safe to perform the exercise and that the roadway is clear in both directions

before entering back into traffic or leaving the exercise area. You should turn your head to check traffic to the sides and rear and to check side and rearview mirrors. If you are testing in a car that has back-up or side-view cameras, you will have to check those too. You will be scored if you do not use traffic checks during the exercises.

Inside 12" of Curb Line – If you are required to complete the parallel parking exercise, your vehicle must be completely in the parking space and both of the vehicle's tires have to be within 12" of the curb line. If your vehicle is not within 12" curb line when you have finished the exercise, it will be counted as an error.

Final Position / Completed Exercise – It is important that you finish each exercise exactly as the examiner has instructed you. If you cannot complete an exercise; or do not maneuver the vehicle into its final position as described by the examiner, points will be added to your score.

Failures

If more than 15 points are accumulated, the test will be considered a failure.

Automatic Failures

Any of the following violations shall result in the immediate failure of the test:

- **Seat belt violation (driver and/or passenger)**
- **Stop Sign Violation**
- **Running over curb or cone with one or more wheels**
- **Intervention by passenger (verbal or Physical Intervention)**
- **Collision with barrier**
- **Any dangerous action**



Basic Skills Test Exercises

Maneuverability Test

Step One

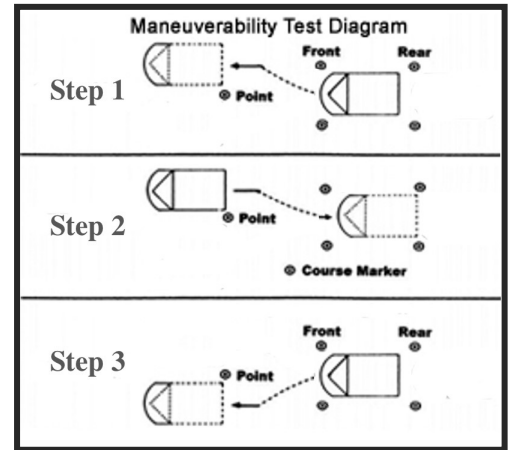
- Drive forward into a 9' by 20' box formed by four markers. (Measurements are taken from the center of the markers). Examiner will direct driver to steer to the right of the center marker.
- Steer straight ahead and stop when the rear bumper of the car is even with the center marker and generally parallel with the course.

Step Two

- From a stopped position at the end of step one, driver must back past the center marker, straighten the car and back into the 9' by 20' box formed by four markers, coming to a stop with the front bumper even with the two front markers and generally parallel with the course.

Step Three

- From a stopped position at the end of step two, Examiner will direct driver to steer to the left of the center marker, coming to a stop with the bumper even with center marker and generally parallel with the course.



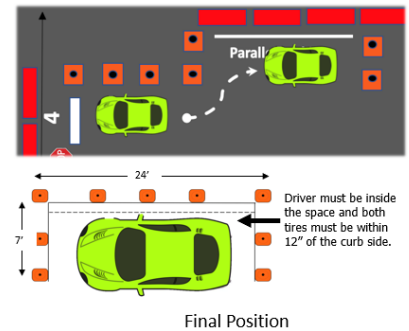
Parallel Parking Test

Step One

- After verbal instruction and when instructed to begin by the examiner, the applicant will be required to parallel park into a space to the right.

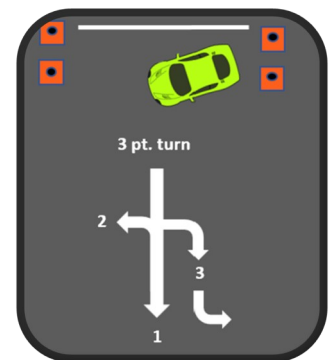
Step Two

- The driver will activate the correct turn signal, back past the cones and back the vehicle until it is completely within the parking space. The driver should try to bring the vehicle within 12 inches of the curb and generally parallel with the course.



Three-Point Turnabout

- Signal your intent with your left directional signal or with the four way hazard lights.
- Check for on-coming traffic in both directions.
- Turn the steering wheel fully to the left and slowly drive forward, crossing the street.
- At a point before the left side curb, stop, again check for traffic in all directions.
- Turn the steering wheel fully to the right and begin to back up. When you have reached a point where the front of the car is in the middle of the street, stop.
- Again check for traffic in all directions, turn the steering wheel to the left and proceed in the opposite direction.
- Remember to turn off your directional signal or hazard lights.

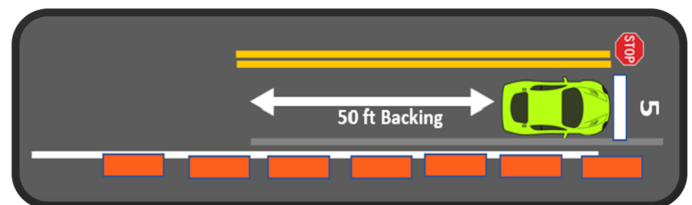


Backing Maneuver

- Applicants will be asked to back up from a fixed point for approximately 50 feet.
- Applicants will be expected to demonstrate the ability to control the vehicle and maintain a reasonable fixed distance from the curb.
- Back slowly; Your vehicle is more difficult to control when you are backing.

Examiner will be watching for:

- Looking over the right shoulder, while partially turning the body
- Maintaining proper control of the vehicle in a straight line within lane
- Periodically check all mirrors to be sure that no other vehicles, pedestrians, or obstacles are in your path of travel.



Post Testing

First License Issuance

Applicants who successfully complete and pass the test may upgrade their permit to a first license at the scheduled testing location subsequent to the test. The following documents will be required when called to the licensing counter **after** successfully passing the test.

- ☐ Original permit. (photocopies are **not** acceptable)
- ☐ Completed [Application for License, Identification Card and Permits \(LI-1\)](#) form*
- ☐ [Identity Document](#)
- ☐ [Social Security Document](#)
- ☐ [Proof of Address \(2 different documents\)](#)
- ☐ [Payment for first license](#)

Additional requirements for applicants under 18 years of age

- ☐ Affidavit of 50 hours driving experience*
 - * Documents may be notarized at DMV if all parties signing the form are present during first license issuance transaction. **If parent/guardian is not present, documents MUST be notarized prior to arrival.**

Rescheduling

Applicants who are unsuccessful in passing the test may schedule their next test online. A minimum waiting period after a road test failure has been established to allow adequate time for applicants to acquire the necessary skills, through additional instruction and practice, in order to pass the road test and be issued a full license to operate. Tests may be scheduled and rescheduled at https://www.ri.gov/app/dmv/road_tests/

The Procedure For Scheduling Tests After A Failure Is As Follows

SUBSEQUENT TO THE 1st FAILURE:

Applicant may return in no less than 30 days

SUBSEQUENT TO A 2nd FAILURE:

Applicant may return in no less than 90 days

SUBSEQUENT TO 3 OR MORE FAILURES:

Applicant may return in no less than 180 days



TESTING LOCATIONS



PROVIDENCE

[325 Melrose St](#)
[Providence RI 02907](#)
401-462-5750



CRANSTON

[600 New London Ave](#)
[Cranston RI 02920](#)
401-462-4368

