

Carnegie Mellon University

Office of International Education

5000 Forbes Ave, Posner Hall 1st Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
 Phone: (412) 268-5231 • Email: oiie@andrew.cmu.edu • Web: www.cmu.edu/oiie

Pennsylvania Driver's License and State ID Information for Non-US Citizens

Many non-immigrants and their dependents obtain a Pennsylvania (PA) driver's license or state identification (ID) card through the PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT). In addition to providing visitors the opportunity to drive, a state-issued photo ID can be a good alternative to the passport. Each state has different requirements for the issuance of driver's licenses and state ID cards. This handout provides detailed information for non-immigrants in F, J, and H status who wish to obtain a PA driver's license or state ID card.

To be eligible for a PA driver's license or state ID, a non-immigrant must have at least one year remaining on their immigration document (I-20, DS-2019, or H-1B/H-4 Approval Notice). Generally, visitors who will be in the U.S. for less than one year are expected to use their home country driver's license plus the international driver's permit (in English). International driver's permits must be obtained outside of the U.S.

Driver's License	State ID Card	Renewing a Driver's License or ID
You will be required to take four exams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical exam (available at University Health Service if you are a CMU student) • Written knowledge exam • Vision exam • Road exam Those with a valid license from another U.S. state may be exempt from some of these exams.	If you do not plan on driving, but want a government-issued form of identification, you can obtain a Pennsylvania Photo Identification Card .	You will need to visit a local Driver License Center to renew your Driver's License or ID Card. Complete and bring a renewal application (DL-143). Review the required documents on the second page of this informational sheet.

REQUIRED STEPS

STEP 1: Review the chart on the following page to determine what additional documents and forms you will need to bring with you to a Driver's License Center.

STEP 2: Review the [PA Driver's License Manual](#) – If applying for a Driver's License. Manuals can be found on the PennDOT website: <https://www.dot.state.pa.us>

STEP 3: Visit a Driver's License Center to submit the required documents and forms. For additional information: www.dmv.state.pa.us

Required Documents and Forms to Obtain a Pennsylvania Driver's License or State ID Card:

DOCUMENTATION / FORMS	F-1 Student F-2 Dependent	J-1 Student J-2 Dependent	J-1 Scholar J-2 Dependent	H-1B H-4 Dependent
Passport	X	X	X	X
I-94 Record (printout from https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/home) or white paper I-94 card	X	X	X	X
Form I-20 Employment Authorization Document (EAD), if participating in OPT.*	X X			
Form DS-2019		X	X	
H-1B approval notice Social Security Card, or denial letter from Social Security Office stating that you are not eligible for a Social Security Number (SSN).**	X	X	X	X X
Two (2) documents verifying your Pennsylvania address (lease agreement, utility bill, bank statement, etc.). Note: cell phone bills are not acceptable. For undergrads living on campus, see below. ***	X	X	X	X
Driver's License Application Form (DL-180), with medical exam portion completed by medical professional OR Application for Initial Photo ID Card (DL-54A).	X	X	X	X

* PennDOT will not renew or issue a Driver's License or ID card for an OPT participant before the start date listed on the EAD.

** To apply for an [SSN or denial letter](#), you must apply in person at a local Social Security Office. Be sure to take all of your immigration documents with you to make this application. If eligible for an SSN, the card will be mailed to you in 7-10 days. If applying for a denial letter, the letter will be printed while you wait. This denial letter does not make you ineligible to apply for an SSN in the future.

***For undergraduates living on campus, you may request a letter verifying on campus residency by emailing rmassign@andrew.cmu.edu. These documents are usually ready within 72 hours and residents will be notified when they are available for pick-up in the Housing Services office. You will need a second form of proof of residency from the list above.

Locations and Hours for Social Security:	East Liberty: 6117 Penn Circle North, Pittsburgh, PA 15206	Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9AM-4PM, Weds 9AM-12PM
	Downtown: 921 Penn Avenue (9th & Penn), Pittsburgh, PA 15222	Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9AM-4PM, Weds 9AM-12PM

Locations for PA Driver's License Centers:	State Office DL Center 708 Smithfield St. Pittsburgh, PA 15222 Phone: (412) 565-7781	Penn Hills DL Center Penn Hills Shopping Ctr. 11620 Keleket Drive Penn Hills, PA 15235 Phone: (412) 371-1960	Allison Park DL Center Duncan Manor Shopping Ctr. 1701 Duncan Avenue Allison Park, PA 15101 Phone: (412) 366-3502	Bridgeville DL Center 1025 Washington Pike Rt. 50 Bridgeville, PA 15017 Phone: (412) 220-0273
---	---	--	---	---