

CDL Class B Program General Information



Overview

CDL Class B operators have the opportunity to drive a variety of commercial vehicles including dump trucks, delivery trucks, box trucks, and other vehicles more than 26,000 pounds. HCC's CDL Class B program takes you through all the steps to start a new career as a professional truck driver. In addition to meeting the federal Entry Level Driver Training standard, HCC arranges your CDL testing at program completion. Program entry does require you to first obtain your Department of Transportation physical. Learner's Permit in state of residency, and to provide a non-DOT, 10-panel drug screen no more than 30 days before starting.

Theory Instruction

In-class instruction is led by a professional truck driver and focuses on the theory required for the federal Entry Level Driver Training.

- Basic operation including control systems and transmissions
- Identify safe operation of a commercial vehicle including speed/space management
- Advanced operating practices such as hazard perception
- Non-driving activities
- Awareness of Docking/Warehouse Safety (safe load handling)
- Recognize issues related to safe driving, including hours of service, fatigue, medical requirements
- Review pre/post-trip procedures for a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV)

Range and Road Instruction

This course will also provide the major skills training and practice necessary in preparation for the CDL Class B driving exam. Content meets the federal Entry Level Driver Training requirements for range and road.

- Vehicle Inspection Pre-Trip/In-Route/Post-Trip
- Straight Line Backing
- Alley Dock Backing (45/90 Degree)
- Off-Set Backing
- Parallel Parking Blind/Sight Side
- Vehicle Controls Including: Left Turns, Right Turns, Lane Changes, Curves at Highway Speeds, and Entry/Exit on the Interstate or Controlled Access Highway
- Shifting/Transmission
- Communications/Signaling
- Speed and Space Management
- Safe Driver Behavior
- Hours-of-Service Requirements
- Hazard Perception*
- Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing*
- Night Operation*
- Extreme Driving Conditions*
- Skid Control/Recovery, Jackknifing, and Other Emergencies*
- CDL Class "B" Practical Exam Preparation
- Visual Search

*These topics will be discussed during public road training, but not necessarily performed. Driver-trainees are not required to demonstrate proficiency in these skills by the DOT/FMCSA.

Cost

Program fee: \$1,870

Includes tuition, materials fee, and registration fee.

*Because this is a short class, **you must have your permit before you start the class.**

Pick up the free Commercial Driver License Manual at your state MVA/DMV and study the appropriate chapters for the written exam. Practice website for Learner's Permit: www.thetruckersreport.com OR register for a six-hour CDL Learner's Permit Prep class for only \$28 (see our website at hagerstowncc.edu/GoDrive for more details).

Please check with your state's MVA/DMV to be sure you have no outstanding violations that would prevent you from obtaining your CDL permit or license.



CDL Class B Program FAQ



What are the entrance requirements for the training course?

- Must possess a valid license, obtain a CDL B Learner's Permit with Air Brake endorsement, and be 18 years of age. Provisional licenses do not qualify for commercial Learner's Permits (license must be held for at least 18 months if first license).
- Must be able to pass the DOT Physical and a non-DOT 10 Panel Drug Screen.
- Must communicate in the English language sufficiently, as required by the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- Must be a permanent resident of the United States.

I am not a Maryland resident. Do I need to transfer my license to Maryland?

No. Currently licensed Pennsylvania or West Virginia residents should obtain a Learner's Permit from their state of residence. Testing is not provided outside of the three state region.

What if I have less than a perfect record?

A good driving record will be important in gaining employment. Each employer has specific insurance concerns and will consider each applicant on an individual basis.

What level of income can I expect to earn at entry level?

As an entry level Class B driver, starting salary ranges from \$25,000 - \$40,000 per year.

Do I need a CDL B learner's permit before I begin?

You must obtain your CDL Learner's Permit with Air Brake endorsement. Because the class is short, students will begin in-vehicle training quickly and must be properly licensed. There are also some special considerations for WV residents who must apply to the DMV in advance before taking the Learner's Permit exam.

How long does it take to complete the class?

Most classes meet on Saturdays and will be complete in 7 weeks; other classes may meet during the week and can be completed in as little as 4 weeks. See the Workforce Solutions & Continuing Education schedule for published dates.

How do I schedule to take my CDL B exam?

HCC staff will contact the MVA/DMV depending on residency and arrange a testing date at the end of class. Testing availability varies by state with a waiting period in some states due to volume.

Where does the training take place?

Classroom theory and skills practice will take place at the D.M. Bowman Family Workforce Training Center located at 562 Northern Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21742.

Schedule and Registration

TDV-053/054 – Published course dates are in the Workforce Solutions schedule online at www.hagerstowncc.edu/GoDrive but other dates may be offered depending on demand. Complete your DOT and Learner's Permit requirements and contact HCC to be added to the wait list if a start date is not immediately available.

To begin the registration process, contact Jack Drooger at 240-500-2453 or jadrooger@hagerstowncc.edu

Scholarship Information

Scan the QR code or visit www.hagerstowncc.edu/cefunding for scholarship information.

