

Summary of State Laws Addressing the Supervised Driving Requirement in Graduated Driver Licensing Systems

Graduated driver licensing (GDL) systems, which have been implemented by all states, are specialized requirements for beginner drivers to learn safe driving skills in stages. GDL systems usually have three phases: a learner permit phase, an intermediate or provisional phase, and an unrestricted phase. An important component of many state GDL programs is a supervised practice driving requirement.¹ Supervised driving laws require a parent or other individual to certify that the new driver completes a certain amount of practice driving supervised by an experienced driver before they can move to the next phase of licensure. Some states require that a certain number of these hours be completed at certain times of day or under certain driving conditions.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has advised that improvements to supervised driving would be beneficial in enhancing novice driver safety.² Such improvements to practice driving—such as enhancing communication with parents and novice drivers about practice driving requirements, providing guidance to parents about the best means of providing supervision, and devising more effective ways of tracking hours and conditions of supervised

¹ Some states also require behind-the-wheel instruction, which is distinct from the supervised driving hours requirement for purposes of this fact sheet and the Driver Education, Training, & Testing dataset (DETT) upon which it is based. **Behind-the-wheel instruction** is formalized in-car driving instruction provided by an instructor. **Supervised driving** involves a new driver practicing alongside an approved supervisor, typically a licensed adult. The DETT dataset is free and can be accessed online at <https://lawatlas.org/datasets/driver-education-training-and-testing>. Note that the data reflect state statutes and regulations that were in effect as of December 31, 2021.

² National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (2012). Novice teen driver education and training administrative standards: A tool for states. U.S. Department of Transportation, <https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/noviceteendrvttrainingadminstds.pdf>.

driving³—will undoubtedly involve changes to law and policy. This resource surveys state laws regarding five key components of supervised driving:

- express requirements for supervised driving hours,
- specified number of supervised driving hours,
- specified number or proportion of supervised driving hours that must occur at certain times of day, *e.g.*, at nighttime or during inclement weather,
- Who is authorized to supervise practice driving hours, and
- method of verifying supervised driving hours.

Required Supervised Driving Hours by State

State legislatures have broad discretion in determining appropriate driver licensing requirements, with 48 states and the District of Columbia expressly requiring supervised driving time at some point in the GDL process to obtain unrestricted licensure. As of March 24, 2025, Arkansas and Mississippi are the only states that do not require supervised driving hours.

While widespread, supervised practice driving provisions vary widely across jurisdictions. In five states that expressly require supervised practice driving—Alabama, Arizona, Nebraska, Nevada, and West Virginia—the requirement is one among other options or can be waived under certain circumstances. Alabama requires either completion of supervised driving hours or passage of a driver education course.⁴ Arizona requires supervised driving hours except for individuals who have completed a driver education program approved by the department of transportation.⁵ Nebraska requires supervised driving hours, except for individuals who provide proof of successful completion of a written examination and driving test administered by a driver safety course instructor.⁶ In Nevada, drivers can complete both a driver education course and a hands-on course in defensive driving in lieu of fulfilling the supervised driving requirement.⁷ West Virginia provides the option of requiring either completion of a driver's education course approved by the state Department of Education or supervised driving hours.⁸

Some states that require supervised driving hours permit a portion of the hours to be waived if the driver takes a simulator or other course. In Massachusetts, ten of the 40 required hours may be waived with completion of a driver skills development program.⁹ In Minnesota, ten of the 50 hours may be waived with completion of a supplemental parental curriculum.¹⁰

³ NHTSA, *The Role of Supervised Driving in a Graduated Driver Licensing Program* (2012), <https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/811598.pdf>.

⁴ Ala. Code § 32-6-7.2 (“This subdivision shall not be construed to require a course sanctioned by the State Department of Education to include the 50-hour requirement for behind-the-wheel driving practice.”).

⁵ Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 28-3174.

⁶ Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 60-4,120.01.

⁷ Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 483.2521(3).

⁸ W. Va. Code Ann. § 17B-2-3a(d)(1)(C).

⁹ Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 90, § 8; Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 90, § 32G 1/2; 540 Mass. Code Regs. 23.06.

¹⁰ Minn. Stat. Ann. § 171.05; Minn. Stat. Ann. § 171.055; Minn. Stat. Ann. § 171.0701.

Montana requires only 50 supervised driving hours for students who take a traditional traffic education course, compared to the 75 hours required of students who take a department-approved alternative traffic education course.¹¹

In some states, individuals who cannot complete a driver education course must complete additional supervised driving hours. For example, in Nevada, individuals who live further than a 30-mile radius from a driver education course may be eligible for licensure if they complete an additional 50 hours of supervised driving.¹² In Oregon, drivers who do not complete driver education must complete 100 supervised driving hours, compared to the 50 hours required of those who do complete driver education.¹³

In Maryland, the required quantity of supervised hours varies by age. Maryland requires drivers younger than 25 years of age to obtain 60 hours of supervised driving time,¹⁴ while drivers 25 years and older must obtain only 14 hours of supervised driving time.¹⁵

Additionally, some states require a specified number of supervised driving hours based on GDL phase. For example, Iowa requires 20 hours of supervised driving for intermediate licensure and an additional 10 hours of supervised driving to obtain a fully unrestricted license.¹⁶ In Michigan, 30 of the 50 required hours must be completed prior to advancing to segment two of the driver education program.¹⁷ In North Carolina, individuals must complete 60 hours during the learner permit phase and 12 hours during the limited provisional phase.¹⁸

¹¹ Mont. Code Ann. § 61-5-132; Mont. Admin. R. 10.13.409.

¹² Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 483.2521(2).

¹³ Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 807.065(1)(d).

¹⁴ Md. Code Ann., Transp. § 16-105(d)(2)(ii)(2) and Md. Code Ann., Transp. § 16-105(d)(3)(ii)(2).

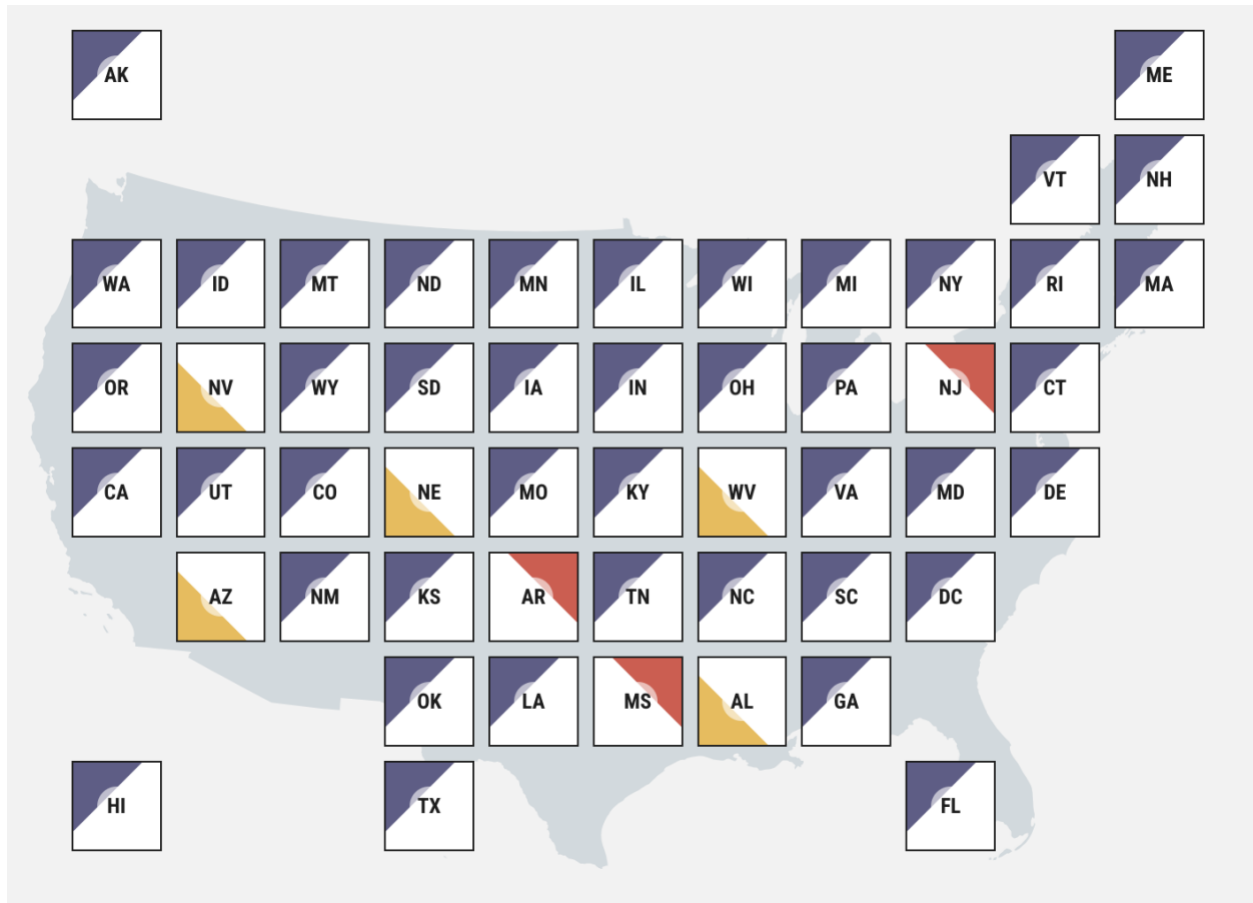
¹⁵ Md. Code Ann., Transp. § 16-105(d)(4)(ii)(2).


¹⁶ Iowa Code Ann. §§ 321.178A; 321.180B.


¹⁷ Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 256.659.


¹⁸ N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 20-11.

Figure 1. Map showing state supervised practice requirements by law as of December 31, 2021*



 Supervised driving is required

 Supervised driving is required but is an option or can be waived under certain circumstances

 No codified provision requiring supervised driving

*Note that these data are based on laws effective as of December 31, 2021. New Jersey recently updated its law to require 50 hours of supervised driving, with 10 hours at night, effective February 1, 2025. (P.L.2023, c.132)

Required Hours in Specified Conditions

Some states that mandate supervised practice driving require that a specified number of those hours occur at certain times of day or under certain driving conditions. For example, four states require supervised driving hours to occur during **inclement weather**: Alaska (unspecified amount totaling 10 hours in combination with nighttime hours), North Dakota (unspecified amount), Pennsylvania (5 hours), and South Dakota (10 hours).¹⁹ Forty-five states require that at least some supervised driving hours be completed at night.²⁰

The District of Columbia requires these nighttime hours to be completed during the provisional phase.²¹ Similarly, Iowa requires individuals to complete nighttime supervised driving during multiple GDL phases, specifically to obtain (1) an intermediate license and (2) a full driver's license.²² Michigan likewise requires two of the nighttime driving hours to be completed before advancing to segment 2 of driver education.²³

Nighttime Practice Requirement Varies Based on Driver Education Status in Some States²⁴

Some states require varying amounts of nighttime supervised driving hours based on whether the individual took a driver education course. For example, Arizona requires that individuals who did not take a driver education course complete 10 hours of nighttime driving, compared with the 6 hours of nighttime driving required for individuals who did take a driver education

¹⁹ Alaska Stat. Ann. § 28.15.055; N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 39-06-17(2)(e); 75 Pa. Stat. and Cons. Stat. Ann. § 1505; S.D. Codified Laws § 32-12-11.

²⁰ CPHLR (March 17, 2025). "Driver Education, Training, & Testing". LawAtlas.org. LawAtlas.org/datasets/driver-education-training-and-testing, query of research question 5.1.1. New Jersey was added using supplemental research to include laws effective as of March 2025 (New Jersey recently updated its law to require 50 hours of supervised driving, with 10 hours at night, effective February 1, 2025, N.J. Stat. Ann. § 39:3-13).

²¹ D.C. Code Ann. § 50-1401.01.

²² Iowa Code Ann. § 321.180B.

²³ Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 256.659; Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 257.310e.

²⁴ The states that fall under the red "Does Not Require Nighttime or Inclement Weather Driving" category are Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Mississippi, and Oregon. The states that fall under the gray "Requires Nighttime Driving, Only" category are Arizona, California, Colorado, DC, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming. The states that fall under the gold "Requires Both Nighttime and Inclement Weather Driving" category are Alaska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota.

course. Similarly, Iowa requires completion of 3 hours of nighttime driving during each phase of its GDL program for individuals who complete a parent-taught driver education course, compared to the 2 hours required of those who take a typical driver education course. Nebraska requires 10 hours of nighttime driving if the student takes a traditional traffic education course, compared to the 15 hours required of students who take an alternative traffic education course with Department approval.

While most states do not define “nighttime” driving, six states do. (See Table 3)

Nighttime Hours Requirement Varies Based on Age in Maryland

Maryland requires drivers younger than age 25 to complete 10 hours of nighttime driving, while requiring new drivers 25 years and older to complete only 3 hours of nighttime driving.

New Mexico’s Disability Exemption from Nighttime Driving Requirement

New Mexico provides the option for exemption from the nighttime driving requirement for individuals with limited nighttime vision.

Table 3. Definitions of “nighttime driving” in state law

State	Law	“Nighttime” Definition
California	Cal. Veh. Code § 280 Cal. Veh. Code § 12814.6	“any time from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise and any other time when visibility is not sufficient to render clearly discernible any person or vehicle on the highway at a distance of 1,000 feet.
Iowa	Iowa Code Ann. § 321.178A Iowa Code Ann. § 321.180B	“after sunset and before sunrise”
Maryland	Md. Code Ann., Transp. § 16-105	“the period beginning 30 minutes before sunset and ending 30 minutes after sunrise”
Nebraska	Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 60-4,120.01	“between sunrise and sunset”
Utah	Utah Code Ann. § 53-3-211	“during night hours after sunset”
Virginia	Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-335	“after sunset”

Figure 2. State laws requiring supervised driving in certain conditions

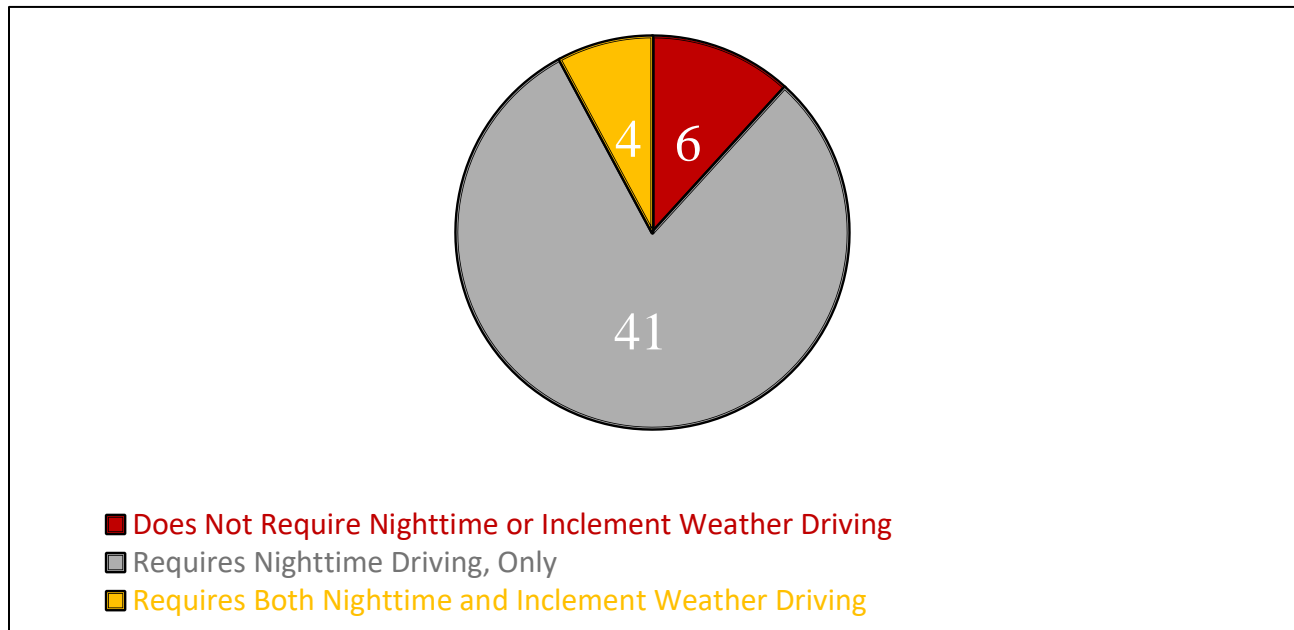


Table 2. Summary of supervised driving requirements by state

State	Law	Number of Required Supervised Driving Hours (Excluding BTW/In-Car Instruction Requirements)	Number of Required Nighttime or Inclement Weather Hours
Alabama	Ala. Code § 32-6-8	50 hours	None
	Ala. Code § 32-6-7.2	Note: May either complete supervised driving or driver education course	
	Ala. Admin. Code r. 290-3-1-.02		
Alaska	Alaska Stat. Ann. § 28.15.055	40 hours	10 hours of driving in progressively challenging circumstances, including driving in inclement weather and at nighttime
	Alaska Stat. Ann. § 28.15.051		
Arizona	Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 28-3174	30 hours without driver education	10 hours of nighttime driving without driver education course
		20 hours with driver education course from a defensive driving school or a traffic survival school	

State	Law	Number of Required Supervised Driving Hours (Excluding BTW/In-Car Instruction Requirements)	Number of Required Nighttime or Inclement Weather Hours
		Note: 0 hours required if taking traditional driver education program approved by the department of transportation	by a defensive driving school or a traffic survival school
Arkansas	N/A	None	None
California	Cal. Veh. Code § 12509 Cal. Veh. Code § 12814.6	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
Colorado	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 42-2-104 Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 42-2-106	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
Connecticut	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 14-36 Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 14-214	40 hours Note: Driver can complete practice driving hours with a combination of driving school, a course in public or private secondary school, or state-approved "home training."	Not specified
District of Columbia	D.C. Code Ann. § 50-1401.01	50 hours Note: 40 hours of supervised driving during learner permit phase and 10 hours of nighttime driving during provisional phase	10 hours of nighttime driving Note: Must be during provisional phase
Delaware	Del. Code Ann. tit. 21 § 2710	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
Florida	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 322.05	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
Georgia	Ga. Code Ann., § 40-5-22	40 hours	6 hours of nighttime driving

State	Law	Number of Required Supervised Driving Hours (Excluding BTW/In-Car Instruction Requirements)	Number of Required Nighttime or Inclement Weather Hours
Hawaii	Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 286-102.6	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
	Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 286-110		
	Haw. Admin. Rules (HAR) § 19-139-12		
Idaho	Idaho Code Ann. § 49-307	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
	Idaho Code Ann. § 49-310		
		Note: Students participating in parent-student on-road driver's training must complete 92 supervised hours, at least 50 of street or highway driving and at least 10 hours of nighttime driving.	
Illinois	625 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/6-107	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
	625 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/6-107.1		
	92 Ill. Adm. Code 1030.5		
	92 Ill. Adm. Code 1030.8		
Indiana	Ind. Code Ann. § 9-24-3-1	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
	Ind. Code Ann. § 9-24-9-2		
	Ind. Code Ann. § 9-24-7-7		

State	Law	Number of Required Supervised Driving Hours (Excluding BTW/In-Car Instruction Requirements)	Number of Required Nighttime or Inclement Weather Hours
	Ind. Code Ann. § 9-24-3-2.5		
Iowa	Iowa Code Ann. § 321.178 Iowa Code Ann. § 321.178A Iowa Code Ann. § 321.180 Iowa Code Ann. § 321.180B	20 hours required to obtain intermediate license. 10 additional hours required to obtain full license. Note: Driver can complete practice driving hours with a parent-taught driver education course.	2 hours of driving after sunset and before sunrise to obtain intermediate license; 2 hours of driving after sunset and before sunrise to obtain full driver's license 3 hours of driving after sunset and before sunrise when completing a parent-taught drivers education course
Kansas	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 8-235d Kan. Stat. Ann. § 8-2,101	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
Kentucky	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 186.452	60 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
Louisiana	La. Stat. Ann. § 32:405.1 La. Stat. Ann. § 32:407	50 hours	15 hours of nighttime driving
Maine	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 29-A, § 1304	70 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
Maryland	Md. Code Ann., Transp. § 16-105 Md. Code Regs. 11.17.14.02 Md. Code Regs. 11.17.14.12	60 hours for driver under 25 14 hours for drivers 25 and older	10 hours during the period beginning 30 minutes before sunset and ending 30 minutes after sunrise for drivers under 25 3 hours during the period beginning 30 minutes before sunset and ending 30 minutes

State	Law	Number of Required Supervised Driving Hours (Excluding BTW/In-Car Instruction Requirements)	Number of Required Nighttime or Inclement Weather Hours
	Md. Code Regs. 11.17.14.13		after sunrise for drivers 25 and older
Massachusetts	Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 90, § 8 Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 90, § 32G 1/2 540 Mass. Code Regs. 23.06	40 hours Note: 10 hours may be waived with completion of a driver skills development program	None
Michigan	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 256.659 Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 257.310e	50 hours Note: 30 hours must be completed before advancing to segment 2 of driver education	10 hours of nighttime driving Note: 2 hours must be completed before advancing to segment 2 of driver education
Minnesota	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 171.04 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 171.05 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 171.055 Minn. Stat. Ann. § 171.0701	50 hours Note: 10 hours may be waived with completion of supplemental parental curriculum	15 hours of nighttime driving
Mississippi	N/A	None	None
Missouri	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 302.130 Mo. Ann. Stat. § 302.178	40 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
Montana	Mont. Code Ann. § 61-5-132	50 hours if student takes a traditional traffic education course	10 hours of nighttime driving if student takes a traditional traffic education course

State	Law	Number of Required Supervised Driving Hours (Excluding BTW/In-Car Instruction Requirements)	Number of Required Nighttime or Inclement Weather Hours
	Mont. Admin. R. 10.13.409	75 hours if student takes a department approved alternative traffic education course	15 hours of nighttime driving if student takes an alternative traffic education course with Department approval
Nebraska	Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 60-4,120.01 Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 60-4,124 247 Neb. Admin. Code Ch. 11, § 003	50 hours	10 hours of driving between sunrise and sunset
Nevada	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 483.280 Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 483.727 Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 483.2521	50 hours Note: Driver must complete an additional 50 hours of supervised driving when done in lieu of driver education if driver lives ≥ 30-mile radius of a course. Driver can complete both a driver education course and a hands-on course in defensive driving in lieu of fulfilling the supervised driving requirement.	10 hours of nighttime driving
New Hampshire	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 263:19 N.H. Code Admin. R. Saf-C 1002.05	40 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
New Jersey	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 39:3-13.4 N.J. Stat. Ann. § 39:3-13	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
New Mexico	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 66-5-8	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving Note: Drivers with low nighttime vision may be exempted

State	Law	Number of Required Supervised Driving Hours (Excluding BTW/In-Car Instruction Requirements)	Number of Required Nighttime or Inclement Weather Hours
New York	N.Y. Veh. & Traf. Law § 394 N.Y. Veh. & Traf. Law § 501 N.Y. Veh. & Traf. Law § 502 N.Y. Veh. & Traf. Law § 507 N.Y. Educ. Law § 806-a	50 hours	15 hours of nighttime driving
North Carolina	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 20-11	60 hours with learner permit 12 hours with limited provisional license	10 hours of nighttime driving with learner permit 6 hours of nighttime driving with limited provisional license
North Dakota	N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 39-06-04 N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 39-06-17	50 hours	Not specified Note: Must include nighttime driving experience; driving on gravel, dirt, or aggregate surface road; driving in both rural and urban conditions; and winter driving conditions, but no hour requirement
Ohio	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4507.05 Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4507.21	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
Oklahoma	Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 47, § 6-105 Okla. Admin. Code 260:135-5-5	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving

State	Law	Number of Required Supervised Driving Hours (Excluding BTW/In-Car Instruction Requirements)	Number of Required Nighttime or Inclement Weather Hours
Oregon	Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 807.065	50 hours with driver education	None
		100 hours without driver education	
Pennsylvania	75 Pa. Stat. and Cons. Stat. Ann. § 1505	65 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
			5 hours of inclement weather driving
Rhode Island	32 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 31-10-6	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
	32 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 31-10-6.1		
South Carolina	S.C. Code Ann. § 56-1-100	40 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
	S.C. Code Ann. § 56-1-175		
	S.C. Code Ann. § 56-1-180		
South Dakota	S.D. Codified Laws § 32-12-11	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
			10 hours of inclement weather driving
Tennessee	Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-50-311	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
	Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1340-01-13-.05		
	Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1340-01-13-.13		

State	Law	Number of Required Supervised Driving Hours (Excluding BTW/In-Car Instruction Requirements)	Number of Required Nighttime or Inclement Weather Hours
Texas	Tex. Transp. Code Ann. § 521.222	30 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
	16 Tex. Admin. Code § 84.50		
	16 Tex. Admin. Code § 84.500		
	16 Tex. Admin. Code § 84.600		
Utah	Utah Code Ann. § 53-3-204	40 hours Note: 40 hours may include BTW hours and up to 5 hours of simulation time	10 hours of nighttime driving
	Utah Code Ann. § 53-3-210.5		
	Utah Code Ann. § 53-3-211		
Vermont	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 23, § 607	40 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
	Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 23, § 615		
Virginia	Va. Code Ann. § 46.2-335	45 hours	15 hours of nighttime driving
Washington	Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 46.20.075	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving
	Wash. Admin. Code 392-153-032		
West Virginia	W. Va. Code Ann. § 17B-2-3a	50 hours Note: May either complete supervised driving or driver education course	10 hours of nighttime driving
	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-6-8		

State	Law	Number of Required Supervised Driving Hours (Excluding BTW/In-Car Instruction Requirements)	Number of Required Nighttime or Inclement Weather Hours
	W. Va. Code R. § 91-4-5		
Wisconsin	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 343.06 Wis. Admin. Code § 104.055	50 hours Note: Up to 5 behind-the-wheel training hours may be counted toward the required supervised driving hours at a rate of 2 hours for each hour of actual driving.	10 hours of nighttime driving
Wyoming	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 31-7-110	50 hours	10 hours of nighttime driving

Permitted Driving Supervisors

As of December 31, 2021, only 27 states had specified which individuals were authorized by law to supervise practice driving hours. Of these states, all permit a parent or guardian with a valid driver's license to supervise practice driving.²⁵ Except for Colorado, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, "any adult with specified restrictions" may also supervise driving hours. Seven states permit driving instructors or driver education teachers to supervise driving hours.²⁶ In Missouri, individuals in a federal residential job program may have their driving hours supervised by a driving instructor,²⁷ and Iowa permits a "person certified by the department" to

²⁵ Ala. Code § 32-6-8; Ala. Code § 32-6-7.2; Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 42-2-104; Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 42-2-106; Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 14-214; Del. Code Ann. tit. 21 § 2710; Fla. Stat. Ann. § 322.05; Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 286-102.6; Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 286-110; Haw. Admin. Rules (HAR) § 19-139-12; Idaho Code Ann. § 49-307; Idaho Code Ann. § 49-310; 625 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/6-107; 625 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/6-107.1; 92 Ill. Adm. Code 1030.5; 92 Ill. Adm. Code 1030.8; Ind. Code Ann. § 9-24-3-2.5; Iowa Code Ann. § 321.178; Iowa Code Ann. § 321.178A; Iowa Code Ann. § 321.180; Iowa Code Ann. § 321.180B; La. Stat. Ann. § 32:405.1; Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 29-A, § 1304; Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 90 § 32; 540 Mass. Code Regs. 23.06; Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 256.659; Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 257.310e; Mo. Ann. Stat. § 302.130; Mo. Ann. Stat. § 302.178; Mont. Code Ann. § 61-5-132; Mont. Admin. R. 10.13.409; Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 60-4,120.01; Neb. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 60-4,124; 247 Neb. Admin. Code Ch. 11, § 003; N.H. Rev. Stat. § 263:19; N.Y. Veh. & Traf. Law § 394; N.Y. Veh. & Traf. Law § 501; N.Y. Veh. & Traf. Law § 502; N.Y. Veh. & Traf. Law § 507; N.Y. Educ. Law § 806-a; N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 20-11; Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4507.05; Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 4507.21; 75 Pa. Stat. and Cons. Stat. Ann. § 1505; 32 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 31-10-6; 32 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 31-10-6.1; S.C. Code Ann. § 56-1-100; S.C. Code Ann. § 56-1-175; S.C. Code Ann. § 56-1-180; S.D. Codified Laws § 32-12-11; Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-50-311; Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-50-102; Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1340-01-13-.05; Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1340-01-13-.13; Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 23, § 607; Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 23, § 615.

²⁶ Ala. Code § 32-6-7.2; Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 14-214; Ind. Code Ann. § 9-24-3-2.5; N.Y. Veh. & Traf. Law § 502; 32 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 31-10-6.1; Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-50-311; Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 23, § 607.

²⁷ Mo. Ann. Stat. § 302.130; Mo. Ann. Stat. § 302.178.

supervise driving hours.²⁸ Some states require the practice driving supervisor to be the driver's parent or guardian in specific circumstances. For example, although Hawaii generally permits any adult with a license to supervise driving hours, only a parent or guardian is permitted to supervise driving hours between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.²⁹ Similarly, New Hampshire only permits a licensed adult older than 25 years to supervise practice driving if there is no licensed parent or guardian.³⁰

Research shows that parents with higher confidence in their own driving ability have greater confidence in their ability to manage their children's driving, likely making them better supervised driving hour supervisors.³¹ In addition to supervising their children's required practice driving hours, state law often includes other provisions for involving parents in the driver education and training process. State laws that address additional ways of involving parents in the driver education and training process may improve their confidence and ability to adequately train their novice drivers. The following table shows the jurisdictions with laws that address other ways of increasing parental involvement in the GDL process.³²

Table 3. State law provisions related to parental involvement in minors' driving licensing

Parental Involvement Provision	# of States	Jurisdictions
Requires opportunities for active parent engagement	13	CT, GA, ID, LA, ME, MD, MA, MN, MT, OR, RI, VA, WA
Requires opportunities for passive parent engagement (e.g., provide educational materials, open communication)	4	HI, LA, NJ, UT
Encourages opportunities for any parent engagement	4	CA, NH, TX, VT
Levies penalties for negligent supervision or willfully allowing minors to violate driving restriction	4	CO, SC, TX, VT
N/A	29	AL, AK, AZ, AR, DE, DC, FL, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, MI, MS, MO, NE, NV, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, PA, SD, TN, WV, WI, WY

²⁸ Iowa Code Ann. § 321.178; Iowa Code Ann. § 321.180B.

²⁹ Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 286-102.6.

³⁰ N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 263:19.

³¹ *Id.* at 195.

³² CPHLR Driver Education, Training, & Testing, LawAtlas.org, (March 17, 2025), University of Maryland Carey School of Law, Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy, <https://lawatlas.org/datasets/driver-education-training-and-testing>.

Method for Certifying Supervised Driving Hours

States can potentially improve the efficacy of supervised driving hour requirements by increasing parental knowledge of the supervised driving hour requirement through the parental certification requirement.³³

“Mandating any amount of practice has little chance of reducing crashes if parents are unaware of the requirement.”³⁴ In a study of the efficacy of supervised driving hours in

states with such requirements, nearly half of parents surveyed were unaware that their state required supervised night driving, and only 25% correctly reported the amount of supervised nighttime driving hours that their child was required to obtain.³⁵ Just 59% of parents were aware that their state required them to provide signed certification of supervised driving hours completion.³⁶

“Mandating any amount of practice has little chance of reducing crashes if parents are unaware of the requirement.”

– O’Brien et al. (2013), 334.

Of the 48 states that impose a supervised practice driving requirement, 44 states allow verification of supervised driving hours by any signed, certified, or automated documentation, such as a signed driving log or driving app. In Maine, this verification may be signed by a parent, stepparent, guardian, spouse, or employer and must name the person who accompanied the driver for the hours.³⁷ Maine also permits the Secretary of State to complete the certificate for applicants 18 years of age or older, so long as the applicant provides the name and address of the licensed driver who accompanied them during the supervised driving hours. Connecticut, North Dakota, and South Carolina do not prescribe a method for verifying that practice driving hours took place. Other states provide an alternative requirement to signed, certified, or automated documentation. Alaska merely requires “proof satisfactory to the department.”³⁸ Idaho requires a parent or guardian to attest that the supervised instruction permit requirements have been satisfied.³⁹

Minnesota’s imposition of a 30-hour supervised driving requirement made no difference in crash rates of 16- and 17-year-old drivers. Researchers reasoned this could be due to low parental awareness of Minnesota’s supervised driving requirement, with only 15% of Minnesota parents being able to accurately report the required number of supervised driving

³³ *Id.*

³⁴ Natalie P. O’Brien, Robert D. Foss, Arthur H. Goodwin & Scott V. Masten, *Supervised Hour requirements in graduated driver licensing: Effectiveness and parental awareness*, 50 ACCIDENT ANALYSIS & PREVENTION 330, 334 (2013).

³⁵ *Id.* at 333–34.

³⁶ *Id.* at 334.

³⁷ Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 29-A, § 1304.

³⁸ Alaska Stat. Ann. § 28.15.055.

³⁹ Idaho Code Ann. § 49-307.

hours.⁴⁰ States like Maryland may be more successful with informing parents about their supervised driving requirements, likely due to Maryland's provision of a *Rookie Driver Practice Guide*⁴¹ to beginner drivers accompanied with instructions that the completed log must be submitted at the intermediate license phase.⁴² A requirement that a parent or guardian be present for a teen to obtain a permit may improve parental awareness of supervised driving requirements at the start of their child's driver education.⁴³

Ultimately, more research is needed to determine the effectiveness of the supervised driving requirement, as studies to date found supervised driving hours to be effective only at higher numbers than most states currently require. For example, a Swedish study found 40% fewer crashes during the first two years of licensure, after completing an average of 117 supervised driving hours.⁴⁴ Other studies, including a 2015 NHTSA Meta-Analysis of GDL Laws, have found no difference in novice driver crash rates between states with a supervised driving hour requirement and those without,⁴⁵ suggesting that while increased supervised driving hours may provide more experience, they do not necessarily correlate with reduced crash rates.

Conclusion

Research has shown that diversity of driving environments, longer drive times, and greater practice consistency are important for ensuring the highest quality of supervised practice driving to reduce crashes among novice drivers.⁴⁶ Driving practice that occurs outside of "relatively safe conditions," such as during inclement weather or at nighttime, could improve its efficacy.⁴⁷ Though most states require nighttime supervised driving hours, most do not require supervised driving in varied conditions, such as inclement weather.

⁴⁰ Id.

⁴¹ <https://mva.maryland.gov/Documents/RD-006.pdf>.

⁴² National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (2013). *Guidance for Implementing the Novice Teen Driver Education and Training Administrative Standards* (DOT HS 811 957). U.S. Department of Transportation. <https://one.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/pdf/811957.pdf>.

⁴³ *Supra* note 34.

⁴⁴ Gregersen, N.P., 1997. Evaluation of 16-Years Age Limit for Driver Training. First Report VTI Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute, Linköping, Sweden (Report No. 418A), <https://trid.trb.org/View/635267>.

⁴⁵ Masten, S. V., Thomas, F. D., Korbela, K. T., Peck, R. C., & Blomberg, R. D., *Meta-analysis of graduated driver licensing laws*, (Report No. DOT HS 812 211), NAT'L HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN. 50 (2015) ("With regard to numbers of supervised driving hours . . . to advance through GDL stages, there was no evidence that having th[is] component[] was at all beneficial."); Jessica H. Mirman, W. Dustin Albert, Allison E. Curry, Flaura K. Winston, Megan C. Fisher Thiel & Dennis R. Durbin, *TeenDrivingPlan Effectiveness: The Effect of Quantity and Diversity of Supervised Practice on Teens' Driving Performance*, 55 J. ADOLESCENT HEALTH 620, 621 (2022).

⁴⁶ David Rodwell, Lyndel Bates, Grégoire S. Larue, Barry Watson & Narelle Haworth, *Parents' self-efficacy and the quality of supervised driving practice that they provide for their children*, 87 TRANSP. RSCH. PT. F: PSYC. & BEHAVIOR 189, 190 (2022).

While most states have some supervised driving requirement, most do not require enough hours to reduce crash risk. The CDC recommends 50 to 100 hours of supervised driving before testing for an intermediate license.⁴⁸ In 2025, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) maintains that requiring more practice hours “reduces the number of collision claims filed for novice drivers,⁴⁹ yet most states (88%) still require fewer than 70 supervised driving hours. More research is needed to ascertain the true effectiveness of supervised practice driving requirements on crash outcomes, and—at the same time—innovative alternatives to traditional supervised driving processes should be developed and tested.

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⁴⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Graduated Driver Licensing* (Oct. 7, 2024), <https://www.cdc.gov/php/php/publications/graduated-driver-licensing-motor-vehicle-injuries-1.html>.

⁴⁹ Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI), *Graduated Licensing Calculator* (last visited Apr. 4, 2025), <https://www.iihs.org/topics/teenagers/gdl-calculator>.