



Applying for a Driver's License, Temporary Visitor Driver's License or Illinois State ID Card

Overview:

- Illinois law permits students at Illinois colleges and universities to drive on a valid license from their home state or country
- This means that since you are a student at NPU you may not be required to get an Illinois Driver's License in order to drive while you are a student here
- Each state sets its own laws regarding driving, so if you plan to drive through other U.S. states, you **MUST** be sure that your foreign driver's license will work there as well.

How to obtain an Illinois Driver's License as an International Student:

- If you have a Social Security Number you may apply for a **State of Illinois Driver's License**
- If you do not have a Social Security number you may apply for a **Temporary Visitor Driver's License**

Please note that **there is no such thing as an International Driver's License**, but there is an International Driving Permit which is issued in your home country. **The International Driving Permit translates your license to make it easier for U.S. officials to read, but by itself does not give you permission to drive.**

STATE OF ILLINOIS DRIVER'S LICENSE

- A driver's license is an official document which states that a person may operate a motorized vehicle (motorcycle, car, truck or bus) on a public roadway.
- As most citizens of the U.S. possess a valid driver's license, it has also become a standard form of picture identification.

How to apply for an Illinois Driver's License:

- You must first visit a **Secretary of State Drivers Facility** (also called DMV for Department of Motor Vehicles).
- The closest facility to North Park University is located at 5401 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, IL 60630.
- The following documentation is needed when you visit the DMV:
 - Valid Passport and I-94 Admission Number (access through [this website](#) and print a copy)
 - I-20 form or DS-2019 form
 - Social Security Card
 - Application fee of \$30
 - **TWO** of the following documents which prove your residency in the state of Illinois:
 - Bank statement, canceled check, official North Park transcript, statement of benefits from insurance company, direct deposit receipt from on campus employment, tuition bill from North Park, official letter on North Park letterhead. See a full list of acceptable documents [here](#).
 - Any documents used to prove your residency must include your North Park or other Illinois address.



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What to expect when applying for an Illinois Driver's License:

- You will be required to take a written exam and a road test at the DMV
 - It is a good idea to read *Illinois Rules of the Road* before you take the written exam or the road test
 - You will need your own car to take the road test, so have a friend drive you to the DMV
 - *Illinois Rules of the Road* contains information on driver's licenses, traffic safety issues, and general information regarding Illinois traffic laws and ordinances.
 - In particular, it is important to read the chapter on *Driver's License Exams* to find out what you will need to know for the written exam and road test
 - *Illinois Rules of the Road* can be found online at https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_a112.pdf

In the United States, citizens are able to register to vote when they apply for a driver's license. This is called the "Motor-Vehicle Act". You may be asked about registering to vote while you are at the DMV; it is very important that you **DO NOT** register to vote. **When you register to vote you are stating that you are a U.S. citizen; if you are not a U.S citizen, you will be committing a voter fraud and will be deportable from the United States.**

WHAT IS A TEMPORARY VISITOR DRIVER'S LICENSE (TVDL)?

- A Temporary Visitor Driver's License (TVDL) is issued by the Secretary of State's Office for non-U.S. citizens who are temporarily in Illinois and cannot get a Social Security number.
- A TVDL is issued for the purpose of driving a car. However, it is different from an Illinois Driver's License because the words "Not Valid for Identification" appear on the TVDL.
- A TVDL is issued for a **MAXIMUM** of 3 years or the period of time a non-citizen is authorized to stay in the U.S., whichever period is **shorter**
- **Please Note:** Applicants for TVDL must be authorized to stay in the U.S. for **at least 1 year** and must have **at least 6 months remaining on the authorized stay** when they apply for a TVDL.

Where does one go to apply for a TVDL?

- To apply for a TVDL in the state of Illinois, you must visit a Secretary of State Drivers Facility (also called a DMV for Department of Motor Vehicles).
- The closest facility to North Park University is located at **5401 N. Elston Ave, Chicago, IL 60630**.

What documentation is needed when going to apply for a TVDL?

- Proof of student status (request a "Verification of Enrollment" from Student Services)



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- Proof that you are eligible for campus employment, but cannot find on-campus employment (request this letter from the Office of International Affairs)
- Valid Passport and I-94 Admission Number (access through [this website](#) and print a copy)
- I-20 form or DS-2019 form issued for at least 1 year of study, with at least 6 months remaining
- Application fee of \$30
- Proof that you are ineligible for a Social Security Number
 - **NOTE:** You will need to go to the Social Security Office, apply for a SSN, and then receive a denial letter.
 - The closest Social Security Office is located at **2127 W. Lawrence Ave, Chicago, IL 60625.**
 - Applications for a Social Security Number are available in the Office of International Affairs
 - The denial letter **must have been issued within 90 days of application for a TVDL**
- In addition to all of the documentation stated above, you must bring **TWO** of the following documents which prove residency in the State of Illinois: bank statement, canceled check, official North Park University transcript, statement of benefits from insurance company, direct deposit receipt from on-campus employment, tuition bill from North Park University, official letter on North Park University letterhead.
 - Any documents used to prove residency must include your North Park University or other Illinois address.
 - Anyone who is 18-20 years old must also present proof of successful completion of the 6 hour adult driver education and training course
- **What happens when I apply for a Temporary Visitor Driver's License?**
 - You will be required to take a written exam and a road test at the DMV
 - For this driving test you will need to provide your own vehicle, so have a friend drive you to the DMV
 - It is highly recommended that you read *Illinois Rules of the Road* before you take both of these tests
 - *Illinois Rules of the Road* contains important information on driver's licenses, traffic safety issues, and general information regarding Illinois traffic laws and ordinances
 - In particular, it is important to read the chapter on Driver's License Exams to find out what you will need to know for the written exam and the road test
 - *Illinois Rules of the Road* can be found online using the following link
http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_a112.pdf

ILLINOIS STATE ID CARD

- If you do not need to drive while in the United States, but want a form of identification that is easier than carrying your passport, you may apply for an Illinois State ID Card by following the application instructions listed above for obtaining a driver's license
- The fee for an Illinois State ID Card is \$20
- Full instructions available [online](#).