

## EARNING YOUR LICENSE

Safe riding requires knowledge and skill. Licensing tests are the best measurement of the skills necessary to operate safely in traffic. Assessing your own skills is not enough. People often overestimate their own abilities. It's even harder for friends and relatives to be totally honest about your skills. Licensing exams are designed to be scored more objectively.

In Missouri, you must have a Class M motorcycle license or permit, or a driver license with the M endorsement if you operate a motorcycle or motortricycle on public roadways.

You may apply for a temporary motorcycle instruction permit at 15 1/2 years of age (15 years and 182 days). This permit will only be issued if you have successfully completed an approved motorcycle rider training course (MRTC). You must also pass the Class F and Class M written, vision and road sign tests and have the written consent of your parent or legal guardian. The cost of the permit is \$6.25 (\$2.75 of this fee applies to the MRTC).

**NOTE:** The following restrictions apply to all Missouri motorcycle instruction permit holders that are under age 16:

- Engine with a displacement of not greater than 250 cc
- No passengers
- 50 mile limit from the operator's home address
- Daylight driving only

If you are 16 years of age, you may apply for a temporary motorcycle instruction permit. You must pass the Class M written test, but you do not have to take the MRTC. The cost of the permit is \$3.50. If you do not have a driver license, you can take the Class F and Class M written tests to receive a motorcycle permit (Class F with an M endorsement).

Applicant's who are 15 1/2 to 18 years of age must also comply with Graduated Driver License eligibility requirements and restrictions. Refer to the Department of Revenue web site at [www.dor.mo.gov/mvdl/drivers/](http://www.dor.mo.gov/mvdl/drivers/) for details.

When you are ready, you may take the motorcycle skills test (MSHP or MRTC) to be motorcycle qualified. The cost of a Class M motorcycle license is \$10.00 for a 3-year license and \$20.00 for a 6-year license.

To earn your license, you must pass a knowledge test and an on-motorcycle skill test. Knowledge test questions are based on information, practices and ideas from this manual. They require that you know and understand road rules and safe riding practices. An on-motorcycle skill test will either be conducted in an actual traffic environment or in a controlled, off-street area.

### *Answers to Test Yourself (previous pages)*

1. C   2. D   3. D   4. A   5. B  
 6. C   7. D   8. D   9. C   10. C  
 11. D   12. A   13. A   14. C

## KNOWLEDGE TEST

(Sample Questions.)

1. **It is MOST important to flash your brake light when:**

- A. Someone is following too closely.
- B. You will be slowing suddenly.
- C. There is a stop sign ahead.
- D. Your signals are not working.

2. **The FRONT brake supplies how much of the potential stopping power?**

- A. About one-quarter
- B. About one-half
- C. About three-quarters
- D. All of the stopping power

3. **To swerve correctly:**

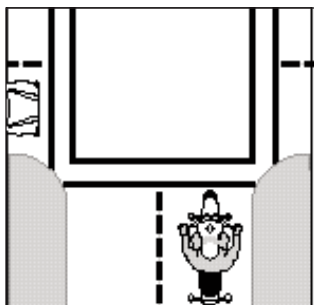
- A. Shift your weight quickly.
- B. Turn the handlebars quickly.
- C. Press the handgrip in the direction of the turn.
- D. Press the handgrip in the opposite direction of the turn.

4. **If a tire goes flat while riding and you must stop, it is usually best to:**

- A. Relax on the handlegrips.
- B. Shift your weight toward the good tire.
- C. Brake on the good tire and steer to the side of the road.
- D. Use both brakes and stop quickly.

5. **The car below is waiting to enter the intersection. It is best to:**

- A. Make eye contact with the driver.
- B. Reduce speed and be ready to react.
- C. Maintain speed and position.
- D. Maintain speed and move right.



Answers to above Knowledge Test: 1. B 2. C 3. C 4. C 5. B

## ON-MOTORCYCLE SKILL TEST

Basic vehicle control and crash-avoidance skills are included in on-motorcycle tests to determine your ability to handle normal and hazardous traffic situations.

*You may be tested for your ability to:*

- **Know your motorcycle** and your riding limits.
- **Accelerate, brake, and turn safely.**
- **See, be seen** and communicate with others.
- **Adjust speed** and position to the traffic situation.
- **Stop, turn and swerve quickly.**
- **Make critical decisions** and carry them out.

*Examiners may score on factors related to safety such as:*

- **Selecting** safe speeds to perform maneuvers.
- **Choosing** the correct path and staying within boundaries.
- **Completing** normal and quick stops.
- **Completing** normal and quick turns, or swerves.

### **To receive a motorcycle license with full privileges, most states require that maneuvers be performed as designed.**

On-motorcycle skill tests are not designed for sidecars or three-wheel vehicles. Those vehicles maneuver differently than a two-wheeled motorcycle. Depending on the state, a driver examiner may follow you on a car test-route. Restrictions (sidecar, three-wheeled vehicle) may be added until completion of a two-wheel motorcycle test.

*Diagrams and drawings used in this manual are for reference only and are not to correct scale for size of vehicles and distances.*

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you plan to take the MRTC (in addition to, or in lieu of testing by the Missouri State Highway Patrol), please note that only Missouri Motorcycle Safety Program courses are acceptable for the purpose of obtaining a Missouri motorcycle license/permit. To locate an approved course near you, please contact the Missouri Motorcycle Safety Program at (800) 801-3588, or visit their web site at [www.mmsp.org](http://www.mmsp.org)

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## IS LICENSING REQUIRED FOR A SCOOTER/MOPED?

Licensing depends partly on the ‘cc’ displacement of the engine in the scooter/moped (motorized bicycle). The definition of a motorized bicycle (as opposed to a motorcycle) is as follows:

*“Any two-wheeler or three-wheeled device having an automatic transmission and a motor with a cylinder capacity of not more than fifty (50) cubic centimeters, which produces less than three (3) gross brake horsepower, and is capable of propelling the device at a maximum speed of not more than thirty (30) miles per hour on level ground.”*

If the scooter/moped qualifies as a motorized bicycle, you must have a valid driver license, though no motorcycle endorsement is required. A motorized bicycle does not have to be registered with the Missouri Department of Revenue.

Keep in mind that *“no motorized bicycle may be operated on any public thoroughfare located within this state which has been designated as part of the federal interstate highway system.”*

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## MOTORCYCLES MAKE SENSE... SO DOES PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Motorcycles are inexpensive to operate, fun to ride and easy to park. Unfortunately, many riders never learn critical skills needed to ride safely.

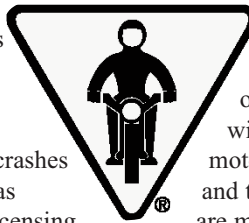
Professional training for beginning and experienced riders prepares them for real world traffic situations. *Motorcycle RiderCourses®* teach and improve such skills as:

- Effective turning
- Braking maneuvers
- Protective apparel selection
- Obstacle avoidance
- Traffic strategies
- Maintenance

**For the basic or experienced  
RiderCourse nearest you,  
call toll-free: (800) 446-9227**

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's (MSF) purpose is to improve the safety of motorcyclists on the nation's streets and highways. In an attempt to reduce motorcycle crashes and injuries, the Foundation has programs in rider education, licensing improvement, public information and statistics. These programs are designed for both motorcyclists and motorists. A national not-for-profit organization, MSF is sponsored by BMW, Ducati, Harley-Davidson, Honda, Kawasaki, KTM, Piaggio/Vespa, Suzuki, Victory and Yamaha.

The information contained in this publication is offered for the benefit of those who have an interest in riding motorcycles. The information has been compiled from publications,



interviews and observations of individuals and organizations familiar with the use of motorcycles, accessories, and training. Because there are many differences in product design, riding styles, Federal, State and local laws, there may be organizations and individuals who hold differing opinions. Consult your local regulatory agencies for information concerning the operation of motorcycles in your area. Although the MSF will continue to research, field test and publish responsible viewpoints on the subject, it disclaims any liability for the views expressed herein.

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*Printing and distribution courtesy of  
Motorcycle Safety Foundation*

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<http://www.msf-usa.org>

Second Revision . . . . .December 1978  
Third Revision . . . . .February 1981  
Fourth Revision . . . . .January 1983  
Fifth Revision . . . . .October 1987  
Sixth Revision . . . . .April 1991  
Seventh Revision . . . . .September 1992

Eight Revision . . . . .January 1999  
Ninth Revision . . . . .March 2000  
Tenth Revision . . . . .January 2002  
Eleventh Revision . . . . .July 2002  
Twelfth Revision . . . . .May 2004  
Thirteenth Revision . . . . .July 2006

Printed in USA 000254



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# Safety is on Your Shoulders

Since 1931, 27 Missouri State Highway Patrol Troopers have been killed in the line of duty. Eight of those officers were killed after being struck by a vehicle, whose driver was either impaired or not paying attention. The number one contributing circumstance to traffic crashes in Missouri is driver inattention. Please slow down and move over away from stationary emergency vehicles along the side of the road with their emergency equipment activated. **IT'S THE LAW.**



The law (Section 304.022, RSMo.) requires motorists to yield the right-of-way and immediately drive to a position parallel to, and as far as possible to the right of, the traveled portion of the highway and thereupon stop and remain in such position until such emergency vehicle has passed, except when otherwise directed by a police or traffic officer.

A revision to the law, which became effective August 28, 2002, requires motorists upon approaching a stationary emergency vehicle displaying lighted red or red and blue lights to:

- (1) Proceed with caution and yield the right-of-way, if possible, with due regard to safety and traffic conditions, by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of the stationary vehicle, if on a roadway having at least four lanes with not less than two lanes proceeding in the same direction as the approaching vehicle; or
- (2) Proceed with due caution and reduce the speed of the vehicle, maintaining a safe speed for road conditions, if changing lanes would be unsafe or impossible.

Violation of this section is a class A misdemeanor.





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Dear Fellow Missourians:

Whether you're driving on a country lane or an urban interstate, it's essential that you know the rules of the road. This guide, provided by the Missouri Department of Revenue, is an important resource, even for experienced drivers.

This guide also offers you important information about titles, registration, insuring your vehicle, and the consequences of violating the state's motor vehicle laws.

Thanks for reading this guide. Your safety and the safety of other Missouri drivers, passengers and pedestrians are of paramount importance. When you drive, be sure to buckle up and show that the citizens of the Show-Me State make safe driving their No. 1 goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon".

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon  
Governor

[www.governor.mo.gov](http://www.governor.mo.gov)