

**COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE
CURRICULUM GUIDELINE****INTRODUCTION**

For any person interested in obtaining or upgrading a commercial driver license, including obtaining a passenger or school bus endorsement, is mandated by federal law to take CDL training. This document outlines the curriculum topics required by the Federal Motor Carrier Administration's (FMCSA) Entry-Level Driver Training mandate, effective February 7, 2022. The curriculum topics contained herein address the changes within Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations Parts 380, 383, and 384.

CLASS "A" COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE

Introduction: Pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.) 4501-7-28, a student attending the Class "A" CDL training course shall receive 40 hours of theory instruction and 40 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction. Behind-the-wheel instruction incorporates both range and road training.

THEORY INSTRUCTION TOPICS

- I. Basic operation of a Class "A" commercial motor vehicle. Instruction in this topic shall include:
 - (a) Traffic laws, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, and rules and regulations of the public utility commission of Ohio
 - (b) Orientation
 - (c) Control systems and the dashboard
 - (d) Pre- and post-trip inspections
 - (e) Basic control and handling
 - (f) Shifting and operating transmission
 - (g) Backing and docking
 - (h) Coupling and uncoupling
- II. Safe operating procedures on roads under various road, weather, and traffic conditions. Instruction in this topic shall include:
 - (a) Visual search
 - (b) Communication with other road users
 - (c) Distracted driving
 - (d) Speed management
 - (e) Space management
 - (f) Night operation
 - (g) Extreme driving conditions

- III. Advanced operating practices. Instruction in this topic shall include:
 - (a) Hazard perception
 - (b) Skid control and recovery, jackknifing, and other emergencies
 - (c) Railroad-highway grade crossings and emergency notification
- IV. Vehicle systems and reporting malfunctions. Instruction in this topic shall include:
 - (a) Identification and diagnosis of malfunctions
 - (b) Roadside inspections
 - (c) Maintenance
- V. Non-driving activities. Instruction in this topic shall include:
 - (a) Handling and documenting cargo
 - (b) Environmental compliance issues
 - (c) Hours of service requirements
 - (d) Fatigue and wellness awareness
 - (e) Post-crash procedures
 - (f) External communications
 - (g) Whistleblower protection regulations and reporting of coercion
 - (h) Trip planning
 - (i) Drugs and alcohol
 - (j) Human trafficking prevention in the trucking industry
 - (k) Medical requirements

RANGE TRAINING TOPICS

- I. Vehicle inspection pre-trip, enroute, and post-trip;
- II. Straight line backing
- III. Alley dock backing, including forty0five degree and ninety degree backing
- IV. Off-set backing right and left
- V. Parallel parking blind side and sight side
- VI. Coupling and uncoupling

ROAD TRAINING TOPICS

- I. Vehicle controls, including left and right turns, lane changes, curves at highway speeds, entry and exit on an interstate or controlled access highway
- II. Shifting
- III. Signaling and communicating with other road users

- IV. Visual search
- V. Speed and space management
- VI. Safe driver behavior
- VII. Hours of service requirements
- VIII. Railroad-highway grade crossing and emergency notification procedure
- IX. Hazard perception
- X. Night operation
- XI. Extreme driving condition
- XII. Skid control and recovery, jackknifing, and other emergencies

CLASS "B" COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE

Introduction: Pursuant to O.A.C. 4501-7-28, a student attending the Class "B" CDL training course shall receive 12 hours of theory instruction and 28 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction. Behind-the-wheel instruction incorporates both range and road training.

THEORY INSTRUCTION TOPICS

- I. Basic operation of a Class "B" commercial motor vehicle. Instruction in this topic shall include:
 - (a) Federal motor carrier safety regulations, rules and regulations of the public utilities commission of Ohio, and all other applicable state laws relating to the operation of commercial motor vehicles
 - (b) Orientation
 - (c) Control systems and the dashboard
 - (d) Pre- and post-trip inspections
 - (e) Basic control and handling
 - (f) Shifting and operating transmissions
 - (g) Backing and docking
- II. Safe operating procedures on roads under various road, weather, and traffic conditions. Instruction in this topic shall include:
 - (a) Visual search
 - (b) Communication with other road users
 - (c) Distracted driving
 - (d) Speed management
 - (e) Space management
 - (f) Night operation
 - (g) Extreme driving conditions
- III. Advanced operating practices. Instruction in this topic shall include:
 - (a) Hazard perception
 - (b) Skid control and recovery, jackknifing, and other emergencies
 - (c) Railroad-highway grade crossings and emergency notification
- IV. Vehicle systems and reporting malfunctions. Instruction in this topic shall include:
 - (a) Identification and diagnosis of malfunctions
 - (b) Roadside inspections
 - (c) Maintenance

- V. Non-driving activities. Instruction on this topic shall include:
 - (a) Handling and documenting cargo
 - (b) Environmental compliance issues
 - (c) Hours of service requirements
 - (d) Fatigue and wellness awareness
 - (e) Post-crash procedures
 - (f) External communications
 - (g) Whistleblower protection regulations and reporting of coercion
 - (h) Trip planning
 - (i) Drugs and alcohol
 - (j) Human trafficking prevention in the trucking industry
 - (k) Medical requirements

RANGE TRAINING TOPICS

- I. Vehicle inspection pre-trip, enroute, and post-trip
- II. Straight line backing
- III. Alley dock backing, including forty-five degree and ninety degree backing
- IV. Off-set backing right and left
- V. Parallel parking blind side and sight side

ROAD TRAINING TOPICS

- I. Vehicle controls, including left and right turns, lane changes, curves at highway speeds, entry and exit on an interstate or controlled access highway
- II. Shifting
- III. Signaling and communicating with other road users
- IV. Visual search
- V. Speed and space management
- VI. Safe driver behavior
- VII. Hours of service requirements
- VIII. Railroad-highway grade crossing and emergency notification procedure
- IX. Hazard perception
- X. Night operation
- XI. Extreme driving condition
- XII. Skid control and recovery, and other emergencies

PASSENGER ENDORSEMENT

Introduction: Pursuant to O.A.C. 4501-7-28, a student attending the Passenger Endorsement training course shall receive 8 hours of theory instruction behind-the-wheel instruction. Behind-the-wheel instruction incorporates both range and road training.

THEORY INSTRUCTION TOPICS

- I. Post-crash procedures
- II. Other emergency procedures, including mechanical breakdowns and vehicle defects while enroute
- III. Vehicle orientation
- IV. Pre-trip, enroute, and post-trip inspection including, but not limited to, emergency exits, passenger-carrying CMV interiors, temperature controls, and driver and passenger seat belts
- V. Fueling
- VI. Idling
- VII. Baggage and/or cargo management
- VIII. Passenger safety awareness briefing
- IX. Passenger management
- X. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance
- XI. Hours of service requirements
- XII. Safety belt safety
- XIII. Distracted driving
- XIV. Railroad-highway grade crossings, emergency notification, and drawbridges
- XV. Weigh stations
- XVI. Security and crime
- XVII. Roadside inspections
- XVIII. Penalties and fines

BEHIND-THE-WHEEL INSTRUCTION TOPICS

- I. Vehicle orientation
- II. Pre-trip, enroute, and post-trip inspection including, but not limited to, emergency exits, passenger-carrying CMV interiors, temperature controls, and driver and passenger seat belts
- III. Baggage and/or cargo management
- IV. Passenger safety awareness briefing
- V. Passenger management
- VI. Railroad-highway grade crossing and emergency notification procedure

SCHOOL BUS ENDORSEMENT

Introduction: Pursuant to O.A.C. 4501-7-28, a student attending the School Bus Endorsement CDL training course shall receive 8 hours of theory instruction and behind-the-wheel instruction. Behind-the-wheel instruction incorporates both range and road training.

THEORY INSTRUCTION TOPICS

- I. Danger zones and use of mirrors
- II. Loading and unloading
- III. Vehicle orientation
- IV. Post-crash procedures
- V. Emergency exit and evacuation
- VI. Railroad-highway grade crossings and emergency notification
- VII. Student management
- VIII. Special safety considerations
- IX. Pre- and post-trip inspections including, but not limited to, stop arms, crossing arms, emergency exits, fire extinguishers, passenger seats, interior lights, and temperature control
- X. School bus security
- XI. Route and stop reviews

BEHIND-THE-WHEEL INSTRUCTION TOPICS

- I. Danger zones and use of mirrors
- II. Loading and unloading
- III. Emergency exit and evacuation
- IV. Special safety considerations
- V. Pre- and post-trip inspections
- VI. Railroad-highway grade crossing and emergency notification procedure