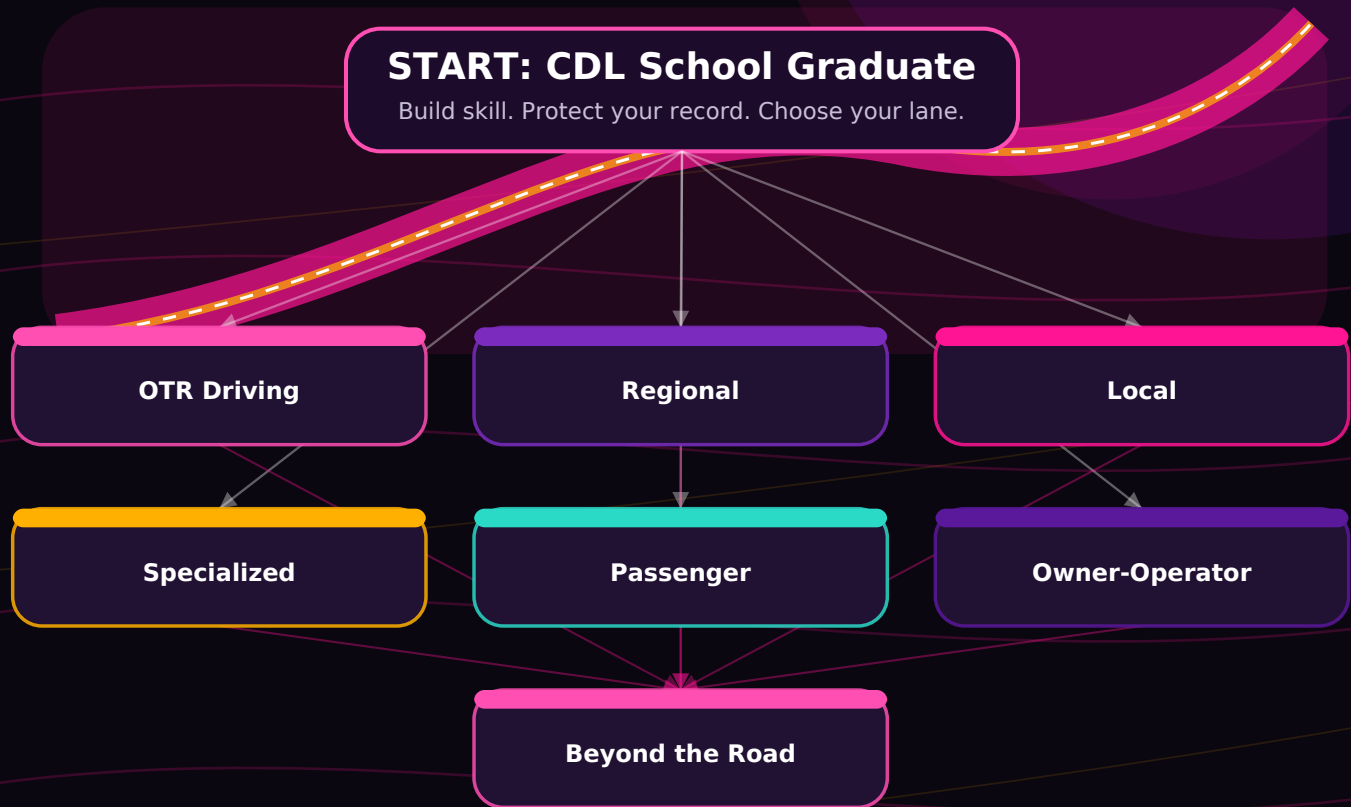


## Multiple Career Lanes

STUDENT RESOURCE

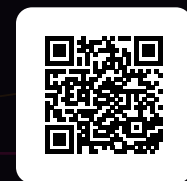
A quick student-friendly roadmap showing CDL graduates where their license can take them next.



### Before You Pick a Lane

Your CDL opens the door - your safety record keeps it open.

Every career path has different pay, schedules, home time, equipment, and responsibility. Start with the lane that fits your life right now, then build experience, endorsements, confidence, and a strong safety record.



Start ELDT Theory

**Pro Tip:** Comfort is a starting point - growth comes from skill, consistency, and accountability.

## Driving Career Lanes

Compare the lifestyle, opportunity, and responsibilities before choosing your first route.

**OTR**

### Over-the-Road (OTR) Driving

Long-haul trucking across multiple states. Good fit for drivers who enjoy travel and independence.

Upside: more miles and earning potential.  
Reality: longer time away from home and long hours.

**REG**

### Regional Driving

Routes within a specific region, often home weekly.

Upside: predictable lanes and balance.  
Reality: still not home daily, and schedules can change.

**LOC**

### Local Driving

City or metro deliveries, usually home daily.

Upside: steady routine and more home time.  
Reality: traffic, tight spaces, backing, and frequent stops.

**SPC**

### Specialized Hauling

Examples include tankers, flatbeds, oversized loads, hazmat, and refrigerated freight.

Upside: advanced skills and higher opportunity.  
Reality: more training, certifications, and safety responsibility.

**PAS**

### Passenger Transport

Buses, motorcoaches, shuttles, and other passenger vehicles.

Upside: customer interaction, passenger focus, and possible union benefits.  
Reality: tighter schedules and serious passenger responsibility.

### How to Choose Your First Lane

Ask yourself: Do I need home daily? Am I willing to travel? Do I want people-facing work? Do I handle pressure well? Do I need more experience before specialized freight? The best first job is the one you can learn from and sustain.

### Driver Development Reminder

A license does not make you seasoned overnight. Keep learning, ask questions, document your experience, protect your MVR, and take safety seriously from day one. That is how you build options.

## Beyond the First Driving Job

Transportation has multiple lanes - driving, leadership, safety, training, logistics, and entrepreneurship.

### OO Owner-Operator / Small Business

Becoming your own boss by leasing or owning a truck.

Upside: more control over loads, schedule, and income potential.

Reality: higher expenses, maintenance, insurance, compliance, taxes, and financial risk.

**BUSINESS MINDSET REQUIRED**

### BR Beyond the Road: Non-Driving Roles

Your CDL experience can lead into leadership and support roles such as dispatching, safety and compliance, driver training, instruction, logistics, supply chain, recruiting, or operations.

Driving can be the doorway, not the ceiling.

**CAREER GROWTH LANE**

## First 90 Days After CDL School

Your next moves matter. Build the foundation before chasing every lane.

### 1 Protect Your Record

Avoid preventable violations, crashes, and unsafe habits. Your record is your reputation.

### 2 Keep Practicing the Basics

Pre-trip, backing, space management, turns, mirrors, speed, and trip planning still matter after the test.

### 3 Ask Smart Questions

Learn from trainers, safety teams, experienced drivers, and dispatchers. Do not act like you know what you do not know.

### 4 Build Your Options

Consider endorsements, specialized freight, passenger work, local/regional lanes, or future leadership roles.

### Mia's Pro Tip:

Start where you are comfortable, build your skills and safety record, then branch into specialized or leadership roles. Trucking is not just a job - it is a career with multiple lanes to success.



Career information is for general guidance. Requirements, endorsements, hiring criteria, and pay can vary by employer, state, and operating type.