

Getting Your Texas Motorcycle License (Class M)

No current driver license? Expired while you were away? Start here.

First, the good news: you do **not** need a driver permit or driver education to take the motorcycle course. There's no license prerequisite to enroll — anyone can sign up and ride the course, even with no license at all. Turning that course into an actual Class M at the DPS office is where it gets more involved — because your Texas license expired more than two years ago, the state treats you as a brand-new ("original") applicant. Here's the full path.

Your Steps to a Class M License

1. Take the Motorcycle Safety Course

Complete the TDLR-approved course (the class you called about). No permit or driver ed needed to enroll. You'll earn your MSB-8 completion certificate — valid 24 months, so apply at DPS before it expires.

2. Complete Impact Texas Adult Drivers (ITAD)

A short, free online video at impacttexasdrivers.dps.texas.gov.

Required for anyone applying without a current Texas license. Do it within 90 days of your DPS appointment.

3. Adult Driver Education — only if you're 18–24

Ages 18–24 must finish the 6-hour adult driver education course first.

Ages 25 and older: not required. (Most folks in this situation are 25+, so you likely skip this.)

4. Gather your documents

See the checklist below — bring everything so you're not turned away.

5. Go to DPS (by appointment) and test

Because you don't hold a current Texas license, plan to take the motorcycle written (knowledge) test and the riding skills test at DPS.

The course's "skip-the-tests" benefit only applies to people who already hold a current Texas Class C license.

What to Bring to DPS

- ☐ Completed application (Form DL-14A)
- ☐ Proof of identity (e.g., passport, birth certificate, prior ID)
- ☐ Proof of U.S. citizenship or lawful presence
- ☐ Social Security number
- ☐ Two proofs of Texas residency (e.g., lease, utility bill, bank statement)
- ☐ MSB-8 motorcycle course completion certificate
- ☐ Impact Texas Adult Drivers (ITAD) certificate
- ☐ 6-hour adult driver education certificate — only if you're 18–24

Good to Know

- **You can get a Class M license by itself.** You don't have to get a car (Class C) license first — just know a Class M alone doesn't make you legal to drive a car.
- **Don't let your course certificate expire.** The MSB-8 is good for 24 months — get to DPS before then or you'll retake the class.
- **Requirements can change.** This is a general guide — confirm specifics with Texas DPS at dps.texas.gov.

Better Rider Motorcycle Training LLC

Veteran-owned · Elm Mott, TX

Ready to get rolling? Call or email to book your course:

Email (best): roger@betterrider.us **Call / Text:** (254) 214-3619 **Web:** betterrider.us

Email is best — phone reception is spotty at the range. Classes run weekends.

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The teen path has a few extra steps. Here's the whole picture.

The big difference for teens: you must do the classroom part of driver's education **first** — before you can even enroll in the motorcycle course. A parent or guardian also has to be involved at every step.

Your Steps to a Class M License

1. Be at least 15 years old

You can start at 15. (At 15 you'll get an "I" restriction — 250cc max — until you turn 16.)

2. Do the classroom phase of driver's education FIRST

Before enrolling in the motorcycle course, you need ONE of these:

- the 32-hour classroom phase of driver ed completed (Form DE-964), or
- a Class C learner license plus that 32-hour classroom phase, or
- a provisional driver license.

The behind-the-wheel driving part of driver ed is NOT required to take the motorcycle course or get a Class M.

3. Take the Motorcycle Safety Course

Bring the minor waiver forms, signed by your parent or guardian, to class.

You'll earn your MSB-8 completion certificate — valid 24 months. Apply at DPS before it expires.

4. Get your school paperwork

Bring a high school diploma/GED, OR a Verification of Enrollment and Attendance (VOE) form from your school.

VOE needs 90% attendance the prior semester (summer applicants can use a final report card).

5. Go to DPS with your parent or guardian

A parent or legal guardian must be there in person to sign your application.

6. Pass the riding skills test

Every applicant under 18 must pass the DPS motorcycle skills test.

You provide the motorcycle for the test, plus a car and driver to follow you during it.

Restrictions to Know

- **"I" restriction (age 15):** limited to motorcycles 250cc or less. Removed at 16 after a skills test.
- **"J" restriction (learner, under 18):** ride only while supervised by a licensed rider 21 or older who stays in sight. Removed by passing the skills test.

What to Bring to DPS

- ☐ Parent or legal guardian (in person, to sign)
- ☐ Completed application (Form DL-14A)
- ☐ Driver ed classroom certificate (DE-964 / DEE-964) OR provisional license
- ☐ VOE form or high school diploma / GED
- ☐ MSB-8 motorcycle course completion certificate
- ☐ Proof of identity, U.S. citizenship or lawful presence, and Social Security number
- ☐ Proof of Texas residency
- ☐ Your motorcycle + a car and driver for the skills test

Safety & Law for Young Riders

- **Helmet required:** every rider under 21 must wear a helmet — no exceptions.
- **No passengers** while you're a minor.
- **Night rule (provisional):** no riding midnight–5 a.m. except for work, school, or an emergency.
- **Requirements can change:** confirm your details with Texas DPS at dps.texas.gov.

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