



**COURSE OF ORGANIZED INSTRUCTION (COI) FOR DRIVING
SAFETY**

May 2026~~[December 2024]~~

**6-Hour Driving Safety Course
(COI-Driving Safety)**

**Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, Education and
Examination Division www.tdlr.texas.gov**

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NOTICE

The Course of Organized Instruction (COI) is not curriculum. It is a manual created for providers, that includes the required course content for the driver safety education course. Providers using a third-party source, or their own curriculum will use that with the COI, and Driver Education & Safety laws and rules to create a strong driver safety education course.

COURSE OF ORGANIZED INSTRUCTION FOR SIX-HOUR DRIVING SAFETY

Chapter One: Course Introduction

1.1 Introduction. This guide details the required course content and minimum instruction requirements for the instruction for six-hour Driving Safety programs in Texas, as prescribed by the Texas Education Code (TEC) and the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). All course content and instructional material shall include current statistical data, references to law, driving procedures, and traffic safety methodology. Laws and statistical data presented must be Texas-specific. Course providers may employ national data and statistics, where appropriate, for comparative purposes during instruction.

Course content, minimum instruction requirements, and administrative guidelines for Driving Safety classroom instruction shall include the instructional objectives established by the Department. Further, providers must meet the requirements of the Texas Administrative Code and the statutes authorizing those codes.

Lesson lengths stated in this COI for the chapters expressed herein are to be determined by the provider to maximize effective instructional techniques and student mastery of course content. It may be necessary to extend the training time by repeating lessons to ensure the student demonstrates mastery over course content contained in each section. Breaks to students during instruction are to be given in accordance with 16 TAC §84.500(b)(1)(B).

If there is a conflict with the information contained in this guide and applicable law, the law shall control. Failure to comply with the requirements contained in this guide, applicable law, rule or order of the Commission for the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), or the TDLR executive director may subject the licensee to administrative penalties and/or sanctions pursuant to 16 TAC §84.400.

Questions regarding the guide should be directed to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, Education and Examination Division, P.O. Box 12157, Austin, Texas 78711, or www.tdlr.texas.gov, or call (800)803-9202.

Chapter Two: Course Options

The following course options are authorized by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR):

2.1 Traditional Course. A six-hour curriculum attended in person by the student at an approved driving safety school classroom location. In a traditional classroom location, the licensee is responsible to ensure sufficient seating that allows students the ability to comprehend instructional aids.

2.2 Alternative Delivery Method (ADM). A six-hour curriculum that does not require the student to be present in a physical classroom location. The curriculum shall be instructed through the alternative method approved by the Department.

2.3 Chapter Exams or Comprehensive Exam. To evaluate the student's knowledge and understanding and measure progress (mastery equals 70 percent or above after each Chapter or a Comprehensive Exam at the end of the course).

2.4 Sequencing of Topics. Course Provider may teach Chapter Topics Two through Twelve in any order but, at a minimum, must instruct each Topic in full.

Chapter Three: Instructional Objectives

3.1 Educational Objective of Driving Safety Courses. The educational objectives of driving safety courses must include promoting respect for and encouraging observance of traffic laws and traffic safety responsibilities of drivers and citizens; instruction on law enforcement procedures for traffic stops; human trafficking prevention; litter prevention; anatomical gifts; leaving children in vehicles unattended; distractions; motorcycle awareness; information relating to the Texas Driving with Disabilities Program; safely operating a vehicle near oversize or overweight vehicles; the passing of certain vehicles as described in Transportation Code §545.157; the dangers and consequences of street racing; alcohol awareness and its effect on motor vehicle operation; reducing traffic violations, injuries, deaths, and economic losses; proper child passenger safety seat system use; information relating to penalties, fines, and inherent dangers such as bodily injury, death, and property damage in construction zones;

and instilling safe driving habits through education, including Texas traffic laws, risk management, driver attitudes, courtesy skills, and evasive driving techniques.

~~[The educational objectives of driving safety courses shall include, but not be limited to, information relating to human trafficking prevention; promoting respect for and encouraging observance of traffic laws and traffic safety responsibilities of drivers and citizens; implementation of law enforcement procedures for traffic stops in accordance with the provisions of the Community Safety Education Act information relating to the Texas Driving with Disabilities Program (Senate Bill 2304, 88th Regular Legislature (2023)); the proper use of child passenger safety seat systems; reducing traffic violations; reducing traffic related injuries, deaths, and economic losses; motivating continuing development of traffic related competencies; the passing of certain vehicles as described in Transportation Code §545.157; the dangers and consequences of street racing; and safely operating a vehicle around an oversize or overweight vehicle, including safe following distances and safe passing methods.]~~

Chapter Four: Curriculum Instruction Characteristics

4.1 General. Driving Safety course content, including video and multimedia, shall include current statistical data, references to law, driving procedures, and traffic safety methodology. A driving safety course shall include, as a minimum, materials adequate to assure the student masters the following topics. Laws and statistical data presented must be Texas-specific. Course providers may employ national data and statistics, where appropriate, for comparative purposes during instruction.

4.2 Driving Safety Topics of Instruction.

Total instruction time must be a minimum of five (5) hours, excluding breaks, and at minimum, include the Topics listed below.

4.2.1 Topic One: Course Introduction

Objective: The student recognizes the value of legal and responsible reduced-risk driving practices and accepts driving as a privilege with responsibilities, obligations, and potential consequences.

4.2.1.1 Instruction, at minimum, must address the following topics:

- (A) purpose and benefits of the course;
- (B) course and facilities orientation;
- (C) requirements for receiving course credit; and
- (D) department provided information on course content.

4.2.2 Topic Two: The Traffic Safety Problem

Objective: To develop an understanding of the nature of the traffic safety problem and to instill in each student a sense of responsibility for its solution.

4.2.2.1 Instruction, at minimum, must address the following topics:

- (A) identification of the overall traffic problem in Texas, specifically, and comparatively, the United States;
- (B) death, injuries, and economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes in Texas; and
- (C) the top five contributing factors of motor vehicle crashes in Texas as identified by the Texas Department of Transportation.

4.2.3 Topic Three: Factors Influencing Driver Performance

Objective: To identify the characteristics and behaviors of drivers and how they affect driving performance.

4.2.3.1 Instruction, at minimum, must address the following topics:

- (A) attitudes, habits, feelings, and emotions (aggressive driving, etc.);
- (B) physical condition (drowsy driving, etc.);
- (C) knowledge of driving laws and procedures; and
- (D) understanding the driving task.

4.2.4 Topic Four: Traffic Laws and Procedures

Objective: To identify the requirements of, and the rationale for, applicable Texas driving laws and procedures and to influence drivers compliance.

4.2.4.1 Instruction, at minimum, must address the following topics:

- (A) passing;
- (B) right-of-way, and knowledge and application of procedure to yield right-of-way to emergency vehicles described in Transportation Code §545.157, school buses, and pedestrians;
- (C) turns;
- (D) stops;
- (E) speed limits;
- (F) railroad crossings safety, including statistics, causes, and evasive actions;
- (G) categories of traffic signs, signals, and highway markings including those in construction or maintenance work zones and identifying inherent dangers associated with violating traffic laws in those zones such as bodily injury, death, and property damage and explain ways to promote safe driving practices;
- (H) pedestrians;
- (I) improved shoulders;
- (J) intersections;
- (K) occupant restraints;
- (L) anatomical gifts;
- (M) litter prevention;
- (N) law enforcement and emergency vehicles “Move Over and Slow Down Law” (HB 3319, 87th Regular Legislature 2021);
- (O) law enforcement procedures for traffic stops in accordance with the provisions of the Community

Safety Education Act (Senate Bill 30, 85th Regular Legislature (2017));

- (P) Texas Driving with Disabilities Program. Curriculum is expected to instruct the student on the following:

1. How to participate in the program;
2. How to identify which diagnoses may be considered a “Communication Impediment” for the Texas Driving with Disability Program;
3. Identify which form the student should have their doctor fill out and take to DPS to have “Communication Impediment” added to the front of their Driver License or Texas State ID card;
4. Explain where to find the Communication Impediment with a Peace Officer on a Driver License or a Texas State ID card; and
5. Identify which forms a student would need to complete with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to disclose their Communication Impediment or Deaf/Hard of Hearing in The Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (TLETS); and

- (Q) other laws as applicable (i.e., financial responsibility/compulsory insurance).

4.2.5 Topic Five: Special Skills for Difficult Driving Environments

Objective: To identify how special conditions affect driver and vehicle performance and identify techniques for management of these conditions.

4.2.5.1 Instruction, at minimum, must address the following topics:

- (A) inclement weather;
- (B) traffic congestion;
- (C) city, urban, rural, and expressway/freeway environments;
- (D) reduced visibility conditions--hills, fog, curves, light conditions (darkness, glare, etc.), and
- (E) roadway conditions.

4.2.6 Topic Six: Physical Forces That Influence Driver Control

Objective: To identify the physical forces that affect driver control and vehicle performance.

4.2.6.1 Instruction, at minimum, must address the following topics:

- (A) speed control (acceleration, deceleration, etc.);
- (B) traction (friction, hydroplaning, stopping distances, centrifugal force, etc.); and
- (C) force of impact (momentum, kinetic energy, inertia, etc.).

4.2.7 Topic Seven: Perceptual Skills Needed for Driving

Objective: To identify the factors of perception and how the factors affect driver performance.

4.2.7.1 Instruction, at minimum, must address the following topics:

- (A) visual interpretations;
- (B) hearing;
- (C) touch;
- (D) smell;
- (E) reaction abilities (simple and complex); and
- (F) judging speed and distance.

4.2.8 Topic Eight: Defensive Driving Strategies

Objective: To identify the concepts of defensive driving and demonstrate how they can be employed by drivers to reduce the likelihood of crashes, deaths, injuries, and economic losses.

4.2.8.1 Instruction, at minimum, must address the following topics:

- (A) trip planning;
- (B) evaluating the traffic environment;
- (C) anticipating the actions of others;
- (D) decision making;
- (E) implementing necessary maneuvers;
- (F) compensating for the mistakes of other drivers;
- (G) avoiding common driving errors;
- (H) interaction with other road users (motorcycles, bicycles, trucks, pedestrians, etc.);
- (I) safe operation of a motor vehicle near an oversize or overweight vehicle, including safe following distances and safe passing methods;
- (J) motorcycle awareness, including the dangers of failing to yield the right-of-way to a motorcyclist and the need to share the road with motorcyclist;
- (K) distractions relating to the effect of using a wireless communication device, including texting or engaging in other actions that may distract a driver from the safe or effective operation of a motor vehicle; ~~and~~
- (L) understand the dangers of speed and its impact on reduced-risk driving practices; must include the dangers and consequences of street racing in violation of Transportation Code §545.420; and
- (M) define construction or maintenance work zones and identifying dangers associated with violating traffic laws in those zones such as bodily injury, death, and property damage and explain ways to promote safe driving practices.

4.2.9 Topic Nine: Driving Emergencies

Objective: To identify common driving emergencies and their countermeasures.

4.2.9.1 Instruction, at minimum, must address the following topics:

- (A) collision traps (front, rear, and sides);
- (B) off road recovery, paths of least resistance; and
- (C) mechanical malfunctions (tires, brakes, steering, power, lights, etc.)

4.2.10 Topic Ten: Occupant Restraints and Protective Equipment

Objective: To identify the rationale for having and using occupant restraints and protective equipment.

4.2.10.1 Instruction, at minimum, must address the following topics:

- (A) legal aspects;
- (B) vehicle control;
- (C) crash protection;
- (D) operational principles (active and passive);
- (E) helmets and other protective equipment;
- (F) proper use of child passenger safety seat systems; and
- (G) dangers involved in locking or leaving children in vehicles unattended.

4.2.11 Topic Eleven: Alcohol and Traffic Safety

Objective: To identify the effects of alcohol on roadway users.

4.2.11.1 Classroom instruction shall address the following topics:

- (A) physiological effects;
- (B) psychological effects;
- (C) legal aspects; and
- (D) synergistic effects.

4.2.12 Topic Twelve: Human Trafficking

Objective: Recognize the key indicators of human trafficking.

4.2.12.1 Instruction, at minimum, must address the following topics:

- (A) activities commonly associated with human trafficking;
- (B) recognition of potential victims of human trafficking; and

(C) methods for assisting victims of human trafficking, including how to report human trafficking.

4.2.13 Topic Thirteen: Comprehensive Examination or Unit Examination

Objective: The student reduces risk by legally and responsibly completing a Progress Assessment to evaluate classroom knowledge and understanding and measure progress (mastery equals 70 percent or above).

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