

# New York State Driver's License or Non-Driver's License ID Card

It may be of interest to you to learn to drive in the United States while studying at Skidmore College. Benefits to learning to drive and acquiring a New York State Driver's License can include greater mobility around the region, transportation to internships/employment, as well as use of Skidmore College owned vehicles for the purpose of Skidmore related activities (i.e. community service, internships, field trips).

A New York State Driver's License and a New York State Non-Driver's License ID (NYS ID) card also serve as official, government issued forms of ID that can be used to prove identity, age, and temporary residency. Having one of these documents will diminish the use of your national passport as a form of ID when needed here in the local area (remember, it is advised to take your passport and I-20/DS-2019 with you when visiting other regions in the United States). For example, admission to age restricted concerts or entertainment, the purchase of alcohol or tobacco, or registration for certain memberships or benefits.

You can drive in NYS if you have an unexpired foreign driver's license with you. However, some police officers and automobile insurers believe that you need a NYS driver's license after residing in NYS for a period time. Therefore, we recommend that you obtain a NYS driver's license if you are eligible.

To apply for a driver's license or NYS ID, you will first need a Social Security Number (SSN) or a Social Security Administration "Letter of Ineligibility". **Note:** You do not need employment to qualify for the SSA "Letter of Ineligibility." This is the perfect option for students not working currently. More information is available [here](#).

NYS ID Steps are as follows:

- Visit the Saratoga County Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in the Wilton Mall with the following documents:
  - SSN or Letter of Ineligibility (**Note: this letter must be no more than 30 days old**)
  - Skidmore ID and transcript (may be printed from [Student System login](#))
  - Bank Card/ATM Card
  - Passport
  - I-20/DS-2019 (for non-US citizens only)
  - I-94 (for non-US citizens only)
  - \$\$ (Cash, Check, or credit/debit card)

NYS Driver's License Steps are as follows:

- Same as above but you must first [apply for a learner permit](#).
- Next you must take a 5-hour pre-licensing class (in a classroom)
- Next you may take driving/road lessons (recommended)
- Finally, you may [apply for a driver's license and take a road test](#).

Below are links to local driving schools who will teach the 5 hour pre-licensing course that is required once you pass your permit test. These driving schools also have loaner cars when you are ready to take the road test and will also give you driving lessons to prepare for that road test.

<http://www.bellsdriving.com/>

<http://www.marybethschoolofdriving.com/>

<http://www.rinkodrivingschool.com/>

We've seen cars from Bell's and Marybeth's pick students up for lessons at Case Lot. They have their own cars they use for lessons and I think even let you use (for a fee) to take the driving test.

Please refer to their websites for pricing and details.

### **Additional and Helpful Links:**

- [NYS Driver's Manual and Practice Tests](#)
- [University at Buffalo comprehensive driving information for international students studying in New York State.](#)

### **Important Information About Driving:**

- Driving while intoxicated ("DWI") is a very serious crime in New York State.
- NYS law requires a "hands-free device" to use your cell phone in the car.
- Texting while driving is against the law!
- As a driver, you must always wear your seat belt — it's the Law! It is customary in the United States for all passengers to wear seat belts too.