



URHS Driver Education Handbook

Driver Education at Uintah River High School is a comprehensive program designed to prepare students for safe, responsible driving. This program is provided to students and their families to assist in meeting Utah State Board of Education (USB) and Driver License Division (DLD) requirements. **Please note: Enrollment in the course does not guarantee a driver license; all state-mandated hours and proficiency standards must be met to receive certification.**

Eligibility Requirements

- **Age:** Students must be at least 15 years of age to enroll.
- **Valid Learner's Permit:** Students must possess a physical, valid Utah Learner's Permit before beginning any instruction.
- **Permit Maintenance:** The permit must remain **active and valid** for the entire duration of the course. If a permit expires mid-semester, the student becomes legally ineligible to participate in the Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) component until the permit is renewed.
- **Immediate Possession:** By law, students must have their physical permit in their immediate possession during all driving sessions. Failure to produce a physical permit will result in the immediate cancellation of that driving session.

Program Components & Certification

The Driver Education program consists of two primary components that students typically participate in concurrently. It is important to understand that certification for each component is tracked and awarded independently:

- **Classroom:** Focuses on driving theory, state laws, and safety protocols.
- **Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) & Observation:** Focuses on practical driving skills and in-car safety.

Official Certification: To receive a certificate of completion for the Utah Driver License Division (DLD), a student must be officially certified in **both** components. Success in one area does not waive the requirements of the other.

Classroom

This component covers the academic and legal foundations of driving.

- **State-Mandated Seat Time:** Utah law requires a minimum of 27 hours of tracked classroom instruction. These hours can only be earned through physical attendance during designated class periods. Because the semester provides over 60 hours of available seat time, no outside make-up sessions or independent study hours will be offered.
- **Zero Missing Assignments:** Every assignment in the curriculum must be turned in. An "incomplete" status on any task will result in a denial of state certification.
- **Academic Proficiency:** Students must score at least **80% on every assigned task**. If a student scores below 80% on a task, they must remediate the work until the 80% threshold is met.
- **Zero Fatalities Parent Night:** Participation in a "Zero Fatalities" parent/teen presentation is a mandatory requirement for classroom certification.
- **The Classroom Certification Assignment:** To ensure the final grade reflects state eligibility, the gradebook includes a heavily weighted Classroom Certification assignment. Failure to meet any requirement—including the 27-hour seat time, the 80% mastery standard on all work, or the Zero Fatalities night—will result in a score of zero for this assignment. This will drop the overall course grade below the 80% required for state certification.

Behind-the-Wheel (BTW)

The Behind-the-Wheel component focuses on the practical application of driving skills in a controlled environment under professional supervision.

- **Instructional Requirements:** Students must complete a minimum of **6 hours of driving** and **6 hours of observation** in a state-equipped driver education vehicle.
- **Scheduling & Enrollment:** Driving sessions are scheduled through a first-come, first-served sign-up process managed by the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to monitor available slots and secure their sessions in a timely manner.
- **Punctuality & Cancellations:** Being on time is mandatory for all scheduled sessions. To ensure all students receive their state-required driving time, instructors cannot wait for late arrivals. If a student is not present and ready at the start of their scheduled time, the session may be cancelled, and the student will need to reschedule for a later date.

- **Mandatory Permit Possession:** Students **must** have their physical learner's permit in their possession to enter the driver's seat. Digital copies or photos are not legally acceptable. If a student forgets their permit, the session will be cancelled and must be rescheduled.
- **Safety & Conduct Rules:**
 - **Electronic Devices:** Cell phone use (including hands-free) by the driver or observers is strictly prohibited. Use of a device during a session may result in immediate termination of the drive and potential removal from the BTW component.
 - **General Conduct:** Students must follow all instructor directions immediately. Seat belts must be worn by all occupants at all times.
 - **Reckless Behavior:** Any unsafe or reckless behavior that endangers the occupants or the public will result in immediate removal from the program.
- **Liability:** Parents/guardians acknowledge that the student is responsible for any traffic violations incurred during BTW instruction. All incidents or accidents involving a Driver Education vehicle must be reported immediately to the instructor and school administration.
- **Certification:** Certification for BTW is awarded based on the completion of required hours and the demonstration of driving proficiency. This certification is independent of the Classroom component.

Additional State Licensing Requirements

While the high school provides the required **Classroom** and **Behind-the-Wheel** components, the state of Utah requires additional steps that are the responsibility of the parent/guardian:

- **40-Hour Practice Log:** Students must complete 40 hours of supervised driving (10 of which must be at night) with a parent or legal guardian.
- **Verification:** This log is verified by the parent/guardian directly with the DLD when the student applies for their intermediate license; it is not a prerequisite for school-based certification.
- **License Application:** The school electronically notifies the DLD once the student is certified in both components. The parent then completes the final application process at a DLD office.

URHS Driver Education Parental Consent & Acknowledgment Form

Student Name

Student Birthday

Permit Number

Guardian Name

Phone Number

Acknowledgment

By signing below, both the student and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read the URHS Driver Education Handbook and agree to the following mandatory state and school policies:

- **27-Hour Seat Time:** Utah law requires 27 hours of tracked classroom instruction. Hours are earned only during scheduled class times; because over 60 instructional hours are provided during the semester, no outside make-up sessions are provided.
- **80% Mastery & Zero Missing Assignments:** Every task must be submitted. Students must score at least 80% on each individual task to be eligible for state certification.
- **Classroom Certification Assignment:** Certification is contingent upon the successful completion of the weighted Classroom Certification Assignment. Failure to meet any mandatory state or school requirement will result in a 0% for this assignment, lowering the final course grade below the 80% certification threshold.
- **Physical Permit:** A physical learner's permit must be present at every driving session. Failure to produce the physical permit results in immediate session cancellation.
- **Independent Certification:** Classroom and Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) are separate components. Certification in one does not guarantee certification in the other; both must be completed for licensing.
- **40-Hour Log:** The parent/guardian is responsible for supervising the 40-hour practice log and certifying it directly with the DLD.

Parental Consent

I authorize my student to participate in the URHS Driver Education course. I acknowledge the inherent risks of behind-the-wheel instruction and agree the student is responsible for any traffic violations incurred. I understand that unsafe or reckless behavior will result in immediate removal from the program.

Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____