



**MONTANA DRIVER EDUCATION AND TRAINING CURRICULUM GUIDE**

**CLASSROOM AND IN-CAR SCOPE AND SEQUENCE**

Classroom Lessons	Behind-the-Wheel Lessons
<p><b>Module 1: Course Overview/Parent Orientation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teen driver education and training program goals</li> <li>• Course structure, policies and rules</li> <li>• Graduated driver licensing law</li> <li>• Responsibilities of the instructor, parent and student</li> <li>• Behaviors resulting in driver errors</li> <li>• Crash statistics in Montana and nationally</li> <li>• Risks associated with poor driving habits</li> </ul>	<p><b>Handouts to Parents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GDL Factsheet and Teen Driving Log</li> <li>• Seat Belts Save Lives</li> <li>• Eight Danger Zones</li> <li>• Teen Driver Booklet (Jerry Olson)</li> <li>• Pre-Drive Checklist</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 2.1: Preparing to Drive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Function of alert and warning symbols, and gauges</li> <li>• Location, function, and operation of vehicle control devices and safety, communication, and convenience devices</li> <li>• Pre-entry tasks made around the vehicle entry into the vehicle tasks</li> <li>• Seating, steering wheel (if adjustable), and restraint adjustments</li> <li>• Traditional mirror adjustments</li> <li>• Enhanced side view mirror (gbe) settings</li> <li>• Securing and exiting tasks after stopping a motor vehicle</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>In-Car Lesson 1</u></b>  <b><i>Environment: Parking Lot</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation to drive</li> <li>• Orientation to controls/adjustments</li> <li>• All occupants buckled up</li> <li>• Starting the vehicle</li> <li>• Steering wheel control</li> <li>• Putting the vehicle into motion</li> <li>• Managing speed control</li> <li>• On/Off targeting (Vision Control) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Turn head before turning wheel</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tracking on a straight path</li> <li>• Stopping smoothly with controlled braking</li> <li>• Stopping quickly with threshold braking</li> <li>• Securing and exiting the vehicle</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 2.2: Basic Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blind areas to the front, sides, and rear of a vehicle</li> <li>• Targeting establishes steering accuracy</li> <li>• Visual reference points</li> <li>• Pre-drive and starting tasks</li> <li>• Four (4) steering wheel control techniques</li> <li>• Procedures for entering and leaving the roadway</li> <li>• Acceleration control</li> <li>• Controlled, threshold, and trail braking control</li> <li>• Left and right precision turns, stopped and moving</li> <li>• Backing straight and while turning</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>In-Car Lesson 2</u></b>  <b><i>Environment: Low Speed, Low Risk Traffic</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locating reference points</li> <li>• Selecting lane positions</li> <li>• Searching intersections</li> <li>• Responding to signs/signals/markings</li> <li>• Entering intersections</li> <li>• Turning right from a stop and while moving</li> <li>• Turning left from a stop and while moving</li> <li>• Backing on a straight path</li> <li>• Backing while turning</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 3.1: Strategies for Effective Vision Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fields of vision</li> <li>• Overcoming physical visual problems</li> <li>• Effect speed has on vision</li> <li>• Techniques to improve vision while driving</li> <li>• Good driving habits</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Module 3.2: Strategies for Managing Time and Space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Components of a space management system</li> <li>• Orderly visual search pattern</li> <li>• Changes to line of sight restrictions</li> <li>• Changes to path of travel restrictions</li> <li>• Six zone locations</li> <li>• Maximize lane positions</li> <li>• Evaluate a gap</li> <li>• Control vehicle space to the front, sides, rear</li> <li>• Communication techniques</li> <li>• Orderly visual search process</li> <li>• Evaluate target area</li> <li>• Restrictions to the line of sight</li> <li>• Restrictions to the path of travel</li> <li>• 20 to 30 second visual search range</li> <li>• 12-15 second visual search range</li> <li>• 4-6 second immediate response range</li> <li>• Control space around the vehicle</li> <li>• Selecting a gap</li> <li>• Communication prior to a speed or lane position</li> <li>• Dangers of improper signaling</li> <li>• Respond to traffic to the sides and rear</li> <li>• Calculate distance traveled with various speeds</li> <li>• Vehicle control sequence of vision control, motion control, and steering control</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>In-Car Lesson 3</u></b>  <b><i>Environment: Low Risk Traffic</i></b></p> <p>Responding to traffic signs, signals, markings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• yielding right of way</li> <li>• selecting where to stop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– searching to the front</li> <li>– approaching &amp; recognizing intersections types</li> <li>– searching intersections\identifies line of sight/path of travel (LOS-POT) restrictions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• controlling space to the front <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– judging distance in seconds</li> <li>– establishing following time</li> <li>– selecting lane positions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• entering intersections</li> <li>• changing lanes</li> <li>• reading instruments</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 3.3: Strategies for Mixing with Traffic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yielding right of way</li> <li>• Yielding to emergency vehicles, funerals, school buses, and pedestrians</li> <li>• Right of way rules at intersections with highway-rail grade crossings</li> <li>• Different intersection types, including roundabouts</li> <li>• Respond to traffic signs, signals and markings• controlled and uncontrolled intersections</li> <li>• Controlled and uncontrolled railroad crossings</li> <li>• Searching skills to the left, front, right and rear of the vehicle</li> <li>• Identify and select the best lane position, best speed, and communication</li> <li>• Legal and staggered stop positions</li> <li>• Vision, motion and steering control</li> <li>• Lane change and passing</li> <li>• Blind area checks and mirror use</li> <li>• Speed adjustment</li> <li>• Lane positions</li> <li>• Vision, motion and steering control</li> <li>• Communication techniques</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>In-Car Lesson 4</u></b>  <b><i>Environment: Moderate Traffic</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluating target path</li> <li>• Searching to the front</li> <li>• Responding to LOS-POT conditions</li> <li>• Selecting lane positions</li> <li>• Applying speed control</li> <li>• Stopping with vehicle in front</li> <li>• Using staggered stops for space management</li> <li>• Delaying moving for 2 seconds</li> <li>• Identifying open/closed zones</li> <li>• Using share lanes</li> <li>• Passing and being passed</li> </ul>

### **Module 3.4: Sharing the Road with Other Users**

- Pedestrians
- Bicyclists
- Motorcyclists
- Trucks
- Trains
- Buses
- Construction vehicles
- Farm machinery
- Slow-moving vehicles
- Oversized vehicles
- Vehicles towing trailers
- Recreational vehicles
- Mopeds and scooters
- Emergency vehicles
- Funeral processions
- Animals

### **Module 3.5: Vehicle Control in Limited Spaces**

- 2-point turnabouts
- 3-point turnabouts
- U turns
- Angle parking
- Parallel parking
- Street/curb parking
- Perpendicular forward parking
- Perpendicular backing into parking space
- Parking uphill and downhill with and without a curb
- Parking in restricted parking areas

#### **In-Car Lesson 5**

##### ***Environment: Low Risk Traffic***

- Selecting and performing turnabout options
  - Mid-block u-turn
  - Intersection u-turns
  - Two-point—right and left
  - Three-point
- Forward perpendicular parking
- Angle parking

#### **In-Car Lesson 6**

##### ***Environment: Low to Moderate Traffic and Speeds, Parking Lot***

- Space management
- Backing into perpendicular parking
- Backing into an alley or driveway
- Making legal stops & staggered stops
- Responding to signs/signals/markings
- Practice commentary driving

## Module 4.1: Natural Laws Affecting Vehicle Control

- Gravity and energy of motion
- Effect gravity and energy of motion have on friction and traction
- Effect of speed on energy of motion
- Forces of an impact
- Tire condition and air pressure on traction
- Forces while in a curve
- Factors that affect braking distance
- Vehicle modifications on vehicle balance and traction
- Forces of energy on vehicles of different weights and size of vehicle's maximum load
- Cause and effect of vehicle load changes (balance) from side to side, front to rear, and rear to front
- Effect of vehicle load on vehicle balance
- Proper seating position for vehicle balance and control
- Hands and steering techniques to maintain vehicle balance and control
- Aggressive steering, braking, and acceleration affects vehicle balance and control
- Feet positions to maintain vehicle balance and control
- Acceleration and braking techniques to maintain vehicle balance and control
- Traction loss and effect to the front wheels and rear wheels
- Manage traction loss on a front wheel drive, rear wheel drive, and all wheel drive vehicle
- Conditions that can create traction loss and vehicle imbalance
- Traction and vehicle balance are affected by steering, acceleration, deceleration and roadway surfaces
- Function and advantages of 2- and 4- wheel anti-lock braking (abs) systems
- Vehicle braking systems and the proper braking techniques used for those systems; and explain the purpose of enhanced (variable/assist) steering, stability control and traction control systems
- Enhanced (variable/assist) steering, stability control and traction control systems
- The three collisions of a crash and the effect on the restrained and unrestrained human body
- Locations and purpose of airbags, belt adjusters, and head restraints and demonstrate proper adjustments and operation to provide crash survival protection for adults
- Child restraint systems (infants, forward-facing, booster seats and lap shoulder devices) operate, proper positioning within a vehicle and how they provide crash survival protection
- Demonstrate proper steering wheel adjustments to accommodate for airbags

## Module 4.2: Strategies for Negotiating Hills and Curves

- Respond to line of sight and path of travel restrictions
- Approach to hills or curves
- Speed for ascending and descending hills
- Entry speed and lane positions for a hill or curves
- Speed and lane positions in a curves' apex
- Speed and lane positions for exiting curves
- Maintain traction in curves

## In-Car Lesson 7

### ***Environment: Moderate Speeds and Traffic***

- Space Management
- Searching for Curves in Target Area
  - Adjusting for Best Speed
  - Adjusting for Best Lane Position
- Searching Through Curves
- Driving Through Curves
  - Approach
  - Visual Search
  - Speed Control/Trail Braking
  - Lane Position
- Managing Vehicle Balance
- Driving Up and Down Hills
  - Selecting Best Lane Position
  - Maintaining Speed Control
  - Stopping and Starting on a Hill
  - Parking on Hills

<p><b>Module 4.3: Urban Driving</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Characteristics of an urban driving environments</li> <li>• Signs, signals, and markings</li> <li>• Hazards associated with urban driving</li> <li>• Different types of intersection and roadway configurations</li> <li>• Time and space management strategies for urban environments</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>In-Car Lesson 8</u></b>  <b><i>Environment: Complex with Increased Speeds and Traffic</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space management</li> <li>• Using a visual search pattern</li> <li>• Recognizing rear zone changes</li> <li>• Controlling rear zone</li> <li>• Keeping 3-4 second following time</li> <li>• Navigating one-way streets</li> <li>• Communication and courtesy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 4.4: Rural and Highway Driving</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Characteristics of rural driving environments</li> <li>• Signs, signals and markings</li> <li>• Hazards associated with rural driving</li> <li>• Animals in rural areas and know and abide by Montana’s open range law</li> <li>• Road conditions with proper lane position and speed</li> <li>• Passing and being passed on two lane and multi-lane rural roads</li> <li>• Slow moving vehicles</li> <li>• Time and space management strategies for rural driving environments</li> </ul> <p><b>Limited Access Highway Driving</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advantages and disadvantages of limited access highways</li> <li>• Signs, signals, and markings</li> <li>• Types of expressway interchanges</li> <li>• Lane choice</li> <li>• Problems due to congestion</li> <li>• Good habits for entering and exiting limited access highways</li> <li>• Good habits for lane changes and passing</li> <li>• Higher speed can affect vehicle control</li> <li>• Steering control, speed control, and braking control</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>In-Car Lesson 9</u></b>  <b><i>Environment: Moderate Speeds and Traffic</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space management</li> <li>• Passing and being passed on two-lane roads</li> <li>• Practicing ABS braking (when available)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 5.1: Strategies for Adverse Conditions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sources for glare and procedures to protect from glare</li> <li>• Low light or darkness conditions</li> <li>• Laws regarding headlights use</li> <li>• Headlight projection and efficient and proper use of vehicle illumination</li> <li>• Fog related reduced visibility conditions</li> <li>• Winter driving conditions</li> <li>• Limited visibility conditions caused by smoke and dust</li> <li>• Rain related reduced visibility</li> <li>• Extreme weather driving conditions such as flooding, heat, cold, storms, blizzards, and strong wind</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>In-Car Lesson 10</u></b>  <b><i>Environment: Interstate or Simulated Environment</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space management</li> <li>• Entering, lane changing and exiting limited access highways</li> </ul>

### **Module 5.2: Strategies for Emergencies**

- Sudden tire deflation
- Accelerator problems
- Engine, cooling, steering, electrical, lighting, and brake failures
- Vehicle fire
- Skids
- Emergency evasive steering, including proper response to startle
- Return a vehicle to the pavement from an off-road condition
- Montana's Good Samaritan law
- Reporting a collision
- What to do at the scene of a collisions
- When law enforcement must be called after a collision
- Respond to emergency personnel's directions
- Insurance reporting requirements
- Complete a collision report

### **In-Car Lesson 11**

***Environment: Complex with Increased Speeds and Traffic***

- Space management
- Managing zones
- Sharing the road with other users
- Communication and courtesy
- Parallel parking
- Driving at night (when available)
- Rail grade crossing
- Handling emergency situations (simulated if needed)

### **Module 5.3 Protecting Occupants**

- Describe the three collisions of a crash and the effect on the restrained and unrestrained human body.
- Identify and describe locations and purpose of airbags, belt adjusters, and head restraints and demonstrate proper adjustments and operation to provide crash survival protection for adults.
- Identify how child restraint systems operate (infants, forward-facing, booster seats and lap shoulder devices), proper positioning within a vehicle, and how they provide crash survival protection.
- Demonstrate proper steering wheel adjustments to accommodate for airbags.

### **Module 5.4 Managing Risk with Vehicle and Roadway Design**

- Crash survival features incorporated into highway and vehicular design
- Collision types and actions to control the consequences of a crash
- Improved highway and vehicle technology helps minimize the consequences of a crash

## **Module 6: Deadly D's –Distractions, Drugs and Alcohol, Drowsy and Dangerous Emotions Driver Fitness and Responsibilities**

### **6.1 Distractions**

- Vehicle audio and video systems, cell phones and other electronic devices, passengers, unrestrained animals
- Eating, drinking, smoking, reading, personal grooming
- Conditions outside the vehicle can create distractions
- Personal plan for reducing distractions while driving

### **6.2 Drugs and Alcohol**

- Senses used while driving
- Effect of emotions on driver behavior; controlling emotions while driving
- Temporary and permanent disabilities; compensating for disabilities while driving
- Legal and illegal alcohol and drugs affect people differently
- Amount of alcohol in various drinks
- Blood alcohol content (bac) related to a person's body weight
- BAC related to consuming a certain number of drinks containing alcohol in a given period of time
- Synergistic effects of alcohol and/or drugs
- Effects of alcohol and drugs on driver perception, vision, reaction time, and risk-taking
- Increased probability of being involved in a fatal traffic crash after drinking
- Physiological and psychological effects of other drugs on the driving task
- Wise not to use alcohol or other drugs while operating a motor vehicle
- Develop a plan to intervene when someone is drinking
- Say no to peer pressure involving alcohol or other drug usage
- Scope of the overall alcohol/traffic safety problem in Montana and the United States
- Alcohol is the most commonly used drug involved with driving
- Facts about teenage drinking and driving in Montana and the United States
- Excuses why people drink and drive or use drugs and drive
- Effect alcohol-related crashes and DUIs have on families and communities
- Rules, regulations, and penalties applicable for minors in possession, minors and adults while driving under the influence, and open containers
- Rules, regulations, and penalties applicable to minors and adults for improper use of a driver license to obtain alcohol
- Rules, regulations, and penalties applicable to minors and adults for administrative license suspension and implied consent

### **6.3 Drowsy**

- Physical and mental effect of fatigue on driver behavior
- Importance of sleep and its effect on performance
- Physical and mental symptoms of fatigue on the driving task
- Methods to prevent driving while fatigued and drowsy

### **6.4 Dangerous Emotions – Road Rage**

- Aggressive driving behaviors that can lead to road rage
- Driver errors that can lead to aggressive driving
- Anxieties that can lead to dangerous driving behaviors
- Strategies to reduce conflicts while driving
- Anger management techniques to prevent aggressive driving and road rage

### **Module 7.1: Driver Licensing and Final Assessment**

- Process of obtaining and maintaining a Montana driver license
- Types of driver licenses and permits
- Special information that may be placed on a driver license or instruction permit
- Licensing restrictions, suspensions, and revocations placed on driving privileges
- License renewal processes
- Skills to reinforce and practice
- Requirements and consequences during the graduated driver license period
- Purpose of the supervising driver practice guide and how to utilize it during the required practice period
- Guided behind-the-wheel practice
- Strategies to continue and accept personal responsibility for the life-long learning process of reduced risk driving

### **In-Car Lesson 12**

- Skills Assessment (ideally with parent)

### **Module 7.1: Driver Licensing and Final Assessment**

- The components of the Highway Transportation System
- Impact and consequences of personal driving behaviors on other users in the Highway Transportation System
- Insurance obligations for owning and driving an automobile
- Montana's vehicle insurance laws
- Coverage and conditions for automobile insurance
- Establish and reduce automobile insurance rates
- Reasons individuals have automobile insurance denied or revoked
- Report to insurance agents after a crash
- Purchasing a new or used automobile
- Pre-purchase inspection of a used automobile
- Expenses associated with purchasing and owning a new or used vehicle
- Understand the registration and titling process
- Dashboard warning symbols and respond to an activated warning symbol
- Under the hood vehicle maintenance checks
- Service requirements of the steering, suspension, fuel, electrical, lighting, and braking systems
- Mechanical and tire malfunctions and the importance of securing maintenance and repairs to eliminate potential driving problems

### **Module 7.2 Owning Vehicle/Trip Planning**

- Routes for local and extended trips using state and local maps
- Personal and vehicular needs for an extended trip
- Cost of an extended trip;
- Alternative routes
- Trip planning information from the internet
- Prepare and load a vehicle for travel

### **Conserving resources**

- Personal and global benefits of conserving energy, reducing pollution, and recycling
- Littering
- Costs linked to littering
- Personal strategies to reduce litter on Montana's roadways
- Emissions and pollutants emitted by motor vehicles
- Maintenance tasks that keep vehicles from polluting
- Motor vehicle fluids and parts that must and can be recycled
- Driving techniques that conserve fuel