

Driving In Georgia

If you would like to get a driver's license you will be able to apply for one at a Department of Driver Services (DDS) office. The closest office to GGC is located at:

310 Hurricane Shoals Rd. NE

Lawrenceville, GA 30046

678-413-8400

As an F-1 or J-1 Student/Scholar you will be required to apply in person, must be at least 18 years old, and pass tests relating to vision, knowledge of US traffic laws/road signs, and driving skills. (www.dds.georgia.gov/information-non-us-citizens)

It is recommended that you wait at least 10 days after arriving before applying to ensure your immigration data is in the system.

All F-1 and J-1 Students/Scholars must bring:

- Unexpired passport
- Original I-94 record
- 2 Separate documents that prove local residence such as a lease agreement, a utility bill with your name and local address, bank statement (<https://online.dds.ga.gov/secureid/accepteddocs.aspx>), or a letter certifying your address from the Office of Internationalization.
- License Fee (<https://dds.georgia.gov/non-commercial-license-fees>)
- Original most current I-20 (F-1) or DS-2019 (J-1)
- Social Security Card with SSN*

*If you do not have a social security number or are not eligible for one you must first obtain a Form SSA-L676 (Letter of Ineligibility) from an SSA office before attempting to get a driver's license. Go to the closest SSA office and apply for a SSN to be presented with a letter of ineligibility. At the SSA office you will need to bring filled form SS-5, your unexpired passport with valid visa, your original I-94 record, and original I-20 or DS-2019 form, and sponsor letter from the Office of Internationalization verifying student status and stating that you need form SSA-L676 to apply for a driver's license.

Georgia ID- You will need the same documents as listed above to obtain a Georgia ID card.

For general information regarding driving in Georgia, visit www.dds.ga.gov. For information for non-U.S. citizens, visit www.dds.georgia.gov/information-non-us-citizens. You can also take a practice test at http://www.dds.ga.gov/training/pt_intro.aspx.

Now you have your license, so what else:

Liability Insurance: To drive a car in Georgia you must maintain at least liability insurance. This means that, in case of an accident, insurance covers the damage to the other's party's car as well as injuries you may cause. It does not cover your own car. There are additional types of coverage that vary with each insurance company. There are many insurance companies, so shop around for the best rates.

Traffic Accidents: If you are involved in a traffic accident, stay calm and call the police immediately (Dial 911). If the accident is serious and requires an ambulance, let the telephone operator know. Avoid confrontation with the other driver. For further questions about what to do in case of a traffic accident, consult your insurance company. Most importantly, stay calm.

Traffic Violations: The U.S. has many traffic laws that may be different from your home country's laws. It is good practice to review some of the most common traffic laws before you get behind the wheel. If you violate a traffic law and are seen by a police officer, the officer will pull you over by flashing the car or motorcycle's blue lights and turning on a siren. Pull over to the right side of the road carefully and out of the way of traffic.

Put your car in park and roll down your driver's side window. **Keep your hands on the steering wheel and do not attempt to get out.** This is for the officer's safety. Always be polite, even if you are angry or confused. You will need to provide your license and sometimes your proof of registration and insurance. If you are issued a ticket, you will probably have to pay a fine and you may be required to appear in traffic court. The officer could issue a warning, which means there is no fine and you will not appear in court. You should thank the officer for only issuing a warning.

Alternative Methods of Transportation*: GGC partners with Zipcar, a car rental service that allows people to rent cars for short amounts of time (one hour to seven days). For more information, visit <https://www.zipcar.com/universities/georgia-gwinnett-college> .

**The lists provided for businesses, vendors, and so on is not meant as an endorsement by GGC of any particular business or service. Such is provided merely as a convenience. GGS is not responsible for any non-GGC service and/or business listed herein. Other businesses/services not listed herein may be available for students to use. Students are encouraged to ensure they have researched any particular business and/or service prior to use and make their own decisions as to whether to use the business and/or service.*