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NEW MEXICO DRIVER'S LICENSE AND STATE ID

I. EXPLANATION

We recommend that you obtain at least one form of U.S. identification to carry in order to avoid carrying your passport with you; this can be any type of Driver's License or State ID issued by the state of NM. You will need it for writing checks, using credit cards, ordering or purchasing alcohol, or entering a bar or night club.

New Mexico issues two official kinds of driving permits for driving and two kinds of state ID for proof of identity (not for driving): *Real IDs* and *Standard IDs*. *Real IDs* (both driving licenses and ID cards) can be used for federal purposes such as boarding an airplane or entering a government facility. *Standard IDs* (both driving licenses and ID cards) cannot be used for federal purposes but are valid for use in the state of New Mexico and for driving or ID in other states. When you apply, you will need to CHOOSE whether you want the *Real ID* to use for federal purposes or the *Standard ID* for state purposes only. You need to know which one you will be applying for and bring the required documents on the attached list BEFORE YOU GO. Remember that international students should use their passports to board an airplane or enter a federal facility so either of these types of ID will work. When you go to apply, be prepared to wait and also be sure to bring this handout and all required documents. If you have trouble, please ask to speak with a manager.

If you plan to drive in New Mexico, you MUST have a driver's license with you each time you drive a vehicle. If you have a valid driver's license from your home country or an international driver's license, you may drive with that license until you become a resident of NM. You are considered a state resident for this purpose once you have lived here for more than six months. It is likely that if you are stopped or questioned by a police officer, they may not recognize the driver's license from your home country. Therefore, if you plan to live here for more than 6 months and drive a car, we highly recommend that you obtain a license. The fee varies from \$18-\$49, depending on the length of time it is issued. If you do not want to apply for a driver's license, you should consider obtaining a state ID card; it looks just like a driver's license and is also issued by the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD), but is *only for identification purposes*.

II. CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Documents: To obtain a *Real ID* driver's license or ID card you will need to bring your current passport, unexpired visa, I-94 printout, I-20 (or DS-2019 for J visa holders), and two documents showing your physical address as proof of New Mexico residence (such as a rental agreement, bank statement with your full street address, utility bill), see "Documentation Requirements" attached. You may also want to take a *translated and notarized* version of your home country license, if you have one (please see "Previous Licenses" in the next section). **If you do not have a valid visa, you will have to get a *Standard ID*.** Note that MVD personnel may not be familiar with requirements for non-immigrants in lawful status who want to obtain a license or ID, **so they may ask you to get fingerprinted, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO.** Bring this handout with you and ask for a supervisor if you have difficulty communicating with the MVD staff person.

US Social Security Number: MVD personnel will ask you for a social security number. You are **not** required to have a social security number to be issued a driver's license or state identification card. If you do have a Social Security number, bring it with you – you can use it for identification. Otherwise, the items listed in the other two columns of the attached list will suffice.

III. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Previous Driver's Licenses

Those applying for a first-time driver's license will need to pass a written test, an eye exam, and a road test to obtain the license. If you already have a license from your home country, you may be able to skip the road test, but you will have to take the written test and eye exam. If you have a valid license from another US state, you can usually trade that license for a NM license after presenting proof of NM residency. **Please note that if you show a previous driver's license from the US or your home country, NM law requires the MVD staff member to take it from you during the**

application process for a NM driver's license—a hole will be punched through your old license to render it invalid before it is returned to you. If you do not want to give up your home country license or license from another US state, you will have to take the road test. If you present a home-country license that is not in English, you will also need to have it translated and notarized before you can be exempt from the road test. You cannot translate the document yourself. Notary services are available at GEO. To have your translated document notarized, the translator must present the translation to a notary in-person and show a valid, government-issued photo ID. The appropriate notary certificate must be included with your translation. For assistance with notary services, call GEO at 505-277-4032.

Automobile Insurance

In NM, as in most US states, it is mandatory that all automobile operators carry proof of liability insurance for the automobile they are driving. You must supply proof of automobile insurance upon demand by any state official. Insurance may be purchased from a number of reputable companies which can be found online.

Car Registration

All automobiles owned by NM residents must be registered with the state of NM through the MVD. In order to register your car, you must show proof of emissions testing. Your vehicle must pass the test once every two years. Any oil changer, car dealer, or mechanic that is licensed by the state can conduct the test. Fees assessed for the registration vary according to the year and type of car.

IV. APPLICATION PROCESS DURING COVID, APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL STATE OFFICES

STEP 1: All MVD Field Office services require an appointment.

You must make an appointment. To make an appointment go to <https://secure.mvd.newmexico.gov/InlineOnline/>. Once you make an appointment you can go directly to an MVD office to apply (**do not go to an “MVD Express” office as they cannot serve non-citizens**). We recommend arriving early for your appointment, so you do not miss your time slot. If you miss your time, you might be required to rebook your appointment at a later date.

STEP 2: Determine if the *None for the Road Drunk Driving Awareness Program* applies to you.

If you are under 25 years of age and this is your first New Mexico driver's license, you have to complete the *NONE for the Road DWI Awareness Program* before you may apply for the license. The fee is \$25.00 and it is a self-taught class, administered by UNM Continuing Education, with the workbook sent to you and a video available at your local library. Once you receive a workbook and answer all the questions correctly, the results in the form of a certificate are sent to you. The certificate must be presented to the MVD at the time you apply for your license. Call (505) 277-0051 or go online at <http://ce.unm.edu/community-services/dwi-education.html> for additional information.

STEP 3: If necessary, take the written test

Obtain the *New Mexico Driver's Manual* from any of the MVD offices or online (in English and Spanish) at <http://www.dmv.org/nm-new-mexico/driver-handbook.php>. This booklet covers all the driving regulations that you need to know in order to pass the written test, so study it carefully. You will need to pass this test before taking the road test. The written test is usually available half an hour before your scheduled road test. However, if you do not pass it, you will need to reschedule the driving test. Find the MVD procedure manual (<https://www.mvd.newmexico.gov/resources/mvd-procedures-manuals/>) where you can also download their phone application.

STEP 4: If necessary, take the road test (appointment required)

You need to make an appointment to take the road test and bring a vehicle (someone else must drive you to the test if you do not have a license). An examiner will accompany you for a brief on-the-road test of your driving skills. The car you are driving for the road test must have current registration and insurance and be in good condition. You must also pass a vision test when you go in to take the road test. To make an appointment: <https://www.mvd.newmexico.gov/mvd-direct-appointments/>

V. DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES DIVISION (MVD) OFFICES

Contact the office you plan to go to for open hours, directions, and services provided at that location.

GENERAL INFORMATION PHONE NUMBER: 1-888-683-4636 or <http://www.mvd.newmexico.gov/>

4575 San Mateo Blvd NE Ste G190
505-875-0715 (Recommended location)

801 4TH ST NW
505-746-6650

11500 Menaul Blvd NE
505-292-4570

VI. PURCHASING A CAR

Owning a car in the US is expensive. Visit: <https://iss.unm.edu/life-in-abq/transportation.html> for resources on buying a car look or come to the workshop on this topic.

NM REAL ID



List of Acceptable Documents



Provide certain documents from section A, B and C to get a New Mexico REAL ID. Your documents must be original or certified copies. A certified copy is a copy of a primary document that is endorsed by the entity that issued the original document. Photocopies, notarized photocopies and non-certified copies are **NOT** acceptable. A REAL ID can only be issued **AFTER** MVD has electronically verified the Lawful Status and Identification Number documents. Note: We have included legal documents non-citizens are likely to have and highlighted here the most common held by student visa holders.

A: Lawful Identity and Age Provide One (1) Document	B. Identification Number Provide One (1) Document	C. New Mexico Residency Provide TWO (2) Documents
<p>Your current legal name will be listed on your REAL ID. The selected document must include your:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name at birth, if not legally changed; Name at birth, + linking documents (marriage, divorce, adoption or court records) linking your legal name to your original identity document; or Name currently used, i.e. passport. 	<p>Your Identification Number document must match your current legal name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linking documents may be used to tie name on ID number to document to legal name; It may include, omit or abbreviate the suffix (i.e. "Jr."); and It may include, omit or abbreviate your middle name. 	<p>Your New Mexico Residency documents² must match your current legal name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linking documents may be used to tie name on residency documents to legal name; It may include, omit or abbreviate the suffix (i.e. "Jr."); and It may include, omit or abbreviate your middle name.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Passport Plus 1 supporting document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visa and I-94 I-551 Stamp (Permanent residents) Department of Homeland Security (DHS) & US Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) Issued Forms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent Resident Card - I-551 Employment Authorization - I-766 or I-688B REAL ID Act of 2005 Credential Plus 1 supporting document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unexpired immigrant or non-immigrant visa status for admission into the U.S. Pending/approved application for U.S. asylum Admission into the U.S. as a refugee Pending/approved application for temporary protected U.S. status Approved deferred action status Pending application for adjustment of status to legal permanent or conditional resident Conditional permanent resident alien status Other documents DHS may designate listed in Federal Register 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Passport Plus 1 supporting document: Square I-551 stamp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I-55 Stamp Visa and I-94 Social Security Number (SSN) Card Paystub These Income Tax Forms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> W-2 Square 1099 (SSA or Non-SSA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents Dated within 60 Days Square Utility Bill, (no cell phone bill statements) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank or Credit Card Statement Employment Pay Stub Education Institution Document (Transcript, Report Card or Enrollment) Utility Bill which includes water, gas, electric, propane, internet, cable, satellite (does not include cell phone bills) ^(SEP) Education Institution Document which include ^(SEP)a transcript, report card or enrollment ^(SEP)confirmation ^(SEP) Documents with Current Date (not expired): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real Property Rental or Purchase Agreement

NM STANDARD ID List of Acceptable Documents



Applicant **MUST** also provide two proofs of New Mexico residency. See List B for acceptable proofs of NM residency

LIST A One (1) Documents that Established Proof of Identity Age		LIST B Two (2) Documents that Establish Proof of NM Residency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unexpired Employment Authorization document issued by the US Department of Homeland Security, form I-766 or form I-688B, verified by SAVE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ U.S., state, or local government- issued photo ID, issued based on name, social security number and date of birth if not expired more than a year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Documents Dated within 60 Days Square Utility Bill, (no cell phone bill statements) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bank or Credit Card Statement ○ Pay Stub ○ Education Institution Document (Transcript, Report Card or Enrollment) ○ Documents with Current Date (not expired): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Real Property Rental or Purchase Agreement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identification card issued by the consulate of Mexico in El Paso Texas, Albuquerque New Mexico, or such other foreign consulate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Valid New Mexico license or ID card expired for less than 1 year 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medical insurance card or documentation of medical insurance coverage or eligibility containing an insurance identification number 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medical record less than 1 year old that is not from Emergency room or Urgent Care facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I-94 form presented without passport if it contains the applicants photo 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Certified copy of foreign birth certificate, with a notarized English translation if not in English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social Security card or other document from the SSA with the applicant's name and social security number 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State government-issued photo ID card, or photo ID card issued by U.S. Territory, or by jurisdiction of Canada, with photograph and has not been expired more than a year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Passport or Passport card from the applicant's country of citizenship 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A state government issued learners permit, or a learner's permit issued by a territory of the US, or by a jurisdiction of Canada, with photograph and has not been expired more than a year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Valid Permanent Resident Card issued by the U.S. government, if verified in SAVE. 	

