



DRIVERS LICENSE INFO For VU International Students

<http://www.in.gov/bmv>

Bureau of Motor Vehicles—BMV

The BMV is located at: **2031 Hart Street** in Vincennes. For more info and hours see: <http://www.in.gov/bmv/4439.htm>

Applying for a Drivers License (or State ID), documents required:

- Passport (and I-94 card which should be stapled inside) and I-20
- Social Security card **OR** "Letter of Ineligibility" from the Social Security Administration (continue reading below).
- Translation letter of your home country drivers license (if you have one—continue reading below).
- Proof of residency—**two** of the following that shows your exact current address: VU school bill, VU enrollment letter, bank statement, utility bill, apartment lease/contract, cell phone bill, etc (all must be issued within 60 days). See the international advisor if you need assistance with this.

When you first go to the BMV, you will show them all your documents. If your documents look okay, you will then take a written driver's test (more info below). You will also do a vision test, so be sure to take your glasses if you are near sighted. You will most likely need to schedule a future driving test as well (keep reading for details).

Social Security Number (SSN) Requirement: You are not required to have a SSN in order to get a driver's license. If you do have an SSN, you must show your SS card to the BMV. If you do not have a SSN/SS card, you are required to first go the Social Security office and request a "Letter of Ineligibility." The Social Security Office is located at: **606 Veterans Drive** in Vincennes. It is off Hart Street (look for McDonalds and Pizza Hut) directly behind the Fifth-Third Bank. At the Social Security Office:

- #1: Enter and find the computer on the right side, press #1 on the screen and take your paper number.
- #2: Sit down and wait for your number to be called.
- #3: At the window, ask for a "Letter of Ineligibility" for the BMV.
- #4: Be sure to take your passport, I-20, and I-94 (usually stapled inside your passport).
- #5: Be sure to give them your exact dormitory mailing address.

Written Test: Every applicant is required to take a written test (**for exception see info below about drivers education course). You will take the written test at your first visit to the BMV. Before you go, be SURE to read and **thoroughly study** the Indiana Drivers Manual. You are personally responsible to know Indiana state laws regarding the rules of the road and the licensing of a car. People who are ignorant of the law can find themselves in deep trouble. You can download the electronic version of the Indiana Drivers Manual from: <http://www.in.gov/bmv/> You are allowed to repeat the test on a later date if you fail it.

If you already have a drivers license from your home country... First, make an appointment to see the international student advisor (by email). At your appointment time, bring your official home country drivers license in, and the advisor will translate it for you and provide you with a translation letter. The BMV will most likely waive the requirement for you to first get a driver's permit. If you have an international drivers license, please note that it will only be accepted if it is in English.

Driving Test: The next step is to make an appointment for the driving test. You will be issued a **driver's permit** after you pass the written test. The permit will allow you to practice with a licensed adult driver. The BMV does not provide a car for you to do this. You will need a friend who has a car to go with you. Your friend's car must be properly licensed and insured (this will be checked) and your friend must drive you to the BMV. Your friend must also have a valid license.

Do you want to take a drivers education class? You can take a driving class (evening times available) at **Let's Go Driving School**, which is just a 10 minute walk from the VU campus. They are certified by the State of Indiana and licensed by the BMV. The cost of the course (2010) is \$310.00 and includes 6 driving hours (they provide the car) and 30 classroom hours. New classes begin every 6 weeks. You must register for the course first, then go to the BMV to get your permit. You will not be required to take a written driving test at that time. See the international advisor for more information.

If you want to buy a car... we highly recommend that you have an American friend who is familiar with purchasing a car help you. Any car must be properly insured as well first before you can drive it.

Have questions? Contact: Daniel Whitmer email: dwhitmer@vinu.edu