

How to Obtain a Wisconsin Motorcycle License

Ready to take your motorcycle on the open road? This article will take you through the steps to get your Wisconsin motorcycle license with an extra emphasis on safe driving.

The Rules

Under Wisconsin DMV guidelines, anyone who drives a motorcycle must have a Class M motorcycle license or motorcycle instruction permit. To obtain a motorcycle instruction permit, the applicant must pass the motorcycle knowledge test, a sign test and a vision screening.

If under age 18, the following are also required:

- Be at least 16 years old
- Have a sponsor
- Provide proof of Driver Ed completion
- Provide proof of enrollment or completion of a Basic Motorcycle Rider Course

A cycle instruction permit is valid for six months. If the cycle instruction permit expires before the applicant completes the skill test, the permit can be renewed for an additional six months. Once the cycle instruction permit has been renewed three times, you would be required to show proof of enrollment or completion of an approved basic motorcycle rider course before renewal of the license is allowed. Some restrictions apply during the period the instruction permit is held:

- Must wear eye protection
- Must wear an approved helmet

Permit holders may ride alone during the day

If cycling after dark, the permit holder must be accompanied by a person at least 25 years old with two years licensed driving experience and a Class M motorcycle license.

Like most states, Wisconsin will waive your skills test and issue you a license if you complete an approved basic motorcycle rider safety course. These courses last anywhere from two to six weeks and include classroom instruction as well as driver training in a controlled, off-street environment. When you successfully complete this course, you

How to Obtain a Wisconsin Motorcycle License

will be eligible for your motorcycle driver's license without having to take your Wisconsin's road test.

Prepare for the Written Exam

The Wisconsin DMV requires that all applicants must pass a written motorcycle knowledge test on traffic signs, motor vehicle laws and safe driving techniques.

If you fail the exam, some states require you to wait until at least until the next day to take the test again and charge a re-examination fee.

All motorcyclists are encouraged to study for this written test so you don't take a chance on standing in line at the DMV Office only to go home empty-handed. On-line practice tests are available that provide real sample questions from the Wisconsin DMV Motorcycle Exam.

Paperwork

Before you head to the Wisconsin DMV Office, make sure you have the following required documents to get your motorcycle license. Examples include:

- Certified or original Birth certificate issued in any state
- Drivers license or instruction permit issued in another state
- U.S. passport
- U.S. military ID card (active duty, retired, reserve)
- Wisconsin ID card
- Social Security Number, if issued,
- Documents from a court of record
- Marriage certificate

On the Road

Once your licensing requirements have been met, a Class M endorsement will be added to your driver's license. Remember... the safe operation of a motorcycle requires practiced skill, knowledge, and a respectful understanding of the limitations imposed by the operator, the machine, and the environment.

NOTE: Go to the web site to take the Wisconsin, sample motorcycle test and test your driving knowledge.