

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY DRIVER AND VEHICLE SERVICES

Road Test Study Guide

How to Prepare for Your Road Test

- Be sure you know where all controls on your vehicle are and how they work.
- If you do not understand any instruction the examiner gives you, be sure to let them know.

During Your Road Test

- The examiner will give you instructions at least one block in advance of turns or before asking you to perform other maneuvers.
- You should drive at all times as if other traffic is present. This includes determining if it is safe to perform all maneuvers, including backing your vehicle.
- The examiner will not ask you to do anything illegal.
- The examiner will watch to be sure you are performing traffic checks, stopping at the correct location, observing all traffic signs and signals, etc.
- The examiner will write notes on your driving performance; focus on your driving, not what the examiner does.

After Your Road Test

- After you have completed the road test and parked the vehicle, the examiner will discuss the results with you, including explaining any driving errors you may have made and how to correct them.

Common Reasons for an Unsuccessful (Fail) Road Test

Approaching a turn

When approaching a turn, reduce your speed, apply the brakes smoothly and activate your turn signal at least 100 feet before a turn. The examiner will monitor you for traffic checks. You should check traffic ahead, left, right, and to the rear before you reach a corner, and look toward or make eye contact with other drivers or pedestrians.

Stopping before you turn

When stopping, always stop before the stop line painted on the road (if there is one.) If there is no painted line on the road, stop before the crosswalk. Remember, pedestrians have the right-of-way. If cars are stopped in front of you, leave enough room to see the rear bumper of the vehicle in front of you or enough room to go around the vehicle if it stalls.

If you are turning left, keep the wheels of your vehicle straight until you start the turn. If your wheels are turned, you could be pushed into oncoming traffic if someone hits your vehicle from behind.



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Completing the turn

Before you begin your turn, thoroughly check for traffic ahead, to the left and right, before accelerating safely through the turn.

Enter and complete the turn in the correct lane. Maintain the proper position in the lane. Do not turn so wide or short that your turn interferes with other lanes of traffic. Review the information in the Minnesota Driver's Manual for proper lane use while turning at multiple-lane intersections.

Intersections requiring you to stop

Check traffic both ways and to the rear before you reach the corner.

Reduce speed and apply your brakes smoothly as you approach the intersection. Keep your vehicle centered in the proper lane and leave enough room in front of you. You should be able to see the vehicle's rear bumper in front of you or have enough room to go around the vehicle if it stalls. It is important to keep a safe zone around you.

When stopping, always stop before the stop line painted on the road (if there is one.) If there is no painted line on the road, stop before the crosswalk. Remember, pedestrians have the right-of-way.

Approaching intersections that do not require a stop

- Slow down and be ready to stop if traffic does not yield to you.
- Keep your vehicle centered in your lane. Check traffic both ways before driving through the intersection.
- Yield to traffic on your right.
- Unless you are required to stop because of other vehicles, proceed through the intersection.

Changing Lanes

- Do not change lanes while you are in an intersection.
- Always check your "blind spot" by looking over your shoulder in the direction you want to move and activate your turn signal.
- Activate your turn signal to let other drivers know you intend to change direction.
- Remember to leave a safe space at the front and rear of your vehicle.

SAFETY TIP

Defensive Driving means anticipating problems and minimizing risk to help avoid accidents, like giving yourself enough room to keep you and your passengers safe



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