



Driving in Michigan

If you plan to get a Michigan driver's license, it is easier if you get it before your visa expires. If you have a valid driver's license from your home country, you may be able to drive legally with that license in Michigan as long as it is valid. Many, but not all, countries from which Michigan Tech enrolls students are included in the list of accepted licenses. You are not required to have an international driving permit, but it does provide a translation of your home-country license.

The State of Michigan lists foreign driver's licenses that are accepted as valid within Michigan here:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/reciprocity_chart_20508_7.pdf. These licenses are valid in the US only if they are unexpired. You must have a certified translation into English of any foreign country license that is not itself in English. Other states may have different rules, so if you are planning to drive outside the state of Michigan on a home-country license, check the rules for the states you will be driving through.

Checklist of Required Documents for F-1/F-2 or J-1/J-2 Students and Scholars seeking Michigan IDs and Driver's Licenses

Please note: The Michigan Department of State is now verifying student status with a version of the SAVE program that includes SEVIS information. Please ensure that student information has been entered and updated to SEVIS before the student visits a Secretary of State office. The student should provide the following:

- ✚ Social Security documents
 - Proof of a Social Security Number (Social Security card, pay stub, W -2, non SSA 1099)
 - or proof of ineligibility for a number. The local Social Security Office, which is next door to the Secretary of State Office where you apply for a driver's license, will provide this proof of ineligibility.
- ✚ Immigration documents
 - Valid, unexpired foreign passport, visa (even if it has expired), and 1-94 stamped with entry date indicating duration of status (*D/S*) or a specific future date for proof of legal presence and identity verification.
 - 1-20 Certificate of Eligibility for Non-immigrant (F-1) student or DS-2019 Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) status indicating enrollment in a Michigan school, college, or university (needed for both the student and the spouse or any other dependents).
 - Students on Optional Practical Training (OPT) must provide supporting evidence from the school.
- ✚ Two documents are needed to prove residency: acceptable documents include a lease agreement, utility bill, bank or other financial institution statement, credit card statement, school account records, insurance policy, pay stub, government document, or vehicle title and registration with the local address on it. Note: Family member documents may be used if the relationship can be substantiated.
 - A letter from the school, college, or university Designated School Official (DSO), confirming enrollment and current address can be accepted as one of the residency documents. Please include the DSO name and contact number. The IPS Office will provide this letter confirming enrollment & address.
- ✚ Road practice
 - If the student has a driver's license from his/her home country, it must be translated into English or have English subheadings (please use University letterhead for the translation). It can be used as evidence of driving experience, waiving the 30-day practice period before taking a driving skills test. It is not accepted for identification purposes.