

Ohio Driver's License and Coursework





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Overview

According to market research conducted through [Lightcast](#), the number one credential requested by employers is a state issued driver's license. Students who secure a driver's license can improve their employability and gain access to a wide range of learning opportunities. Recognizing the added value, [Ohio law](#) provides that students engaged in coursework to earn a driver license can now apply these efforts toward their [high school graduation requirements](#). This document is designed to assist schools and districts implement the changes enacted by law effective March 23, 2022.

Industry-Recognized Credentials

The Ohio Department of Education maintains a [list of industry-recognized credentials and licenses](#) approved under a committee established [in law](#). Following the process of approval, the Ohio driver's license has been added to the list under all career fields at a "one point" value. A student earning an Ohio driver's license can combine it with other credentials earned in any one of 13 career fields. The Ohio driver's license was added to the list of approved industry-recognized credentials beginning in school year 2022-2023.

Driver's Education Courses

A student who successfully completes a [driver's education course](#) offered by their district may earn a half credit towards high school elective credits. The district must either directly offer or contract with a third-party that offers driver's education. Students must have five elective credits, in addition to other required credits, to earn a high school diploma. The general education elective course Driver Education utilizes the subject code 210100.

Awarding Credit or Credential Points for Graduation Requirements

[Ohio law](#) allows a student who takes a driver's education course through their school to use that course to earn either:

1. 0.5 Credits toward their elective requirements for a diploma; or
2. One point of industry-recognized credentials when reporting the Ohio driver's license as earned¹.

A student **may not** use the successful completion of a driver's education course to earn both 0.5 elective credits and one point of industry-recognized credentials. Schools must choose which of these options to report to the Ohio Department of Education through the Education Management Information System (EMIS). Either option reported as earned by the student would apply toward their high school graduation requirements.

¹ ORC 3301.17 authorizes *up to* two points for the driver's licenses as an industry-recognized credential. The Industry-Recognized Credential Review Committee assigned the value at one point.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If a student already possesses an Ohio driver's license, are they eligible to earn the 1 point of industry-recognized credentials?

A: A student who has an Ohio driver's license is eligible to report the credential as earned no matter when or how they acquired the license. Given that a valid driver's license is possessed, a student can earn one point of industry-recognized credentials. If a student earned their license independently, without assistance from their district), then the district can not receive reimbursement from the Ohio Department of Education for the credential. The district should report the student earned the credential in the Education Management Information System (EMIS) utilizing EMIS Code CR63. If technical assistance is needed for EMIS, the district should contact their [Information Technology Center \(ITC\)](#) for assistance in submitting an EMIS Helpdesk Ticket.

Q: Under what career fields is the Ohio driver's license approved to earn industry-recognized credential points?

A: The Ohio driver's license is approved under all 13 career fields and valued at one point. A student may combine driver's license with other credentials within the same career. The driver's license counts as one point towards the 12 total points of industry-recognized credentials required to reach the graduation requirement threshold. All 12 points must be earned in the same career field.

Q: How does a district confirm that a student successfully earned a valid Ohio driver's license?

A: Districts are not required to submit evidence of credential attainment to the Ohio Department of Education. As a best practice, it is recommended that the district retain evidence of credential attainment from the student. Determining acceptable evidence of an earned credential is a local decision. If a district is not comfortable retaining copies of student driver's licenses, the district may request the student submit alternative evidence. While the Department has not set specific requirements, the district should require the student show evidence of credential attainment.

Q: Can a student utilize an Ohio driver's license to earn one point of industry-recognized credentials AND .05 elective credits towards high school graduation requirements?

A: A student may not use the successful completion of a driver's education course to earn both 0.5 elective credits and one point of industry-recognized credentials. Schools must choose which of these options to report to the Ohio Department of Education through the Education Management Information System (EMIS). Either option reported as earned by the student would apply toward their high school graduation requirements.

Q: How many employers request applicants possess a valid driver's license?

A: According to Lightcast, the global leader in data market analytics, the number of Ohio job postings that request candidates to possess a valid driver's license has increased by 23% from February 2022 to February 2023.



Resources for Districts Looking to Provide Driver's Education

Ohio Department of Public Safety Contact Information:

- Email: drivertraining@dps.ohio.gov
- Phone: (614) 466-3524

Spotlights of Existing Driver's Education Programs

Muskingum Valley & Ohio Valley Educational Service Centers

Spotlight YouTube Video: https://youtu.be/gm_L-Uy5UxE?list=PLDB1C5-YO_jjciq4rPKGf10ij67Snmsc6

Program One Pager: <https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Future-Forward-Ohio/Future-Forward-Ohio-Spotlights/MVOV-ESC.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>