

Commercial Driver's License (CDL)



at Flathead Valley Community College

There is a vital need for truck drivers in the United States as 78 percent of all products are transported via truck. In addition to plentiful job opportunities, truck drivers have the unique advantage of traveling our beautiful and magnificent country while enjoying camaraderie with fellow truckers from all across the nation.

Most truckers, during their first year on the road, earn an average of \$35,000 a year. After a few years of experience, they can earn average annual salaries between \$45,000-\$50,000. Veteran drivers who own their own trucks earn average salaries of \$100,000 and beyond.

Commercial bus drivers also benefit from abundant job opportunities as the convenience and affordability of public transportation continue to gain popularity. Locally, Glacier National Park's Going-to-the-Sun Road shuttle system is a good example as it provides an ideal opportunity for area teachers and school bus drivers who do not work during the summer months to earn extra income while enjoying the wonders of one of our earth's most enchanting parks.

The Commercial Truck Driver/Commercial Driver's License Montana Class "A" and Class "B" Exam Preparation Courses.



Commercial Truck Driver (CDL) EQOP 100

Prerequisite: Montana State Driver's License

The objective of this class is to prepare a student to pass the Montana Class "A" Commercial Driver's License (CDL) exam and demonstrate a level of proficiency in driving a commercial truck so that the student is prepared to enter the workforce as an entry-level commercial truck driver.

The class consists of two phases:

Phase I is classroom instruction in preparation for obtaining the Montana CDL learners permit. Time in class is approximately 24 hours. A health physical and drug screening will be administered. The phase is completed when the student passes the Montana CDL learners permit exam and receives a driving permit.

Phase II has three parts. The first is a vehicle pre-trip inspection in preparation for successfully completing the Montana Department of Transportation test on pre-trip driving. The second part is tractor/trailer backing exercises in preparation for passing the Montana CDL backing test. Third is road driving preparation for the Montana CDL Driving test which requires the student to demonstrate safe and effective driving in traffic over city and open roads. The 40 hours in Phase II are divided among the three parts to best fit the individual needs of the student regarding aptitude and ability.

Should a student fail the Montana CDL test, he/she is provided remedial training on deficient areas and rescheduled for an additional test date.



www.fvcc.edu/cdl



Commercial Driver's License (Bus) EQOP 101

Prerequisite: Montana State Driver's License

The objective of this class is to prepare a student to successfully pass the Montana Class "B" Commercial Driver's License (CDL) exam through classroom instruction, vehicle safety inspections, backing techniques and driving experience.

The lab exercises are designed to provide students with driving skills in a working environment including city and open-road driving.



The program information provided applies to the 2014-2015 Flathead Valley Community College academic catalog.

Professional Truck Driver EQOP 103

Prerequisite: Montana CDL license

This course introduces students to the skills necessary in night operations, mountain/off-road driving, extreme driving conditions, vehicle systems, malfunctions reporting and non-vehicle activities, i.e. environmental issues, hours of service, handling/documenting cargo, managing life on the road.

A CDL license is required for entry. In addition, student drivers may be required to pass a proficiency test to determine their driving abilities, knowledge and/or character. This is a graded course that will better qualify drivers for entry-level positions in the commercial truck driving field.

Required for All Courses:

- Possess a valid regular driver's license
- Speak and read English
- Be 18 years of age to receive an intrastate license
- 21 years of age to receive an interstate license.

Additional Knowledge

Students will gain knowledge of federal and state regulations, safety procedures, hazardous materials, bill of lading, trip report procedures, loading and securing and air brake systems.

For more info:

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