# MONTANA DRIVER EDUCATION AND TRAINING CURRICULUM GUIDE

## CLASSROOM AND IN-CAR SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classroom Module Lessons</th>
<th>Behind the Wheel Lessons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Module 1: Course Overview/Parent Orientation**  
  - teen driver education and training program goals  
  - course structure, policies and rules  
  - Graduated Driver Licensing Law  
  - responsibilities of the instructor, parent and student  
  - behaviors resulting in driver errors  
  - crash statistics in Montana and nationally  
  - risks associated with poor driving habits  | **In-Car Lesson 1**  
  **Environment: Parking Lot**  
  - Preparation to Drive  
  - Orientation to Controls/Adjustments  
  - All Occupants Buckled Up  
  - Starting the Vehicle  
  - Steering Wheel Control  
  - Putting the Vehicle into Motion  
  - Managing Speed Control  
  - On/Off Targeting (Vision Control)  
  - Turn Head before Turning Wheel  
  - Tracking on a Straight Path  
  - Stopping Smoothly with Controlled Braking  
  - Stopping Quickly with Threshold Braking  
  - Securing and Exiting the Vehicle  |
| **Module 2.1: Preparing to Drive**  
  - function of alert and warning symbols, and gauges  
  - location, function, and operation of vehicle control devices and safety, communication, and convenience devices  
  - pre-entry tasks made around the vehicle entry into the vehicle tasks  
  - seating, steering wheel (if adjustable), and restraint adjustments  
  - traditional mirror adjustments  
  - enhanced side view mirror (GBE) settings  
  - securing and exiting tasks after stopping a motor vehicle.  | **In-Car Lesson 2**  
  **Environment: Low Speed, Low Risk Traffic**  
  - Locating Reference Points  
  - Selecting Lane Positions  
  - Searching Intersections  
  - Responding to Signs/Signals/Markings  
  - Entering Intersections  
  - Turning Right from a Stop and While Moving  
  - Turning Left from a Stop and While Moving  
  - Backing on a Straight Path  
  - Backing While Turning  |
| **Module 2.2: Basic Control**  
  - blind areas to the front, sides, and rear of a vehicle  
  - targeting establishes steering accuracy  
  - visual reference points  
  - pre-drive and starting tasks  
  - four (4) steering wheel control techniques  
  - procedures for entering and leaving the roadway  
  - acceleration control  
  - controlled, threshold, and trail braking control  
  - left and right precision turns, stopped and moving  
  - backing straight and while turning  |  |
| **Module 3.1: Strategies for Effective Vision Control**  
  - fields of vision  
  - overcoming physical visual problems  
  - effect speed has on vision  
  - techniques to improve vision while driving  
  - good driving habits  |  |
Module 3.2: Strategies for Managing Time and Space

- components of a space management system
- orderly visual search pattern
- changes to line of sight restrictions
- changes to path of travel restrictions
- six zone locations
- maximize lane positions
- evaluate a gap
- control vehicle space to the front, sides, rear
- communication techniques
- orderly visual search process
- evaluate target area
- restrictions to the line of sight
- restrictions to the path of travel
- 20 to 30 second visual search range
- 12-15 second visual search range
- 4-6 second immediate response range
- control space around the vehicle
- selecting a gap
- communication prior to a speed or lane position
- dangers of improper signaling
- respond to traffic to the sides and rear
- calculate distance traveled with various speeds
- vehicle control sequence of vision control, motion control, and steering control

Drive Three Objectives

Environment: Low Risk Traffic
Responding to Traffic Signs, Signals, Markings
— Yielding Right of Way
— Selecting Where to Stop
• Searching to the Front
• Approaching & Recognizing Intersections Types
• Searching Intersections
— Identifies Line of Sight/Path of Travel (LOS-POT) Restrictions
• Controlling Space to the Front
— Judging Distance in Seconds
— Establishing Following Time
— Selecting Lane Positions
• Entering Intersections
• Changing Lanes
• Reading Instruments

Module 3.3: Strategies for Mixing with Traffic

- yielding right of way
- yielding to emergency vehicles, funerals, school buses, and pedestrians
- right of way rules at intersections with highway-rail grade crossings
- different intersection types, including roundabouts
- respond to traffic signs, signals and markings• controlled and uncontrolled intersections
- controlled and uncontrolled railroad crossings
- searching skills to the left, front, right and rear of the vehicle
- identify and select the best lane position, best speed, and communication
- legal and staggered stop positions
- vision, motion and steering control
- lane change and passing
- blind area checks and mirror use
- speed adjustment
- lane positions
- vision, motion and steering control
- communication techniques

Drive Four Objectives

Environment: Moderate Traffic
• Evaluating Target Path
• Searching to the Front
• Responding to LOS/POT Conditions
• Selecting Lane Positions
• Applying Speed Control
• Stopping With Vehicle in Front
• Using Staggered Stops for Space Management
• Delaying Moving for 2 Seconds
• Identifying Open/Closed Zones
• Using Share Lanes
• Passing and Being Passed
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 3.4: Sharing the Road with Other Users</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• pedestrians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• bicyclists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• motorcyclists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• trucks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• trains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• buses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• construction vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• farm machinery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• slow-moving vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• oversized vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• vehicles towing trailers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• recreational vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• mopeds and scooters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• emergency vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• funeral processions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• animals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 3.5: Vehicle Control in Limited Spaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 2 point turnabouts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 3 point turnabouts and U turns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• angle parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• parallel parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• street/curb parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• perpendicular forward parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• perpendicular backing into parking space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• parking on a uphill and downhill with and without a curb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• parking in restricted parking areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drive Five Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environment: Low Risk Traffic</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Selecting and Performing Turnabout Options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Mid-Block U-Turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Intersection U-Turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Two-Point—Right and Left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Three-Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Forward Perpendicular Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Angle Parking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drive Six Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environment: Low to Moderate Traffic and Speeds, Parking Lot</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Space Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Backing into Perpendicular Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Backing into an Alley or Driveway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Making Legal Stops &amp; Staggered Stops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Responding to Signs/Signals/Markings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Practice Commentary Driving</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Module 4.1: Natural Laws Affecting Vehicle Control

- gravity and energy of motion
- effect of gravity and energy of motion have on friction and traction
- effect of speed on energy of motion
- forces of an impact
- tire condition and air pressure on traction
- forces while in a curve
- factors that affect braking distance
- vehicle modifications on vehicle balance and traction
- forces of energy on vehicles of different weights and size • vehicle’s maximum load
- cause and effect of vehicle load changes (balance) from side to side, front to rear, and rear to front
- effect of vehicle load on vehicle balance
- proper seating position for vehicle balance and control
- hands and steering techniques to maintain vehicle balance and control
- aggressive steering, braking, and acceleration affects vehicle balance and control
- feet positions to maintain vehicle balance and control
- acceleration and braking techniques to maintain vehicle balance and control
- traction loss and effect to the front wheels and rear wheels
- manage traction loss on a front wheel drive, rear wheel drive, and all wheel drive vehicle
- conditions that can create traction loss and vehicle imbalance
- traction and vehicle balance are affected by steering, acceleration, deceleration and roadway surfaces
- function and advantages of 2- and 4- wheel anti-lock braking (ABS) systems
- vehicle braking systems and the proper braking techniques used for those systems; and explain the purpose of enhanced (variable/assist) steering, stability control and traction control systems
- enhanced (variable/assist) steering, stability control and traction control systems
- the three collisions of a crash and the effect on the restrained and unrestrained human body
- locations and purpose of airbags, belt adjusters, and head restraints and demonstrate proper adjustments and operation to provide crash survival protection for adults
- child restraint systems (infants, forward-facing, booster seats and lap shoulder devices) operate, proper positioning within a vehicle and how they provide crash survival protection
- demonstrate proper steering wheel adjustments to accommodate for airbags
### Module 4.2: Strategies for Negotiating Hills and Curves
- respond to line of sight and path of travel restrictions
- approach to hills or curves
- speed for ascending and descending hills
- entry speed and lane positions for a hill or curves
- speed and lane positions in a curves’ apex
- speed and lane positions for exiting curves
- maintain traction in curves

### Drive Seven Objectives
**Environment:** Moderate Speeds and Traffic
- Space Management
- Searching for Curves in Target Area
  - Adjusting for Best Speed
  - Adjusting for Best Lane Position
- Searching Through Curves
- Driving Through Curves
  - Approach
  - Visual Search
  - Speed Control/Trail Braking
  - Lane Position
- Managing Vehicle Balance
- Driving Up and Down Hills
  - Selecting Best Lane Position
  - Maintaining Speed Control
  - Stopping and Starting on a Hill
  - Parking on Hills

### Module 4.3: Urban Driving
- characteristics of an urban driving environments
- signs, signals, and markings
- hazards associated with urban driving
- different types of intersection and roadway configurations
- time and space management strategies for urban environments

### Drive Eight Objectives
**Environment:** Complex with Increased Speeds and Traffic
- Space Management
- Using a Visual Search Pattern
- Recognizing Rear Zone Changes
- Controlling Rear Zone
- Keeping 3-4 Second Following Time
- Navigating One-Way Streets
- Communication and Courtesy

### Module 4.4: Rural and Highway Driving
- characteristics of rural driving environments
- signs, signals and markings
- hazards associated with rural driving
- animals in rural areas and know and abide by Montana’s Open Range Law
- road conditions with proper lane position and speed
- passing and being passed on two lane and multi-lane rural roads
- slow moving vehicles
- time and space management strategies for rural driving environments

### Limited Access Highway Driving
- advantages and disadvantages of limited access highways
- signs, signals, and markings
- types of expressway interchanges
- lane choice
- problems due to congestion
- good habits for entering and exiting limited access highways
- good habits for lane changes and passing
- higher speed can affect vehicle control
- steering control, speed control, and braking control

### Drive Nine Objectives
**Environment:** Moderate Speeds and Traffic
- Space Management
- Passing and Being Passed on Two-Lane Roads
- Practicing ABS Braking (when available)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 5.1: Strategies for Adverse Conditions</th>
<th>Drive Ten Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• sources for glare and procedures to protect from glare</td>
<td>Environment: Interstate or Simulated Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• low light or darkness conditions</td>
<td>• Space Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• laws regarding headlights use</td>
<td>• Entering, Lane Changing and Exiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• headlight projection and efficient and proper use of vehicle illumination</td>
<td>Limited Access Highways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• fog related reduced visibility conditions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• winter driving conditions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• limited visibility conditions caused by smoke and dust</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• rain related reduced visibility</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• extreme weather driving conditions such as flooding, heat, cold, storms, blizzards, and strong wind</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 5.2: Strategies for Emergencies</th>
<th>Drive Eleven Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• sudden tire deflation</td>
<td>Environment: Complex with Increased Speeds and Traffic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• accelerator problems</td>
<td>• Space Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• engine, cooling, steering, electrical, lighting, and brake failures</td>
<td>• Managing Zones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• vehicle fire</td>
<td>• Sharing the Road with Other Users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• skids</td>
<td>• Communication and Courtesy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• emergency evasive steering, including proper response to startle</td>
<td>• Parallel Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• return a vehicle to the pavement from an off-road condition</td>
<td>• Driving at Night (when available)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Montana's Good Samaritan Law</td>
<td>• Rail Grade Crossing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• reporting a collision</td>
<td>• Handling emergency situations (simulated if needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• what to do at the scene of a collision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• when law enforcement must be called after a collision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• respond to emergency personnel's directions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• insurance reporting requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• complete a collision report</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Module 5.3 Protecting Occupants | |
|---------------------------------| |
| • describe the three collisions of a crash and the effect on the restrained and unrestrained human body; | |
| • identify and describe locations and purpose of airbags, belt adjusters, and head restraints and demonstrate proper adjustments and operation to provide crash survival protection for adults; | |
| • identify how child restraint systems operate (infants, forward-facing, booster seats and lap shoulder devices), proper positioning within a vehicle and how they provide crash survival protection; and | |
| • demonstrate proper steering wheel adjustments to accommodate for airbags. | |

| Module 5.4 Managing Risk with Vehicle and Roadway Design | |
|----------------------------------------------------------| |
| • crash survival features incorporated into highway and vehicular design | |
| • collision types and actions to control the consequences of a crash | |
| • improved highway and vehicle technology helps minimize the consequences of a crash | |
Module 6: Deadly D’s – Distractions, Drugs and Alcohol, Drowsy and Dangerous Emotions

Driver Fitness and Responsibilities

6.1 Distractions
• vehicle audio and video systems distract
• cell phones distract
• passengers distract
• unrestrained animals can distract
• eating, drinking, and smoking distract
• reading can distract
• personal grooming can distract
• conditions outside the vehicle can create distractions
• personal plan for reducing distractions while driving

6.2 Drugs and Alcohol
• senses used while driving
• emotions effect on driver behavior
• control emotions while driving
• temporary and permanent disabilities
• compensate for disabilities while driving
• legal and illegal alcohol and drugs affect people differently
• amount of alcohol in various drinks
• blood alcohol content (BAC) related to a person’s body weight
• BAC related to consuming a certain number of drinks containing alcohol in a given period of time
• synergistic effects of alcohol and/or drugs
• effects of alcohol and drugs on driver perception, vision, reaction time, and risk-taking
• increased probability of being involved in a fatal traffic crash after drinking
• physiological and psychological effects of other drugs on the driving task
• wise not to use alcohol or other drugs while operating a motor vehicle
• develop a plan to intervene when someone is drinking
• say no to peer pressure involving alcohol or other drug usage
• scope of the overall alcohol/traffic safety problem in Montana and the United States
• alcohol is the most commonly used drug involved with driving
• facts about teenage drinking and driving in Montana and the United States
• excuses why people drink and drive or use drugs and drive
• effect alcohol related crashes have on families and communities
• rules, regulations, and penalties applicable for minors in possession, minors and adults while driving under the influence, and open containers
• rules, regulations, and penalties applicable to minors and adults for improper use of a driver license to obtain alcohol
• rules, regulations, and penalties applicable to minors and adults for administrative license suspension and implied consent

6.3 Drowsy
• physical and mental effect of fatigue on driver behavior;
• importance of sleep and its effect on performance
• physical and mental symptoms of fatigue on the driving task
• methods to prevent driving while fatigued and drowsy

6.4 Dangerous Emotions – Road Rage
• aggressive driving behaviors that can lead to road rage
• driver errors that can lead to aggressive driving
• anxieties that can lead to dangerous driving behaviors
• strategies to reduce conflicts while driving
• anger management techniques to prevent aggressive driving and road rage
### Module 7.1: Driver Licensing and Final Assessment
- process of obtaining and maintaining a Montana driver license
- types of driver licenses and permits
- special information that may be placed on a driver license or instruction permit
- licensing restrictions, suspensions, and revocations placed on driving privileges
- license renewal processes
- Skills to reinforce and practice
- requirements and consequences during the graduated driver license period
- purpose of the supervising driver practice guide and how to utilize it during the required practice period
- guided behind-the-wheel practice
- strategies to continue and accept personal responsibility for the life-long learning process of reduced risk driving

### Module 7.2: Owning a Vehicle and Trip Planning
- the components of the Highway Transportation System
- impact and consequences of personal driving behaviors on other users in the Highway Transportation System
- insurance obligations for owning and driving an automobile
- Montana’s vehicle insurance laws
- coverage and conditions for automobile insurance
- establish and reduce automobile insurance rates
- reasons individuals have automobile insurance denied or revoked
- report to insurance agents after a crash
- purchasing a new or used automobile
- pre-purchase inspection of a used automobile
- expenses associated with purchasing and owning a new or used vehicle
- understand the registration and titling process
- dashboard warning symbols and respond to an activated warning symbol
- under the hood vehicle maintenance checks
- service requirements of the steering, suspension, fuel, electrical, lighting, and braking systems
- mechanical and tire malfunctions and the importance of securing maintenance and repairs to eliminate potential driving problems

#### Trip Planning
- routes for local and extended trips using state and local maps
- personal and vehicular needs for an extended trip
- cost of an extended trip;
- alternative routes
- trip planning information from the Internet
- prepare and load a vehicle for travel

#### Conserving Resources
- personal and global benefits of conserving energy, reducing pollution, and recycling
- littering
- costs linked to littering
- personal strategies to reduce litter on Montana’s roadways
- emissions and pollutants emitted by motor vehicles
- maintenance tasks that keep vehicles from polluting
- motor vehicle fluids and parts that must and can be recycled
- driving techniques that conserve fuel

### Drive Twelve Objectives
- Skills Assessment (ideally with parent)