

PennDOT's Motorcycle Safety Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is the Motorcycle Safety Program funded?

The program is funded by the collection of an extra \$5 fee per year for every motorcycle permit, replacement and license. These funds are used to support the program.

I maintain my license out of state, but I wish to take motorcycle training through the Motorcycle Safety Program while I'm in Pennsylvania for a few months this summer. Is this possible?

For a fee of \$250 for the Basic Rider Course or \$150 for the Experienced Rider Course, a non-resident may register for the Motorcycle Safety Program. Call the program office at 1-800-845-9533.

BASIC RIDER COURSE (BRC)

Are there any prerequisites for the BRC?

Yes; You need to have the ability to balance and stabilize a two-wheeled vehicle. If you have not ridden a bicycle in a long time, it would be a good idea to get some practice before attempting to ride a motorcycle.

Do I need to have a motorcycle license or permit for the BRC?

For the BRC, you will need either a Class M permit or Class M license.

If I pass the BRC, will I automatically become a licensed rider?

Yes; Upon successful completion of the BRC, the requirement for you to test at a PennDOT Driver License Center is waived and your learner's permit will be stamped as a valid PA motorcycle license. Within 120 days, the Department of Transportation will issue a motorcycle license. You will also receive a completion card from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. Some insurance companies give a reduced rate for successful completion of our BRC. The only exception is 16 and 17-year-old drivers who have not completed their six-month skill-building period and completed their 50 hours of supervised riding. They will receive a completion card only, not a license. Once the 16 and 17 year old driver is eligible, he or she will be required to take the motorcycle skills exam.

Do I need to bring my own motorcycle riding gear?

In the BRC, we provide the motorcycle. Helmets are also provided if you do not have your own. Regardless of your riding experience, you are required to wear a helmet during the riding portion of your class. You will be responsible for eye protection, long sleeved shirt or jacket, full fingered gloves, long pants and sturdy over the ankle footwear (not canvas).

What types of motorcycles will be provided?

We have various brands and styles of entry-level motorcycles. Our RiderCoaches will help you with the selection process.

How do I get my motorcycle learner's permit?

You will need to complete a DL-5 form. This form, along with the \$10 fee, will need to be taken to a PennDOT Driver's License Center for processing. At the license center you will be given a vision screening and a motorcycle knowledge test. Upon passing the tests, your application will be processed and you will be given a motorcycle learner's permit for one year.

EXPERIENCED RIDER COURSE (ERC)

Are there any prerequisites for the ERC?

The Experienced Rider Course is designed for "experienced" motorcyclists that have their own motorcycle. Students should be competent and comfortable with basic street riding skills such as starting, stopping, straight-line riding and turning.

Do I need to have a motorcycle license or permit for the ERC?

For the ERC you must possess a valid Class "M" driver's license OR a Class "M" motorcycle permit. If you have a Class "M" motorcycle permit, you must be at least 18 years of age to be licensed through the ERC. You will also need a valid state inspection sticker, valid insurance card, and registration card for the motorcycle you will be using during the course.

If I pass the ERC, what do I receive?

Motorcycle permit holders, who have successfully completed the ERC skills test, will be licensed. All successful students will receive a completion card from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. Some insurance companies give a reduced rate for successful completion of the ERC.

Do I need to bring my own motorcycle or riding gear?

For the ERC you will need to furnish your own motorcycle. If you are using someone else's motorcycle, you will need to have written permission from the registered owner. You will need to provide your own riding gear including a DOT approved helmet (Regardless of your riding experience, you are required to wear a helmet during the riding portion of your class.), eye protection, long sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, full fingered gloves and sturdy over the ankle footwear (not canvas).

Do I need to take the BRC before I take the ERC?

No; it is not required, but it is highly recommended to take the BRC before the ERC.

May I have a passenger during the ERC?

Yes, if you take the course with a Class M license. A passenger must be at least 16 years of age and you must have insurance that covers a passenger. However, if you have a Class M permit when you take the course, no passengers are permitted.