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How to Obtain a Missouri Driver’s License

The state of Missouri will issue driver’s licenses to nonresidents of the United States, e.g., F-1, J-1, or H-1B visa holders. If you would like to obtain a driver’s license, you will need to follow the following steps.

1. To satisfy #3 below, you will need a Social Security Number (SSN). However, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will only issue an SSN to individuals who have been offered a job. If you have not been offered a job or are not eligible to work (F-2, H4, etc.), you will still need to apply for an SSN. This application will be denied, and you can then take that denial letter to satisfy the requirement in #3 below. If you do qualify for an SSN, you’ll need to apply for one. More information about applying for an SSN is attached.

2. You will need to pass a written driving exam as well as a driving test. These tests are administered by the Missouri Highway Patrol. The written exam is a 25 question test, and the driving test will test your ability to drive, change lanes, park, etc. as a Missouri Highway Patrolperson (police officer) accompanies you on a drive. There is no fee for this exam, but you will need to provide your own vehicle (that of a friend or relative) for the driving test. (Those with a currently-valid driver’s license from another US state are not required to take this exam). See the attached list of Missouri Highway Patrol offices for locations.

3. Upon successful completion of the written driving exam and the driving test, you will then need to apply for a license through the Missouri Department of Revenue at a Driver’s License office. See the attached list of Driver’s License offices for locations. At the Driver’s License office, you will need to provide:
 - a. \$10 for a three-year license (if you’re 18-20) OR \$20 for a six-year license (if you’re 21 or older)
 - b. Proof that you have completed the written driving exam and driving test.
 - c. Proof of your identity in the form of a Social Security Number (card) or a denial letter from the Social Security Administration.
 - d. Proof of Missouri residence (e.g., a utility bill or government correspondence with your Missouri address, etc.).
 - e. Proof of your legal residence in the United States. Depending on your visa status, the required proof of legal resident will change as in the chart:

| Visa status | Required documents |
|-------------|--|
| F-1 or F-2 | Passport, visa, I-94, I-20, written verification from UMSL of F-1’s status (complete the attached request form) |
| H-1B or H-4 | Passport, visa, I-94, written verification from employer of H-1B’s status (contact your company) |
| J-1 or J-2 | Passport, visa, I-94, DS-2019, written verification from UMSL of J-1’s status (complete the attached request form) |

How to Apply for a Social Security Number

Unless you already have a Social Security Number, you will need one in order to apply for a driver's license. The Social Security Administration (SSA) no longer issues Social Security Numbers (SSNs) to nonresidents (visa holders) unless they have offers of employment. However, the Missouri Department of Revenue does require an SSN in order to apply for a Driver's License. To accommodate this problem, you should be able to submit a denial letter for an SSN in place of the actual SSN. However, in order to obtain this denial letter, you will still need to follow the steps below.

1. You will need to wait 10 days after you arrive in the U.S. before you can apply for an SSN. You must also be enrolled as a full time student to be eligible for this letter.
2. You will need a letter of status from our office. Fill out the attached Social Security Letter Request; be sure to include all information, especially your place of employment. If you do not have an offer of employment, be sure to indicate this fact. Return this request to our office along with your request for a driver's license letter.
3. You will also need to obtain a letter from your place of employment describing where you will work and what you will do. The letter should be on letterhead of your prospective department. A sample letter is attached. If you do not have an offer of employment, you can ignore this step.
4. Fill out the SS-5, Application for Social Security Number. This application is available from our office or at the Social Security Administration (SSA) office itself. If you do not have a permanent address, you can use our office address:
Office of International Student & Scholar Services
One University Boulevard
261 Millennium Student Center (MC 221)
St. Louis, MO 63121-4499
5. Directions to a Social Security office that can be reached via Metrolink are attached. When you file your application, be sure to get a receipt from the SSA.
6. At the SSA office, you should be prepared to explain the circumstances of your application. If you have a job offer, be prepared with the following documents:
 - a. Passport, visa, I-94, I-20 (if in F-1 or F-2 status) or DS-2019 (if in J-1 or J-2 status)
 - b. Letter of status from our office (for F-1, F-2, J-1, or J-2) or a letter from your employer verifying status (H-1 or H-4)
 - c. Letter certifying your job offer
 - d. The completed SS-5 applicationIf you do not have a job offer, be sure to have:
 - a. An explanation that you need to obtain an official denial letter in order to get a driver's license
 - b. Your passport, visa, I-94, and I-20 (if in F-1 or F-2 status) or DS-2019 (if in J-1 or J-2 status)
 - c. Your letter of status from UMSL (for F-1, F-2, J-1, or J-2) or a letter from your employer verifying status (H-1 or H-4)
 - d. The completed SS-5 application
7. It will take approximately 4 weeks for the SSA to process your application. If you used the ISSS office address, we will send you an email when your card arrives. If it has been more than 4 weeks since you applied, you should visit or call the office where you applied to check on the status of your request.

Example Letter from Employer (If you have a job offer)

DEPARTMENT LETTERHEAD

Date

Social Security Administration
St. Louis, MO

To Whom It May Concern:

 (Student's Name) is a currently enrolled student at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and will be employed by (Department Name) as (job title) .

His/her duties will include _____.

If any further information is needed please contact the undersigned at 314-516-_____, and/or (supervisor's name) at 314-516-_____.

Thank you,

Signature

Title

Getting to a Social Security Administration Office

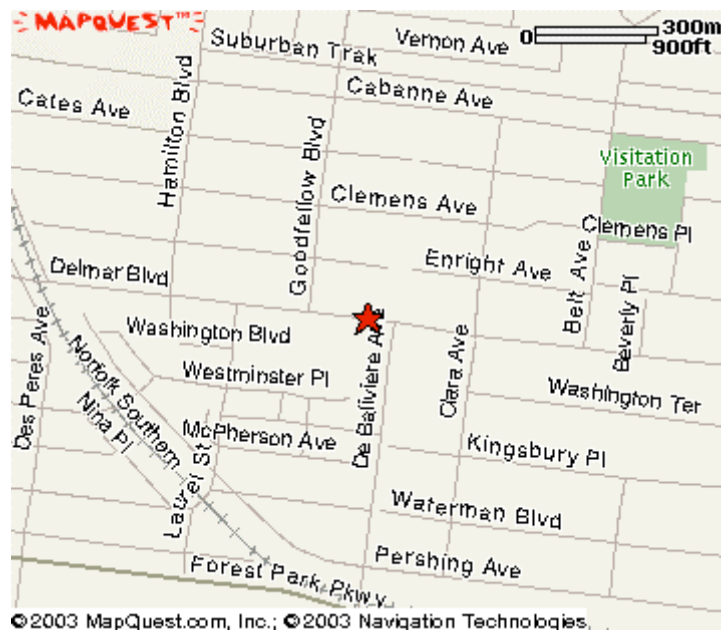
Address: 5669 Delmar Boulevard
Saint Louis, MO 63112

Hours: 9:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

Description: On Delmar between DeBaliviere and Goodfellow, close to the corner of Delmar and DeBaliviere, next to the People's Comprehensive Health Center.

Getting There: The office is approximately 5 blocks north of the "Forest Park-DeBaliviere" MetroLink stop. Take the MetroLink from either the north or south campus stop west towards Illinois (usually towards "Shiloh-Scott"). The "Forest Park" stop is after the "Delmar" stop and before the "Central West End" stop. After exiting the MetroLink station, head north (away from Forest Park) on DeBaliviere. After approximately 5 blocks, DeBaliviere will meet Delmar. The office is just east of this intersection on the north side of Delmar.

Map:



Note: you are free to apply for a Social Security Number or a Social Security Number denial letter at any SSA office. This office is probably the most convenient for UMSL students.

Missouri Highway Patrol Locations

Three branches of the Missouri Highway patrol are relatively near to UMSL. Their addresses, phone number, and hours of operation are below. Students without access to a vehicle should consult the metro website:

www.metrostlouis.org for more information about bus connections. Note that a Department of Revenue Drivers Licensing Location is near to either of these Highway Patrol Locations.

| Location | Phone | Hours |
|---|----------------|-------------------------|
| 4626 South Kingshighway St. Louis, MO | (314) 481-8668 | Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-4:30pm |
| 3256 Laclede Station Rd. Suite 100 Maplewood, MO | (314) 877-0199 | Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-5:00pm |

A complete list of offices of the Missouri Highway Patrol can be found at:

<http://www.msdp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/PatrolLocations/driverExamStations.pdf>

Note that St. Louis City, St. Louis Country, St. Charles County, Jefferson County, and Franklin County are all in Troop C.

Missouri Department of Revenue Driver's Licensing Locations

Six branches of the Missouri Department of Revenue's that offer Driver's Licensing relatively near to UMSL. Their addresses, phone number, and hours of operation are below. Students without access to a vehicle should consult the metro website: www.metrostlouis.org for more information about bus connections. Note that three of the locations are also adjacent to Missouri Highway Patrol offices.

| Location | Phone | Hours |
|--|----------------|--|
| 4628 South Kingshighway St. Louis, MO | (314) 752-3177 | Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-5:00pm & Sat. 9:00am-12:00noon |
| 9652 Olive Blvd St. Louis, MO | (314) 692-8222 | Mon.-Fri. 9:00am-5:00pm & Sat. 9:00am-12:00noon |
| 3917 Lindell Blvd St. Louis, MO | (314) 531-0700 | Mon-Fri. 9:00am-5:00pm & Sat. 9:00am-1:00pm |
| 32 North Central Clayton, MO | (314) 863-5331 | Mon.-Fri. 9:00am-5:00pm & Sat. 9:00am-12:00noon (first and last Saturdays of the month only) |
| 3238 Laclede Station Rd Maplewood, MO | (314) 645-1044 | Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5:00pm & Sat. 9:00am-1:00pm (first and last Saturdays of the month only) |

A complete list of offices for Driver's Licensing can be found at:

<http://www.dor.mo.gov/mvdl/offloc>

Note that office locations sometimes change, so be sure to call ahead.

Requesting a Letter of Status (F-1, F-2, J-1, J-2) from UMSL

If your I-20 or DS-2019 was issued by the University of Missouri – St. Louis and you have been maintaining good F-1, F-2, J-1, or J-2 status, we can issue a letter to you for the Driver's License Office. To request one, please fill out return the following request form. This form should be filled out by the F-1 or J-1 visa holder for him/herself only, his/her dependents only, or both him/herself and his/her dependents.

Your Name: _____ , _____
Family/Last Name Given/First Name(s)

Student Number: _____ Today's Date: _____

Email Address: _____ Your Visa Status: F-1 J-1
please print clearly circle one

Your Degree Program/Major: _____

Current Level: Bachelor's Master's Graduate Certificate PhD OD
circle one

Are you Currently on OPT? yes no
circle one

This Letter is for: you only
 dependent(s) only (please complete the section below)
 both (please complete the section below)

Below, please fill in the name(s) of your dependent(s) who require this letter (if any):

Dependent Name: _____ , _____
Family/Last Name Given/First Name(s)

Dependent Name: _____ , _____
Family/Last Name Given/First Name(s)

Dependent Name: _____ , _____
Family/Last Name Given/First Name(s)

For Office Use Only

Periods of RCL? _____ Hold(s)? _____
Date completed: _____ Signature: _____

