

South Carolina Graduated Driver Licensing

Car crashes continue to be the [number one cause of preventable death](#) for U.S. teenagers and driver inexperience is the root cause of these tragedies. NSC believes in the importance of parental involvement to keep new drivers safe and [DriveitHOME.org](#) is a free resource to help parents and caregivers get started. The program covers major risk factors for new drivers and offers solutions – from a parent-teen driving agreement to weekly driving lessons – all built around Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL).

Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL)

GDL is a national strategy to help young drivers slowly and safely get experience behind the wheel before having full driving privileges. This process typically begins with an initial learner's permit, then an intermediate or provisional license phase, and then finally full licensure.

While the specifics of GDL laws vary between states, they often have restrictions on passenger limits and nighttime driving to help keep our most vulnerable drivers safe. Crucially, they all rely on teens getting plenty of practice time behind the wheel with a responsible parent or caregiver. For more information or to learn about each state's GDL laws, visit [DriveitHOME.org](#).

South Carolina Laws	
Learner Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be at least 15 years old• Six-month mandatory holding period• 40 hours of supervised driving required with 10 of those hours being at night
Intermediate Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be at least 15.5 years old• Nighttime driving restriction: 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. EST; 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. EDT• No more than two passengers younger than 21 unless helping to transport students to and from school
Full Privilege Stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nighttime driving restrictions are lifted after 12 months and age 17 if the intermediate license has been held for six months• Passenger restrictions are lifted after 12 months and age 17 if the intermediate license has been held for six months

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS)