



# Truck Driver (CDL) Training Checklist

☐ **Is this the career for me?**

Review career outlook and job opportunities on page 2.

☐ **Is this the class for me?**

Review Parkland College class details and logistics on pages 3 - 6.

## **Yes! I want to pursue CDL training at Parkland College.**

☐ **Select a funding source.**

Class A CDL Training costs \$5,495. There are many funding resources. - see page 4 for grant opportunities.

☐ Grant Funds ☐ Cash ☐ Cashier Check ☐ Credit Card (+Service Fee) ☐ Current Employee

☐ **Update Driver's License**

To permit, renew your license if there is less than 1 year before expiration and/or address does not match current residence.

☐ **Obtain Birth Certificate or Passport**

An official birth certificate or current passport is required to permit. Order online or visit your birthplace's Public Health or County Clerk's office (varies by county) to obtain.

☐ **Select your class start date.**

Upon selection of a funding source, Justin will contact you with class date options.

☐ **Complete DocuSign paperwork.**

Registration paperwork will be emailed to you the week before your class starts. Check your junk/spam folders if you do not receive.

☐ **Complete a DOT physical.**

Justin will schedule this for you once you have completed DocuSign paperwork.

## **Now is the time to begin the Class A CDL Training Program!**

☐ **Study for Permit**

In addition to attending training, you may pick up a CDL manual at your local DMV, download the CDL Prep App, and/or search "Illinois CLP Study Materials" online.

☐ **Take Permit Exam at DMV**

After completing 40-classroom hours, students are eligible to take the Commercial Learner's Permit Test at a local DMV. We highly encourage students to test in Rantoul. On the last day of class Justin will provide a check payable to the Secretary of State.

☐ **Research Employment**

It's never too early to begin researching employment opportunities. We can provide a variety of local leads and you will receive access to the Trucker's Network on the first day of class.

☐ **Complete a DOT drug screen.**

Justin will schedule this once you have earned your CDL permit. A positive drug screen (including marijuana) will show on your DOT driving record, requiring a Substance Abuse Program to nullify. Be honest and wait to register if you need time to clean up to pass the 5-panel urinalysis.

## **Get behind the wheel with hands-on field instruction!**

**Have questions? Schedule an appointment with Justin Price 877-350-0884.**

## Truck Driver (CDL) Career Outlook

2022 Median Pay	\$49,920 per year; \$24 per hour
Typical Entry-Level Education	Postsecondary nondegree award
Work Experience in a Related Occupation	None
On-the-job Training	Short-term on-the-job training
Number of Jobs, 2022	2,192,300
Job Outlook, 2022-32	4% (As fast as average)
Employment Change, 2022-32	89,300

### What Class A Truck Drivers Do

Whether locally or over the road, a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) gives you the freedom and flexibility to find a great job anywhere. Examples of jobs include long-haul cargo (over-the-road) truck driver, regional truck driver, local truck driver, bus driver, heavy equipment operator, or truck driving school instructor.

Many truck drivers transport goods from one location to another. Working as an over-the-road truck driver is a lifestyle choice because these drivers can be away from home for days or weeks at a time. They spend much of this time alone. Driving a truck can be a physically demanding job as well. Driving for many consecutive hours can be tiring, and some drivers must load and unload cargo. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) regulates long-haul truck drivers' work hours. Truck drivers often work nights, weekends, and holidays.

It is never too early to begin looking into employment opportunities. We have many local leads and you will receive access to the Trucker's Network on the first day of class.

### Job Outlook

Employment of truck drivers is projected to grow 4% from 2022 to 2032, about as fast as the average for all occupations. About 241,200 openings for truck drivers are projected each year, on average, over the decade. Many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or retire.

### Pay

According to the 2022 Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median hourly earnings of tractor-trailer drivers was \$24. The median annual wage for heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers was \$49,920 in 2022.

### How to Become a Class A Truck Driver

Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers are required to attend a professional truck driving school. They must earn a commercial driver's license (CDL).

# Truck Driver (CDL) Training

## Program Overview

Parkland College partners with 160 Driving Academy to provide truck driver (CDL) training. Our goal is to prepare students to become entry-level commercial drivers. The training program costs \$5,495 and includes:

- DOT physical and drug screen
- Classroom instruction to prepare for the commercial learner's permit
- DMV testing fees for commercial learner's permit and skills and drive test
- Skill-building activities which include map reading, trip planning, logbooks, and safety
- Behind-the-wheel training in a manual transmission semi tractor-trailer

## Entry Requirements

To successfully obtain a CDL, individuals must:

- Be 18 years or older
- Be able to read and write the English language
- Meet the Department of Transportation (DOT) medical requirements, including a physical and drug screen
- Have a valid driver's license (see *checklist*)
- Have a certified birth certificate OR provide proof of legal residency
- Provide a copy of the court version Motor Vehicle Record (Driver's Abstract)
- Have no outstanding tickets or child support

*\*Felonies and misdemeanors are evaluated on a case-by-case basis*

*\*High school diploma/GED is not required to obtain your CDL*

## Contact Information

Justin Price, 160 Driving Academy Branch Manager at Parkland College

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 4:30 PM

Address: 1315 N. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821 (*Parkland on Mattis, not main campus*)

Phone: 630/642-5023 Email: [jprice@160drivingacademy.com](mailto:jprice@160drivingacademy.com)

## Class Schedule

Week 1	Week 2		Week 3 – 5	Week 6 – 7
Classroom Instruction	Commercial Learner's Permit Test	DOT Drug Screen (including cannabis use)	Field Instruction	Field Instruction & Skills/Drive Test
Monday - Friday	Monday	Wednesday or Friday	Monday - Friday	Complete any outstanding field instruction. Skills/drive test is scheduled by the Secretary of State upon completion of 120 field instruction hours.
8 AM - 4:30 PM	7:30 AM - 5 PM	Justin will schedule after receiving Permit	7 AM - 3:30 PM	
Parkland College Community Education 1315 N Mattis Ave Champaign, IL 61821	Rantoul DMV highly encouraged 421 S Murray Rd Rantoul, IL 61866		"The Yard" 2309 W Bloomington Rd Champaign, IL 61822	

*Note: For a variety of reasons (permit date/time, drug screen results, yard capacity, testing availability, etc.), field instruction and Skills/Drive Test may not be consecutive weeks.*

## Cost & Funding Options

The program fee is \$5,495 and includes your DOT physical and drug screen, 40 hours of classroom instruction, testing fees for a commercial learner's permit, 120 hours of observation and behind-the-wheel training, and the Secretary of State test.

Self-Pay	Grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash</li> <li>• Cashier Check</li> <li>• Credit card (2.7% service fee)</li> <li>• Current Employer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for Workforce Training at Parkland College (SWFT)</li> <li>• Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)</li> <li>• UMOs National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP)</li> </ul>

## Support for Workforce Training (SWFT)

The SWFT Grant is specifically designed to provide free, short-term training for high-skilled, high-wage jobs for qualifying students. SWFT is a competitive scholarship program at Parkland College with eligibility requirements:

- Reside in the Parkland service area, district 505
- Be 21 years or older
- Be a Parkland student in good standing
- Be ready to attend classes and complete all SWFT requirements
- Complete required exams, including drug screen
- Be eligible to work in the United States
- Commit to finding employment upon completion of your program

While each application is given individual consideration on a first-come, first-served basis, eligibility preference is given to those who meet at least three of the following criteria:

- 21 and over
- High Poverty Census Tract Address in Parkland service area
- Low-wage Workers (Under \$19 per hour)
- Unemployed/Underemployed
- High Financial Need
- Formerly Incarcerated
- No HS diploma or GED

The SWFT office is in D120 on Parkland College's main campus. Their website is [parkland.edu/SWFT](http://parkland.edu/SWFT). They can be reached by phone at 217/353-2150 or by email at [swft@parkland.edu](mailto:swft@parkland.edu).

## Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

WIOA covers tuition for students who receive SNAP, unemployment benefits, have been laid off in the last 2 years, or make below the poverty line (and meet the basic guidelines for attaining a CDL). Their website is [illinoisworknet.com](http://illinoisworknet.com). Apply for WIOA funding in person at 1307 N Mattis Ave, Champaign, IL 61821 or by calling 217/531-8282.

## UMOS – National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP)

Farmworkers or members of a farmworker family, or seasonal agricultural workers in the last 2 years qualify for free job training with the National Farmworker Jobs Program. This is a WIOA program where eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families get education and training, improve job skills, obtain good-paying jobs with benefits, and/or advance in agricultural careers. Veterans receive priority services. For additional information contact Justin Price at 877/350-0884.

## Registered Apprenticeships

At Parkland, we believe that apprenticeships are a win-win solution for both students and employers. Students gain valuable experience and knowledge while employers get to shape and invest in their future workforce. If your employer is sponsoring you to go through the CDL program, please let us know at [communityeducation@parkland.edu](mailto:communityeducation@parkland.edu). We would like to share information about apprenticeship opportunities.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Before Class

How do I schedule a DOT physical?

- After DocuSign paperwork is completed, Justin sets this up for you at Thompson Family Chiropractic in St. Joseph. The fee for the physical is included in the program cost.

Do I need to renew my Driver's License?

- Maybe! If your license has less than 1 year before expiration and/or your address does not match your current residence, renew your license at a local DMV.

How can I obtain my birth certificate?

- An official birth certificate or current passport is required to take the Commercial Learner's Permit Test. An official birth certificate can be ordered online or by visiting your birthplace's County Clerk or Public Health office (location varies by county).

Are there resources to improve my English speaking and/or reading?

- Yes! As a Parkland student, many resources are available, including an ESL class through Adult Education. Their office is in D120 on Parkland College's main campus. They can be reached by phone at 217/351-2580 or email at [adulthoodeducation@parkland.edu](mailto:adulthoodeducation@parkland.edu).

### Permit

How do I study for the Commercial Learner's Permit Test?

- Permitting is arguably the most challenging part of the program. In addition to attending training, you may pick up a CDL manual at your local DMV, download the CDL Prep App, or search "Illinois CLD Study Materials" online.

What do I need to take to the Commercial Learner's Permit Test?

- An official birth certificate or current passport is required to take the Commercial Learner's Permit Test.

What is the Commercial Learner's Permit Test?

- You are required to pass General Knowledge, Combination, and Air Brakes to earn a Commercial Learner's Permit.

Where do I take the Commercial Learner's Permit Test?

- You may take the test at any Illinois DMV. From previous student experience, we highly recommend the Rantoul DMV located at 421 S Murray Rd, Rantoul, IL 61866. They can be reached at 217/892-8773

What happens if I do not pass the Commercial Learner's Permit Test?

- You have 3 attempts to pass the test every 30 days. If you do not pass on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> time, pause to study for a week or so, then retest. If you do not pass on your third try, you may test again after waiting 30 days.

### Field Instruction

Is a drug screen required to begin field instruction?

- Yes, you must successfully pass a drug screen before attending field instruction. The fee for the drug screen is included in the program cost. Be honest if you need time to clean up to pass the 5-panel urinalysis.

For what drugs will I be tested?

- The 5-panel urinalysis will screen for marijuana, cocaine, opioids, phencyclidine (PCP), amphetamines, methamphetamines, and methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA). Note: They will not collect a hair follicle.

What happens if I receive a positive drug screening?

- A positive drug screen shows on your Department of Transportation driving record. A costly out-of-pocket Substance Abuse Program (SAP) is required to nullify.

When do I begin field instruction?

- Field instruction begins shortly after completing 40-classroom hours. To start field instruction, you must pass the permit test at the DMV and a successful drug screen. Occasionally, we must wait to send a student to the CDL Yard because of instructor to student ratio. We work diligently to accommodate everyone, and the goal is to have you start in the CDL Yard within a week or two of earning your permit.

## **Skills/Drive Test**

### **When/where?**

- After your classes are finished, you will take your driving test with the Secretary of State on the same roads and courses where you trained. Parkland/160 Driving Academy has an on-site approved testing site for students to complete their road and skills tests.

### **What are endorsements?**

- CDL Endorsements are certifications that truckers can earn by passing knowledge-based tests. These endorsements allow drivers to operate different kinds of vehicles and haul specific types of freight. Examples include double/triple trailers, passenger, tank vehicles, hazardous materials, a combination of tank vehicles and hazardous materials, and school buses.

### **How do I earn endorsements?**

- Drivers who operate or expect to operate the type of motor vehicle described in the endorsement shall take and pass endorsement tests. To obtain a CDL endorsement, a driver must pass additional tests at the Secretary of State DMV. These tests can either be knowledge tests and/or skills tests, depending on the endorsement.

### **When do I receive a CDL?**

- You are eligible to take the CDL skills exam once you have logged at least 160 program hours. This includes classroom instruction, behind-the-wheel, and observation hours. Our instructors track your program hours in a database that links with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

### **Does a CDL expire?**

- If you have a CDL you must renew every 4 years and before the expiration date to be valid to drive any vehicle. You will also need to pay the CDL renewal fee and an additional fee if the CDL contains an L or M class. You must provide proof of legal residence documentation to renew or update your CDL.

## **Career**

### **When do I begin looking for a job?**

- It's never too early to research employment opportunities.

### **Where can I find current job opportunities?**

- Justin can provide a variety of local leads. You will receive access to the Trucker's Network on the first day of class.