

August 2016

PennDOT's Motorcycle Safety Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is PennDOT's Motorcycle Safety Program (PAMSP)?

The program provides motorcycle safety training free of charge to any Pennsylvania resident that has a Class M license or permit. There are four courses available, two for beginners and two for more experienced riders.

How is the Motorcycle Safety Program funded?

The program is funded by the learner's permits and licensing fees paid by motorcyclists.

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, \$150 for the Basic Rider Course 2, \$200 for the 3 Wheel Basic Rider Course, or \$100 for the Advanced Rider Course, a non-resident may register for the Motorcycle Safety Program. Call the program office at 1-800-845-9533.

How do I register to attend a course?

For schedules and to register for a course, log on to: www.pamsp.com or you may call the program office at 1-800-845-9533.

LICENSING THROUGH PAMSP

Do I need a motorcycle license or permit to participate in a PAMSP course?

Yes; a Class M, motorcycle license or permit is required to participate in any PAMSP course. Anyone with a motorcycle learner's permit, who successfully completes a PAMSP course, will be issued a Class M as long as they are eligible.

What if I am under 18 years of age, can I be licensed through a PAMSP course?

Anyone under 18 years of age is required to have the motorcycle learner's permit for at least 6 months and have 65 hours of supervised riding before being eligible to test. In addition, anyone under 18 years of age must take and successfully complete a PAMSP basic rider course before he/she can receive a motorcycle license. Participants who have not met these requirements cannot be licensed through one of the PAMSP courses. Only a certificate of completion will be issued upon successful completion of a training course. Once the 16 and 17 year old driver is eligible, he or she will be required to take the motorcycle skills exam to be licensed.

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 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 which is valid for one year.

Are there any restrictions on my motorcycle learner's permit?

Yes; motorcycle permit holders are only authorized to operate a motorcycle between sunrise and sunset. No nighttime driving is permitted. Motorcycle permit holders cannot carry any passenger other than an instructor properly licensed to operate a motorcycle. Also, if you do not currently hold another Class of License (such as a Class C) then you can only operate a motorcycle under the instruction and immediate supervision of a licensed motorcycle operator.

If I successfully complete a PAMSP course, do I still need to take a skills test at a PennDOT Driver License Center?

No; as long as you are eligible and upon successful completion of a PAMSP course, 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, PennDOT will issue an official update to your license. You will also receive a course completion card.

If I take the 3WBRC using a motorcycle learner's permit, will I receive a restriction?

Yes; because you are testing on a motorcycle with more than 2 wheels, a 9 restriction will be added to your license, which restricts you from operating a 2 wheel motorcycle.

If I have a Class M license that is restricted to a motorcycle with more than 2 wheels, how can I get the 9 restriction removed?

You may call PennDOT at 717-412-5300 and request a special motorcycle learner's permit. Upon successful completion of a skills evaluation on a 2-wheel motorcycle, the 9 restriction will be removed.

If I want to take the 3WBRC and I already have a motorcycle license, will I receive a 9 restriction?

No; you will only receive a 9 restriction if you have a motorcycle learner's permit and test on a motorcycle with more than 2 wheels or if you request to be restricted to a motorcycle with more than 2 wheels. If you successfully complete the 3WBRC and already have a motorcycle license, you will receive a course completion card only.

What if I take my skills evaluation on a 2 wheel motorcycle that is equipped with stabilizing wheels, what type of license will I receive?

If you take your skills evaluation on a motorcycle that has more than 2 wheels, including stabilizing wheels, you will receive a motorcycle license with a 9 restriction that prohibits you from operating a 2 wheel motorcycle.

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 bring my own motorcycle riding gear?

Yes; in addition to motorcycles, helmets are provided if you do not have your own. Because this is a learn to ride course, all students must wear either a 3/4 or full face helmet during this course. 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.

What types of motorcycles will be provided?

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

BASIC RIDER COURSE 2 (BRC2)

Are there any prerequisites for the BRC2?

The Basic Rider Course 2 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 bring my own motorcycle or riding gear?

Yes; you will need to furnish your own motorcycle that has a valid state inspection sticker, valid registration card and proof of insurance. If you are using someone else's motorcycle, you will also need to have written permission from the registered owner. You will need to provide your own riding gear including a DOT approved helmet, eye protection, long sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, full fingered gloves and sturdy over the ankle footwear. Please note that regardless of your riding experience, you are required to wear a helmet during the riding portion of your class.

Do I need to take the BRC before I take the BRC2?

No; it is not required. The BRC2 is designed for partially skilled motorcycle drivers seeking licensure or additional practice. Studies show that training on your own motorcycle improves rider/motorcycle bonding and familiarity.

May I have a passenger during the BRC2?

Yes; participants that already have a Class M license may have a passenger during the course. The passenger must be at least 16 years of age and you must have insurance that covers a passenger. If you only have a Class M permit, PA law prohibits you from carrying a passenger.

3-WHEEL BASIC RIDER COURSE (3WBRC)

Do I bring my own motorcycle or riding gear?

Yes; you will need to furnish your own motorcycle with a valid state inspection sticker, valid registration card and proof of insurance. 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, eye protection, long sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, full fingered gloves and sturdy over the ankle footwear. Please note that regardless of your riding experience, you are required to wear a helmet during the riding portion of your class.

Can I take a motorcycle safety course in an autocycle?

Currently, there is no course available that can accommodate an autocycle.

ADVANCED RIDER COURSE (ARC)

Are there any prerequisites for the ARC?

Yes. You must have a valid class M motorcycle license to participate in this course.

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

Yes; you will need to furnish your own motorcycle that has a valid state inspection sticker, valid registration card and proof of insurance. If you are using someone else's motorcycle, you will also need to have written permission from the registered owner. You will need to provide your own riding gear including a DOT approved helmet, eye protection, long sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, full fingered gloves and sturdy over the ankle footwear. Please note that regardless of your riding experience, you are required to wear a helmet during the riding portion of your class.