APPLYING FOR AN ALABAMA DRIVER LICENSE

Who is eligible to apply for an Alabama driver license?
Anyone in a valid non-immigrant status, lawful permanent residents, and US citizens can apply for an Alabama driver license. Alabama law requires applicants to provide either a Social Security number or proof from the Social Security Administration that they are ineligible for a Social Security number (“denial letter”).

Do I need a Social Security number to apply for an Alabama driver license?
Yes. Individuals who do not have or are not eligible to obtain a Social Security number should go to the Social Security Administration located at 1200 8th Avenue North and request a “proof of denial” letter. This letter should state that you are not eligible for a Social Security number and should be presented along with your immigration documents to the driver license office. F-1 and J-1 students without employment must obtain a Social Security denial letter in order to get a driver license or State ID.

Who is ineligible to apply for an Alabama driver license?
Anyone visiting the US with in B-1/WB or B-2/WT status is ineligible to apply for an Alabama driver license. Those coming for fewer than 160 calendar days and who have fewer than 160 days of authorized stay in the US remaining are also ineligible. If these individuals need to drive while in the US, they should obtain an International Driver License in their home country. An International Driver License is usually valid for a short period of time (i.e., 30-60 days).

What is an Alabama identification card?
This document is used solely for identification and is not valid for driving. It costs $36.25 in cash or a check payable on an Alabama bank account. The Alabama identification card is issued at the same location as the driver license.

Where do I go to apply for an Alabama driver license?
Foreign nationals must go to the following address:

908 Bankhead Highway
Birmingham, AL 35204
Phone (205) 252-7445

What are the hours of business for the driver license office?
Written and road exams are offered Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

What should I bring when applying for an Alabama driver license?
- Valid foreign passport with a visa stamp or permanent resident (“green”) card
Most recent From I-94 (download from https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/consent.html)
Social Security Card (or IRS Form W-2 containing your SSN) [or “denial letter” from the Social Security Administration stating non-eligibility if you are unemployed, J-1, F-2, or H-4 (see below)]
One of the following: Form DS-2019; I-20; H/O/TN/TD approval notice (Form I-797)
Letter of good standing from ISSS (for F-1 and J-1 students only)
DMV Certification letter from ISSS (F-1 and J-1 students)
Employment Authorization Card (ONLY for those on OPT and adjusting status to permanent resident--the license expiration date will be based upon your EAC)
Credit/debit card or cash for driver license fee (currently $36.25)
Birth certificate (not required, but helpful)

IMPORTANT: To apply for or renew a license, you must have at least 160 days (not including grace periods) left in your immigration status as reflected by the program or status end date on your Form I-20, DS-2019, or other immigration document. A driver license cannot be renewed until within 30 days of its date of expiration.

What is required to obtain an Alabama driver license?
You must pass both a written test and a road test and present all documentation outlined above.

Should I study for the written test?

What is the cost for an Alabama driver license?
The fee for the Alabama driver license is $36.25 in cash or debit/credit card. No checks!

How do I get to the driver license office?
If you do not have an International Driver License, you must have a licensed driver take you to the driver license office. This licensed driver must be willing to let you use his/her vehicle for the road test. Proof of auto insurance for the vehicle is required. The officer will inspect the vehicle to make sure it is fully functional (i.e., working turn signals, horn, etc.) before beginning the road test. Practice driving the vehicle in an empty parking lot to become comfortable driving before being tested.