

IDOT Motorcycle Safety Training at Harper College



All Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Motorcycle Safety Training Courses for Cook County and Northern Illinois are administered by Harper College. Classes are held at sites across the region. There is no charge for any of the courses; however, a refundable \$20 deposit is collected at registration.

As of July 30, 2018, all Motorcycle Safety Training enrollments are handled online at <https://ce.harpercollege.edu/motorcycle>. ALL motorcycle registration will be ONLINE ONLY, with the registration fee payable ONLY by credit/debit card.

Important!

- **Illinois residency is required.** You must be an Illinois resident with a permanent address in Illinois to register for these courses.
- **Waiver or Release of Liability** must be submitted by all students at their first class session. Students under 18 should obtain a [Waiver Form](#), have it signed by a parent or guardian, and bring it with them to the first class. [Download the Waiver Form](#).
- **Be on time!** All classes start on time. If you are late, your place may be given to a walk-in or standby student. Don't be left out.
- **Refund requests:** When you complete your class, you may request a refund of the \$20 fee, or you may choose to waive the refund and help make it possible for others to take the course. You must [submit a refund request](#) within 30 days of the end of class or forfeit the fee.

More Information about the Rider Course Levels

- [Basic Rider Course](#)
- [Intermediate Rider Course](#)
- [Advanced Rider Course](#)

Instructors Wanted

Interested in becoming a Rider Coach? Take the Rider Coach.

Sponsorship

The Rider Course program is sponsored as a public service by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Harper College, the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF), and community agencies.

Frequently Asked Questions

What courses are available?

There are three levels of motorcycle courses offered for beginning through advanced riders. Curriculum for these courses has been developed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation to help riders manage risks and increase skills through classroom instruction and live exercises on motorcycles provided by the program. The overall purpose of the IDOT Cycle Rider Safety Training Program is to reduce the severity and frequency of motorcycle accidents.

Where are the classes offered?

The Motorcycle Safety Program offers classes at [locations throughout Northern Illinois](#). All locations are administered through Harper College, so if you have any questions or need to speak to someone about the motorcycle safety program, please contact Harper College Motorcycle Safety Training program office at 847-925-6803. DO NOT try to contact any of the individual training sites.

How much do the courses cost?

All of the courses are free of charge but do require a \$20 refundable deposit to hold your seat in a class. You may request a refund of the \$20 deposit within 30 days of the completion of the class, though many students contribute their deposit so that we can continually improve the program.

Can I just take the course as a walk-in? Do I have to register ahead of time?

The best way to make sure you get the course you want is to register ahead of time. If you try to register and see that the course you want is full, check back prior to the scheduled date to see if a space has opened up. If you are unsuccessful in finding an open seat, you may wish to try the walk-in option. Just show up at the course location at least 15 minutes prior to the listed start time of the first class meeting. Notify the instructor that you would like to attend as a walk-in. At the course starting time, a lottery will determine which walk-in students will be assigned to any unclaimed seats.

Which class should I take?

First, identify your objectives. If you want a license waiver or have limited or no riding experience, then you should take the Basic Rider Course (BRC) or Intermediate Rider Course (IRC) as those are the only classes that provide a waiver and offer the most basic instruction. If you own your own motorcycle and simply want to get some practice with it and learn more about safety, then the Advanced Rider Course (ARC) is probably the best fit for you.

Am I eligible to take the class?

You must be at least 16 years of age, be either a temporary or a permanent resident of Illinois, and possess a valid learner's permit or license for some form of motor vehicle. For riders with at least a year of riding experience, and who have their own motorcycle and hold a valid motorcycle license, we offer an Advanced Rider Course.

Do I need a motorcycle?

For the Basic Rider Course (BRC) and Intermediate Rider Course (IRC), our program provides motorcycles, helmets, insurance, and professional instruction. For the Advanced Rider Course (ARC), you must provide your own motorcycle.

Do I need to wear protective clothing?

All classes require that you wear protective clothing. Helmets will be provided, but students are welcome to bring their own DOT-approved three-quarter or full-face helmets. The following items are required without

exception: sturdy, over-the-ankle footwear (not cloth or canvas, boots suggested), long pants, long-sleeve shirt or jacket gloves that cover the entire hands, protective eyewear (any type of glasses that can be worn while operating a motorcycle).

What if I don't show up on time for class, or I'm late?

A standby or walk-in student will be admitted to the class in your place, and you will lose your deposit. This is very important. Demand for the classes is very high, so being on time is required. If you are late for any reason, including traffic delays, you will forfeit your seat in the class and your deposit.

Do I get a motorcycle license when I'm done with the class?

No. If you are 18 or over and successfully complete the Basic or Intermediate Rider Course, you will receive a Completion Card that will let you waive both the written and riding tests at the Secretary of State's office. If you are 16 or 17 years of age and successfully complete a course, you will receive a Completion Card that will allow you to apply for an M Class license at the Secretary of State's office. You still must go to the Secretary of State's office to get your license.

What is covered in the classes?

Basic riding skills such as starting, stopping, turning, and shifting. Strategies for street riding. Advanced techniques in turning, braking, and swerving. Our curriculum was developed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. See <http://www.msf-usa.org> for more information.

What if I'm not really interested in buying a motorcycle?

Non-motorcyclists can benefit from these courses by learning on a first-hand basis what a motorcyclist experiences and the necessity for developing respect for all vehicles on the highway. This is also a great way to find out if you will like riding motorcycles without having to purchase one.

How long are the classes?

The Basic Rider Course includes 20 hours of instruction with different schedules that vary by location. Check the specific information for your course to plan your schedule. The Intermediate Rider Course includes approximately nine hours of instruction, usually 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday. The Advanced Rider Course includes approximately eight hours of instruction, usually 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday.

What if it rains?

Our classes meet rain or shine, so if it rains, bring rain gear. If there is lightning or other weather nearby that presents a safety risk, the instructor may cancel class or modify its schedule somewhat. If class is canceled, students will have the option of transferring to the next available class or getting a refund of their deposit.

What if I have a disability?

If you have a disability, please contact our office at 847.925.6803 prior to making your course selections to discuss available accommodations.

Do I have to take this course to get my license?

No, you do not have to take a Rider Course to get your license if you are 18 or older. However, if you are 16 or 17 years old and wish to obtain an "M" class motorcycle license, you are required by the state to successfully complete a Rider Course to be eligible to test at the DMV.

Do I need to have my motorcycle permit prior to taking the course?

No. Any valid driver's license or permit will meet the requirements for taking the Basic course. To attend the Advanced Rider Course, you must hold a valid motorcycle license.

Do I have to bring my own helmet for the course?

Only if you're attending the Advanced Rider Course. We provide helmets for the Basic and Intermediate courses. However, you are welcome and encouraged to bring your own DOT-approved helmet if it is of the three-quarter or full-face variety.

What size are the motorcycle used in the courses?

Small. The smallest course motorcycles are 200 – 250 cc.

How soon will I get information about the course I'm in?

Communication about the courses are through email for students who registered online or by phone. Please make sure your e-mail address is correct and current. You should receive an immediate e-mail confirmation upon registration and payment of the \$20 refundable fee.

Can I miss any of the course?

No, and you shouldn't attend the course if you cannot attend the entire course. Our lessons and exercises build on what was covered previously, so if you miss something you will not have the skills and knowledge to safely continue in the course.

I had to miss part of my course. Can I finish up with another class?

No. Please contact our office about canceling so that you may re-register online.

What if I have to be late for the first day of class?

You may have to forfeit your seat and registration fee to a walk-in student.

How can I find out when a course re-opens due to cancellations?

Check online for current information. When a student cancels, our website will reflect availability. Please check often to find out if a seat becomes available.

When will I get my completion card so I can obtain my Motorcycle License if I successfully complete the course?

The Completion Card will be processed within 2-4 weeks after the course end date.

What do I do with my Completion Card once I receive it?

You have one year from the completion of your Rider Course to obtain your motorcycle license. If you are 18 or older and have completed a Rider Course, the Secretary of State's Driver Services Facility will waive the written and riding portions of your exams. If you are 16 or 17 years old, the Completion Card is required to take the test for an M Class license. In addition to the testing waivers, many insurance companies offer discounted rates for successfully completing one of our courses. Check with your insurance agent.

What if I have additional questions?

Send an email to motorcycles@harpercollege.edu.

Basic Rider Course (BRC)

The Basic Rider Course (BRC) provides approximately 20 hours of classroom and on-motorcycle instruction. In this course, you will develop and practice four fundamental riding skills:

- Straight-line riding
- Turning
- Shifting
- Stopping

Once the basic skills are honed, you will expand into street-riding skills, including:

- Advanced turning techniques
- Advanced braking techniques
- Swerving

You will also learn and practice the mental skills needed to develop: street-riding strategies and the ability to navigate special situations.

Basic Rider Course Eligibility

Any Illinois resident (16 years of age or older) who holds a valid driver's license or permit is eligible to register for Motorcycle Rider Courses. All students must submit a signed **Waiver or Release of Liability** form at their first class session. Students under 18 should obtain a Waiver Form, have it signed by a parent or guardian, and bring it with them to the first class. [Download the Waiver Form](#).

Protective Clothing Requirements: What You Need to Bring

In addition to the waiver mentioned above (if needed), participants should bring protective clothing. The following items are required without exception:

- sturdy, over-the-ankle footwear (not cloth or canvas, boots suggested)
- long pants
- long-sleeve shirt or jacket
- gloves that cover the entire hands
- protective eyewear (any type of glasses that can be worn while operating a motorcycle/driving)

Helmets and motorcycles will be provided. Students are welcome to bring their own DOT-approved 3/4 or full-face helmets.

Licensing

A BRC completion card will be mailed to all students who have successfully completed the Basic Rider Course. The BRC completion card will enable the Secretary of State motorcycle written and driving tests to be waived for those 18 years of age and older. Persons age 16 or 17 must complete this course to be eligible for the "M" class motorcycle endorsement.

Intermediate Rider Course (IRC)

The IRC is designed for riders with previous experience who are returning to motorcycling or who have ridden for some time without a license. They may be returning riders who already passed the BRC but don't have their own motorcycle or would like additional training and practice before riding on the street, or experienced dirt bike riders who want to start riding on the street.

This course offers an overview of the fundamentals of safe, responsible motorcycling and provides riders the opportunity to renew skills and acquire important knowledge for safe street operation. The IRC provides a training experience for riders who already have basic operational skills including motorcycle controls operation, straight-line riding, upshifting, downshifting, turning, braking and stopping.

The IRC consists of 10 hours of instruction (motorcycles and helmets provided), classroom work and a written evaluation.

Intermediate Rider Course Eligibility

- Illinois residents who are at least 18 years of age (on the first day of their course) are eligible to enroll in the IRC if they have a valid driver's license or instruction permit and have previous experience operating a motorcycle.
- **Prerequisites:** All IRC students are expected to possess reasonable proficiencies in basic motorcycle control operation, straight-line riding, upshifting, downshifting, turning, braking, and stopping prior to enrolling in the IRC. Those unable to demonstrate these minimum expectations during the first riding sessions will not be allowed to continue in the IRC course, nor will they be given preferential enrollment into a basic course.

Protective Clothing Requirements: What You Need to Bring

Participants should bring protective clothing. The following items are required without exception:

- sturdy, over-the-ankle footwear (not cloth or canvas, boots suggested),
- long pants,
- long sleeve shirt or jacket
- gloves that cover entire hands
- protective eyewear (any type of glasses that can be worn while operating a motorcycle/driving)

Helmets and motorcycles will be provided. Students are welcome to bring their own DOT-approved 3/4 or full-face helmets.

Licensing

An IRC completion card will be mailed to all students who successfully complete the IRC. The IRC completion card will enable the [Secretary of State](#) motorcycle written and driving tests to be waived for those 18 years of age and older.

Advanced Rider Course (ARC)

In the ten-hour ARC course, participants will:

- Increase skills, knowledge, safety awareness and enjoyment
- Become familiar with motorcycle dynamics, survival strategies, emergency braking, countersteering and traction availability
- Practice precise steering techniques and correct braking methods under controlled conditions with Motorcycle Safety Foundation Certified Instructors
- Gain the knowledge necessary for further development of safe riding skills

Advanced Rider Course (ARC) Eligibility

ARC students must:

- provide their own street-legal motorcycle or have the owner's written permission to use a borrowed street-legal motorcycle
- have a motorcycle endorsement to ride the motorcycle used in the ARC
- complete a waiver form and motorcycle safety inspection checklist (forms provided)
- show proof of motorcycle insurance at first class meeting

Protective Clothing Requirements: What You Need to Bring

Participants should bring protective clothing. The following items are required without exception:

- sturdy, over-the-ankle footwear (not cloth or canvas, boots suggested)
- long pants
- long sleeve shirt or jacket
- gloves that cover entire hands
- protective eyewear (any type of glasses that can be worn while operating a motorcycle/driving)
- DOT-approved helmet (must be at least 1/2-shell helmet; 3/4 or full-face helmets recommended)

Licensing

A valid motorcycle license is required to take the ARC. Completion of the ARC does not waive the test requirements for obtaining a motorcycle license through the Secretary of State.

Rider Coaches

The Harper College Motorcycle Rider Program is looking for service-oriented men and women to join our part-time staff of Rider Coaches. The level of responsibility is high, but the satisfaction of assisting other people as they improve their mental skills, physical coordination, and life-saving driving strategies is extremely rewarding! All Rider Coaches have completed a Rider Coach Preparation Course (RPC) and maintain current certification credentials through the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

Rider Coach Preparation Course applications are selectively accepted from individuals who:

- are at least eighteen years of age
- have excellent verbal and written communication skills
- have excellent social skills with a strong interest in helping other people
- have an Illinois class "M" motorcycle operator license or equivalent from another state
- have completed a basic motorcycle rider course
- currently operate a motorcycle on a frequent basis
- have a clean driving record with no possibility for license suspension or revocation.

Please note: an original driving abstract issued by any Illinois Drivers Services Facility or your home state's Department of Motor Vehicles must be attached to your application.

Candidates accepted into the RPC must successfully complete:

- an initial riding skills test to demonstrate riding proficiency
- a 60+ hour classroom/riding instruction course conducted by MSF certified Rider Coach trainers
- a written knowledge test covering the novice course curriculum
- a student teaching phase to demonstrate communication abilities and proficiencies at evaluating and coaching novice students
- an Instructor Rules of Professional Conduct form

Once certified, a Rider Coach must:

- attend annual region-specific updates
- maintain first-aid certification through the American Red Cross or equivalent
- demonstrate safe riding habits and always wear protective gear when riding to, from and during rider training activities
- ride and drive free of alcohol and other drugs
- conduct one's self in a professional manner that includes appropriate appearance and communications

Because certain areas of our training region are understaffed, and enrollment in these courses is limited, we reserve the right to select course candidates geographically. The intensity of this training may exceed that of any previous instruction in which you have been involved. Your commitment will require much more time than the actual contact hours listed in the course schedule and, once enrolled, there is no guarantee that you will successfully complete the course. Course materials will be provided at the first course session. If successful, all teaching materials will be yours to keep. If you do not complete the RPC for any reason, the materials must be returned. Travel and incidental expenses will be the responsibility of the candidate.

If you are interested in becoming a Rider Coach for the Harper College Motorcycle Safety Program or would like more information, please contact us via email at motorcycles@harpercollege.edu or give us a call at 847-925-6803.