You must choose whether you want to get a REAL ID or not. If you choose to get a REAL ID, you must provide two proofs of address in addition to the other documents. Without a REAL ID, you must have another federally approved identification, such as a valid US Passport or military ID, and show it to pass security at airports nationwide or enter secure federal facilities. You do not need a REAL ID beginnner’s permit, driver’s license, or identification card to do any of the following: drive; vote; access hospital care; enter non-secured federal facilities such as a post office; receive federal benefits for which you’re entitled (Veterans Affairs); or participate in law enforcement investigations or proceedings. Regardless of what choice you make the cost of a South Carolina REAL ID is the same as a beginnner’s permit, license, or ID that is not a REAL ID.

These requirements are for anyone who is applying for an SC driver’s license, beginnner’s permit, or identification card (ID). Please use this checklist as a reference.

A. Driver’s License: If you are applying for a license you must complete these steps.

1) Surrender any driver’s license, beginnner’s permit, or identification card issued by another state in the US. If a non-commercial license or ID was lost or stolen, you must provide a certified copy of your driver’s record from the state that issued the license, beginnner’s permit or identification card. However, a CDL holder must get a replacement license from his state of record and surrender it to SC. If you have a driver’s license or beginnner’s permit issued by another country, it may need to be shown (not surrendered) as proof of prior driving experience.

2) Provide original (not photocopied) documents for each of the categories listed on this document unless otherwise stated. This list is subject to change at the SCDMV’s discretion.

3) Pass a vision test if applying for a first-time card.

4) Pass a knowledge and skills test unless you have a valid driving credential issued by a country that has established reciprocity with South Carolina. This is a requirement when a driver’s license is issued for the first-time and when renewing a license that has been expired over nine months.

The SCDMV will not issue a license to an international student for less than one year or more than five years. You will be granted a one year extension of your driver’s license if you change status while in the US, are pending a change of status, or request a visa in extension status. You must provide all original entry documents, even if expired in addition to documentation from US immigration authorities authorizing current presence in the US for the specific visa status. You must also provide proof of place of birth, if not displayed on permanent resident card.

B. Beginnner’s Permit: If you are applying for a beginnner’s permit, you must complete steps 1, 2 and 3 above and pass a knowledge test. Steps 2 and 3 must be repeated when you are ready to take the skills test to upgrade from a beginnner’s permit to a driver’s license.

C. Identification Card: If you are applying for an ID, you must complete steps 1 and 2 above.

You must provide the following County tax bill or property tax receipt for your vehicle or home (current or preceding calendar year). Must be mailed to your SC address.

1. Proofs of SC Address must show your name and current SC address of residence (not PO Box):”

   a) Unexpired SC beginnner’s permit, driver’s license, or vehicle registration: must show your current residential address or your updated address must be on file within the SCDMV’s system if it is not reflected on your SC secondary ID.

   b) Unexpired SC Concealed Weapons Permit (CWP): Hunting/fishing licenses or boat/ejet ski registrations (Department of Natural Resources products).

   c) Voter registration card: tax bill or property tax receipt for your vehicle or home (current or preceding calendar year). Must be mailed to your SC address.

   d) State or Federal tax records Income tax returns for current or prior year are acceptable including electronic tax file, Form W-2, or Form 1040-E Health (insurance) Coverage: You must be listed as a primary tax payer or dependant.

   e) School records must be from an SC school, college or university unless otherwise noted (current or prior school year):

      - Report card (must show your name and current SC address)

      - Letter from School or School Board

      - Official letter from your SC school or school district on school or district letterhead (must indicate enrollment period).

   f) Social security check or annual statement.

2. Proof of Identity, Date and Place of Birth - You must also provide the applicable driver’s license, beginnner’s permit, or ID that is expired over nine months.

3. Proof of Social Security Number (SSN) - You must present a social security card or non-work authorized status from the Social Security Administration.

4. Proof of Authorized Length of Stay in the United States

   a) Unexpired SC beginnner’s or driver’s license or identification card (ID).

   b) Unexpired SC Concealed Weapons Permit (CWP): Hunting/fishing licenses or boat/ejet ski registrations (Department of Natural Resources products).

   c) Voter registration card: tax bill or property tax receipt for your vehicle or home (current or preceding calendar year). Must be mailed to your SC address.

   d) State or Federal tax records Income tax returns for current or prior year are acceptable including electronic tax file, Form W-2, or Form 1040-E Health (insurance) Coverage: You must be listed as a primary tax payer or dependant.

   e) School records must be from an SC school, college or university unless otherwise noted (current or prior school year):

      - Report card (must show your name and current SC address)

      - Letter from School or School Board

      - Official letter from your SC school or school district on school or district letterhead (must indicate enrollment period).

   f) Social security check or annual statement.

   g) Utility bill, payment receipt, or approved application for services at your current SC residence (mailed to your SC address not a separate address); may be a water, sewer, gas and electricity, cable/satellite TV, internet, cell phone or telephone bill.

   h) Financial statements: credit card or bank statement or signed letter on bank letterhead: must also show your name and SC physical address as the business address.

   i) Home mortgage monthly statement or deed.

   j) Insurance documentation from a company licensed to do business in SC: - Auto insurance (not in effect)

      - Homeowners insurance (policy or pay per month), renter’s insurance.

   k) Recent federal income tax return or W-2 (not photocopied) - Households living in a facility must show the name of facility.

   l) Formermonthly statement or deed:

   m) Parolee letter from parole officer.

   n) Letter from director of SC social welfare institution (such as a homeless shelter, battered women’s shelter, halfway house, group home, or orphanage): must state you are a resident of facility.

   o) Other documents issued by federal/state/municipal government, such as:

      - Letter from Department of Health and Human Services

      - Payment receipt from SC DHEC or Vital Records

      - Payment receipt for a paid traffic ticket

      - Military orders or Thrift Savings Retiremen Plan (TSP) issued by the military

5. Legal Documents Supporting Name Change(s)

   a) Unexpired SC driver’s license, beginnner’s permit, or identification card (ID). Please use this checklist as a reference.

   b) Unexpired SC Concealed Weapons Permit (CWP): Hunting/fishing licenses or boat/ejet ski registrations (Department of Natural Resources products).

   c) Voter registration card: tax bill or property tax receipt for your vehicle or home (current or preceding calendar year). Must be mailed to your SC address.

   d) State or Federal tax records Income tax returns for current or prior year are acceptable including electronic tax file, Form W-2, or Form 1040-E Health (insurance) Coverage: You must be listed as a primary tax payer or dependant.

   e) School records must be from an SC school, college or university unless otherwise noted (current or prior school year):

      - Report card (must show your name and current SC address)

      - Letter from School or School Board

      - Official letter from your SC school or school district on school or district letterhead (must indicate enrollment period).

   f) Social security check or annual statement.

   g) Utility bill, payment receipt, or approved application for services at your current SC residence (mailed to your SC address not a separate address); may be a water, sewer, gas and electricity, cable/satellite TV, internet, cell phone or telephone bill.

   h) Financial statements: credit card or bank statement or signed letter on bank letterhead: must also show your name and SC physical address as the business address.

   i) Home mortgage monthly statement or deed.

   j) Insurance documentation from a company licensed to do business in SC: - Auto insurance (not in effect)

      - Homeowners insurance (policy or pay per month), renter’s insurance.

   k) Recent federal income tax return or W-2 (not photocopied) - Households living in a facility must show the name of facility.