

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · AUBURN

Getting a Driver License in Auburn: Which Office? 2026 Guide

Research found no state license office inside the city, and all three probate counters in the county decline foreign national transactions. We give you no shortcut, we give you questions.

SHORT ANSWER

A driver license is **state business** and this city has no rule of its own. But two things bear directly on a foreign national here. First, location: **research found no state law enforcement license office inside this city**; the county's state office sits in the **county seat next door**. Second, and harder, a measured answer: the agency's own office layer was read statewide and **of the 124 offices recorded as local, all 124 do not process foreign nationals, zero exceptions. All three probate counters in this county fall in that group. Most** state offices do process them, but **not all**. And for a student or researcher there is an extra document: an **F or M visa holder must also present the I-20**, and a **J-1 or J-2 holder the DS-2019 or IAP-66**.

First, know this: the office you need is not inside the city

In this city the license question does not start with an address, it starts with an **institution type**. The whole city sits in **one county**, so the question we ask over and over in our Alabama guides, **which county am I in**, has a single answer here. That is not reassuring, though, because **research found no state license office inside the city** and the county's probate counters do not handle this transaction.

COUNTER	DAYS AND HOURS	FOREIGN NATIONAL TRANSACTIONS
The state law enforcement agency's county office, 1220 Fox Run Avenue, Suite 102 and 103, Opelika, AL 36801	Weekdays 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.; no testing after 4 p.m.	Handled
The county probate office counters, three counters	Weekdays	Not handled, at any of the three

Three warnings. First, **we publish no distance or driving time figure**; no institutional text measures it and we do not estimate. Second, the hours were read from the agency's own office page and **the last admission for testing is in the afternoon**, so if you arrive in the final hour no test will be started. Third: **public transportation will not rescue your plan in this city**, because the public system closes at two in the afternoon on weekdays. Plan the trip accordingly.

The measured answer: zero exceptions at local counters

The data layer behind the state law enforcement agency's office map keeps separate fields for **first issuance to a foreign national** and **renewal for a foreign national**. The layer was read statewide on **October 12, 2026** and the result is plain:

OFFICE TYPE	FOREIGN NATIONAL TRANSACTIONS
Local, meaning a county counter	Handled at none of them. Of the offices recorded as local, all 124 give the same answer, and that holds on both first issuance and renewal . Zero exceptions
State office	Handled at most, but not at all of them. In the same layer six state offices appear not to handle foreign national issuance, and at one of those issuance is absent while renewal is present . That is why we do not write that every state office does it

Two sentences on what this means here. First: **going to a county probate counter serves no purpose on this item**, as none of the three handles it. Second: the county's state office **appears to handle it**, but do not treat that as sufficient on its own, because the state side has exceptions too.

Issuance and renewal are separate fields, so ask two separate questions

The data set keeps **first issuance** and **renewal** separately and **the two do not give the same answer at every office**. So do not ask a single question on the phone. Ask the following separately and write down each answer separately.

- 1 I am getting an Alabama license for the first time. Do you handle first issuance for a foreign national applicant at this office?**
- 2 I am renewing the Alabama license I hold. Do you handle renewal for a foreign national applicant at this office?**
- 3 Is the oral test option available at this office for applicants who cannot read the written test?**
- 4 What is your last admission time for testing?**

Record each answer **together with the name of the person you spoke to**. These four questions can produce four different answers at the same office.

NAME TRAP: THE OFFICE NAME MISREPORTS THE ANSWER

- **The rule follows the type field in the agency's own data, not the name on the office**, and the two do not always agree.
- An office whose name carries **the agency's abbreviation** can be typed **local**, meaning foreign national transactions are not handled there.
- An office whose name reads **license office** can be typed **state**, meaning they are handled.
- **The correct order:** confirm the office **type** first from the agency's own office finder, then ask the questions above by phone. **Do not decide from the name on the office.**

An extra document for student and researcher readers

The agency's driver manual lists the nonimmigrant visa classes it accepts one by one and then adds this: **F and M visa holders must also present the I-20, and J-1 and J-2 visa holders must also present the DS-2019 or IAP-66. B-1 is excluded** from the list, and temporary protected status is counted in it.

In this city that is not a minor detail. Because the readership is largely students, exchange researchers and academics, **a passport and a visa are not enough** at the appointment; the document the school issues is itself required. If you have lost it or a new one has not been issued, speak to your international student office **before the appointment**. The dates on that document have to line up with your entry record; if you went home over the summer and came back, download and check the record on your return.

Four things to know on the state side

- **A new resident has thirty days.** The agency's manual says you may drive for **30 days** after becoming an Alabama resident without an Alabama license; the full context of that sentence is split across a page break in the manual, so **have the office confirm the period**.
 - **Research found no second driving credential independent of status.** The agency's own manual requires proof of **authorized presence** from every first-time applicant and states that until documents are presented it **presumes the applicant's status in the United States to be unauthorized**. This door is not a procedural tip, it is **a reason to speak with your attorney**.
 - **The written test is given in eleven languages and Turkish is not among them.** An **oral test** option exists for applicants who cannot read it; ask about that before the appointment.
 - **A Turkish license is not exchanged.** Türkiye does not appear among the reciprocity agreements the agency publishes, so the license is **obtained from scratch** and the tests are required.
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Checklist before your appointment

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Go to the state office, not a probate counter	None of the county's three probate counters handles foreign national transactions. The state office is in the county seat next door
☐ Look at the office type, not its name	Confirm the type from the agency's own office finder . An office carrying the agency's abbreviation can be local ; one reading license office can be state
☐ Ask about issuance and renewal separately by phone	They are two separate fields in the data set and one office may do one and not the other
☐ Ask the last admission time for testing	At this office no test is started after 4 p.m. ; book the morning
☐ Bring your school document if you hold a student or exchange status	I-20 for F and M, DS-2019 or IAP-66 for J-1 and J-2. A passport and visa alone are not enough
☐ Ask about the oral test option	The written test is in eleven languages and Turkish is not among them

TASK	WHERE OR HOW
☐ Prepare proof of address in your first week	Open the water, sewer and garbage account in your own name first, then electricity. The water board's own form names a passport or a visa among accepted identification
☐ Discuss the lawful presence door with your attorney	The agency requires proof of authorized presence in its own publication and no status-independent card was found
☐ Put thirty days on the calendar	30 days after establishing residence in Alabama. Have the office confirm the period
☐ Do not take your Turkish license in for an exchange	Türkiye is not on the reciprocity list; prepare for the tests
☐ Plan the trip	The office is not inside the city and the public system closes at two in the afternoon on weekdays

One last sentence, and it is the only shortcut in this guide: this document tells you with certainty **which counter is closed to you**, but it does not tell you that the open counter will finish your business the same day. Treating those as the same thing means a wasted trip in this city.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN AUBURN

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