

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · OREGON

How to Get a Driver License in Oregon: 2026 Guide

The standard license asks for no proof of lawful status and the card is an ordinary card. The boundary sits at REAL ID and the commercial license; the test comes in eight languages, none of them Turkish, but a translator may come in.

SHORT ANSWER

Oregon gives an answer few states in this series give: **the standard driver license asks for no proof of immigration status, and the card you receive is an ordinary license, not a separate product**; no distinguishing band or legend on the card is reported. The state's own 2026-2027 driver manual lists every requirement for a driving privilege and lawful status is not one of them; a **foreign passport** is on its list of accepted identity documents. The boundary is sharp: **a star-marked REAL ID and a commercial license both require lawful status documents**. The knowledge test is offered in eight languages and **Turkish is not one of them**, but the in-office rules expressly allow a **translator** in the test area.

What the manual's requirement list contains, and what it does not

The firmest footing for this section is the state's own driver manual, because it itemizes every requirement for a driving privilege. The list on pages 89 and 90 of the 2026-2027 manual is: proof of identity, date of birth and an **Oregon residence address**; providing your Social Security number **or electronically declaring that you have not been issued one**; a school document if you are under 18; passing the knowledge, vision and drive tests; paying the fees and having your photo taken; having no driving privilege suspended, canceled or revoked anywhere; and surrendering any other license or ID card you hold. **Lawful status, immigration status and lawful presence appear nowhere on that list**. The regime was created by **HB 2015** in the 2019 session and took effect on **January 1, 2021**; we took that last sentence from the legislature's own summary documents rather than the statute, because the legislature's site would not open by any route during this research. So we carry the date as **highly likely rather than settled**, and this guide quotes no statutory language.

Identity documents: the Turkish passport is on the list

DOCUMENT GROUP	WHAT IS ACCEPTED
Identity and date of birth	Foreign passport (valid or expired less than 5 years), consular card (same condition), employment authorization card (I-766), permanent resident card (I-551), reentry permit (I-327), refugee travel document (I-571), certificate of naturalization or citizenship

DOCUMENT GROUP	WHAT IS ACCEPTED
Social Security number	Every applicant for a standard license, permit or ID card must provide a verifiable number, if one has been issued to them . If not, the electronic declaration route applies
The stricter version of the number rule	For REAL ID and commercial license applicants the number is mandatory; a REAL ID applicant who is not eligible for a number brings proof of that ineligibility
Proof of address	One document for a standard card, two printed documents from different agencies, businesses or organizations for a first-time REAL ID

The address list is surprisingly broad for a newcomer: a utility start order or bill dated within the last six months; a lease signed by the landlord; a monthly rent receipt from a hotel, motel, rooming house, campground or trailer park; a paycheck or pay stub dated within the last 12 months, or a W-2 or 1099 for the previous tax year; medical records or a health insurance card from the last 12 months; a document from an educational institution showing enrollment that year; a document from an insurance company or agent; a certified letter **dated within the last 60 days** from a state hospital, shelter or transitional service provider; a letter on employer letterhead confirming you live at a residential address owned by the business; and the most practical one, **a verbal statement from another person living at the same address who appears with you and shows their own proof of residence**. The agency states on its own page that accepted identity and residence documents **may change without notice**; open the list again the day before your appointment.

THE STANDARD CARD LETS YOU DRIVE, IT DOES NOT GET YOU ON A PLANE

- Oregon issues both standard and REAL ID compliant licenses, permits and ID cards; REAL ID cards carry **a star in the upper right corner**. Since **May 7, 2025** an Oregon license, permit or ID card without the star does not count as a boarding document for a domestic flight.
- **The REAL ID option adds 30 dollars on top of the standard fees at every transaction** and applications are taken **in person only**: one proof of identity, two proofs of address, three weeks for the card to arrive. What a non-citizen applicant brings: an unexpired foreign passport, an **unexpired U.S. visa** affixed to it, and an unexpired **I-94 or I-797A** showing the most recent entry.
- After your documents are scanned you receive a temporary paper ID, and the agency's warning is explicit: **that paper is not accepted at the security checkpoint**.
- Since **February 1, 2026** passengers 18 and over who do not present an accepted ID can have their identity verified at the airport; the charge is **45 dollars**. The practical upshot: **the document you show at the gate is your Turkish passport, together with your visa and I-94 record**. Carry the passport with you.
- **The commercial license also requires lawful status**, so the standard card's boundary ends at these two headings.

Tests and the mechanics

- **The knowledge test is 35 multiple-choice questions** and costs **7 dollars** per attempt. It can be taken from home (on a desktop or laptop with a keyboard, mouse and camera), in an office by appointment, or by waiting in line; the office test is on a touch screen and read aloud.
- Testing stops **one hour before** the office closes. If you fail the knowledge test you may retake it **the same day** if the office has capacity. Anyone caught cheating is barred from retesting for **90 days**.

- **The drive test is 45 dollars** and by appointment only. You must pass the knowledge test first, then arrive in a passenger vehicle with current registration and valid insurance; the examiner checks the equipment. If you fail you wait until **the next business day**.
- If you completed an ODOT-approved driver education course within the last **2 years**, the drive test is waived.
- **Türkiye is not on the reciprocity list**. Oregon waives testing only for licenses from **Canada, Germany, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan** (plus another U.S. state, the District, a U.S. territory and State Department documents), and the waiver also requires that the license be **expired no more than one year**. So you take both tests.
- **And your Turkish license is surrendered when the Oregon license is printed**. The surrender rule covers every license, permit and ID card issued "by Oregon, another state **or another country**," and the card is not returned. If you plan to drive in Türkiye, handle anything you need from that card **before you surrender it**.

EIGHT LANGUAGES, NO TURKISH, BUT THE TRANSLATOR DOOR IS OPEN

- In the agency's words the test can be read and heard in: **English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese (Simplified Mandarin), Japanese, Korean, Russian and Vietnamese**. The same eight apply to both the at-home and the office test. Practice tests are English and Spanish only.
- The office testing rules themselves say: **no one else may be in the testing area unless you need a translator**. So a Turkish-speaking applicant may take the office test **with a translator present**.
- **But we found no agency page describing the translator's qualifications or how to register one**. So we write this as a door, not a promise: before your appointment call **1-503-945-5000**, have your translator request recorded, and ask for the answer in writing. Do not argue it at the counter on test day.
- We also could not determine whether a Turkish version of the manual exists, so we promise no Turkish manual.

Two official pages conflict, and we are not picking a side

The agency's identity documents page has a section headed **proof of lawful status** for the commercial license, the commercial learner permit, and both non-REAL ID and REAL ID cards, and the list under it (U.S. passport, U.S. birth certificate, certificate of naturalization or citizenship, consular report of birth abroad, permanent resident card) is narrower than the REAL ID list. That heading **appears to conflict** with the manual's requirement list: lawful status never appears in the manual, yet this heading also names the non-REAL ID card. Both are official. The most reasonable reading is that the heading says "where lawful status must be proven, these are accepted," meaning it describes the requirement for the commercial license and REAL ID; **but that is our interpretation, not the agency's sentence**. If you run into this heading, call **1-503-945-5000** before applying and ask for the answer that applies to your own situation **in writing**. We also **could not verify** whether a separate limited-term card exists for people with time-limited immigration status: the fee page has such a heading but the content under it never loads and the related subpage returns an error. We write neither that such a card exists nor that it does not; ask at the same number.

Fees: we left blank the part we could not verify

TRANSACTION	FEE
Knowledge test, per attempt	\$7
Drive test	\$45
REAL ID surcharge, per transaction	\$30
Alternative identity verification at the airport	\$45 (since February 1, 2026)
First license, renewal, replacement, ID card, validity periods	Not published in readable form. The fee page loads as an accordion panel whose content never appears, both on the live site and in a September 23, 2026 archive record; rather than guess, we left it blank

We say the last line plainly: we **could not read** any figure beyond the tests and REAL ID, and this guide contains no estimates. Confirm at **1-503-945-5000**; the agency also notes that fees are set by the legislature. Offices take cash, check, a money order for the **exact amount**, mobile payment, debit, Discover, Mastercard and Visa; checks and money orders are payable to the state motor vehicle agency. Headquarters is 1905 Lana Ave NE, Salem, OR 97314; phone 1-503-945-5000, statewide relay 711 for hearing-impaired callers. The online account for appointments, registration renewal and plate work is **DMV2U**. To study, the agency's driver education page: oregon.gov/odot/DMV/pages/driverid/licenseget.aspx.

ONE QUESTION THIS GUIDE CANNOT ANSWER, AND IT IS THE FIRST ONE ASKED

- **Can someone newly arrived in Oregon drive on a Turkish license or an international driving permit until the Oregon license arrives, and for how many days?** Oregon's pages are written about **surrendering** a foreign license, not about driving on one. We **found no** official page describing a grace period or an international permit rule. We do not say there is none; we say we did not find one.
- Getting an international driving permit before you leave Türkiye is still cheap insurance; but after you move, make your **first phone call** to 1-503-945-5000 and ask how long a window you have.
- A comparison, since a reader may have seen a different answer elsewhere: some states list Türkiye on their reciprocity list, Oregon does not. Oregon's list is longer by count, but for a Turkish reader the result is the same: **both tests apply**.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN OREGON

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients across Oregon, in Turkish and English. Free evaluation:
clinchlaw.com/free-evaluation · +1 866-491-7669

Office: 321 N Central Expy, Ste 206, McKinney, TX 75070

Attorney responsible for this guide: Asim Clinch, Esq., Clinch Law Firm P.C. Attorney Asim Clinch is a member of the Missouri Bar (No. 76084) and practices U.S. federal immigration law.

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