

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · SAN ANTONIO

How to Get a Driver's License in San Antonio: 2026 Guide

For San Antonio newcomers, green card and visa holders, and drivers arriving with a foreign license: documents, tests, fees and DPS offices.

SHORT ANSWER

Texas driver's licenses are issued by DPS offices, by appointment only. For a first license you need proof of lawful presence (green card, EAD, or passport + visa + I-94), your SSN (or a DL-13 affidavit at the office), two documents showing a Texas address with at least 30 days of residence, and Texas insurance for any car you own. San Antonio DPS offices were booking first-time appointments 30 to 35 days out on September 16, 2026, noticeably longer than Houston or Austin. The fee is \$33.

Before you start

- **You cannot apply in your first month.** One address document must show at least 30 days of Texas residence.
- **No walk-ins, and the wait is long.** At the four San Antonio offices, first-time appointments ran 30 to 35 days out and road tests 29 to 44 days out (DPS, September 16, 2026). Book the next step as soon as you have a date.
- **The knowledge test is English or Spanish only.** Interpreters are not allowed during the test.
- **Most foreign licenses cannot be exchanged.** Only France, Germany, South Korea, the UAE, Taiwan and other U.S. states are exempt from testing.
- **Your previous license is valid for 90 days** after you become a Texas resident.
- **The ITAD certificate is valid for 90 days.** If your appointment is a month away, watch the video closer to the date so the certificate does not expire.

Step by step

- 1 **Book an appointment** at txdpsscheduler.com, choosing the "Original" service. Slots open up to 6 months ahead. Book the earliest date as soon as your 30-day address document exists. Offices also have a limited number of same-day slots at the kiosk, first come, first served.
- 2 **Gather original documents.** No photocopies. DPS's document check tool builds a checklist: dps.texas.gov/apps/DriverLicense/RealID.
- 3 **Complete ITAD.** If you are 25 or older, finish the one-hour Impact Texas Adult Drivers video (impacttexasdrivers.dps.texas.gov); the certificate is valid for 90 days. Ages 18 to 24 also need a 6-hour adult driver education course.

- 4 Apply at the office** with Form DL-14A. Fingerprints, photo and a vision test.
- 5 Take the knowledge test** on traffic laws and signs, in English or Spanish.
- 6 Take the road test** in an insured, registered vehicle. Book it as soon as your knowledge test is scheduled.
- 7 Pay the fee.** You leave with a temporary license; the card arrives by mail in 2 to 3 weeks.

Document checklist

DOCUMENT	NOTES
☐ Proof of lawful presence	Green card (I-551), EAD (I-766), or a valid passport + visa + I-94. DPS verifies it with DHS.
☐ Identity	A green card, an EAD and "passport + visa + I-94" count as primary ID. A foreign passport alone is only a supporting document.
☐ SSN	Provide your number. If you are not eligible for an SSN, you sign a DL-13 affidavit at the office (no CDL on this basis).
☐ Address document #1	Lease or deed, or an electric, water, internet or cell phone bill from the last 180 days. A CPS Energy or SAWS bill works.
☐ Address document #2	Bank statement, pay stub, insurance policy, government mail or a USCIS notice. One must show 30 days in Texas.
☐ Vehicle documents	Texas insurance for each vehicle you own; Texas registration if surrendering an out-of-state license. If you own none, you say so.
☐ ITAD certificate	Age 25 and older, before the road test. Valid 90 days.
☐ Driver education certificate	Only for first-time applicants aged 18 to 24.

Fees (2026)

ITEM	FEE	VALID FOR
Driver's license, ages 18 to 84	\$33	8 years
Limited Term license	\$33	Your authorized stay
Texas ID card, age 59 and under	\$16	6 years
Replacement card	\$11	-

Texas does not let you hold a license and an ID card at the same time. Since May 7, 2025, domestic flights accept only REAL ID cards (marked with a star) or a passport.

If you are not a U.S. citizen

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

- Green card holders get a standard 8-year license. Other statuses get a "Limited Term" card that expires with the authorized stay on your I-94.
- For duration-of-status (D/S) holders such as F-1 and J-1 students, the license is valid for one year.
- After an extension or change of status you renew in person with the new documents. DPS recommends coming at least 30 days before expiration; with San Antonio waits, book even earlier.
- If DHS verification is not instant, track it at txapps.texas.gov.
- From January 1, 2027, vehicle registration renewals will also check ID. An expired Limited Term license could block a renewal.
- **If you are not a citizen, answer "no" to "Are you a U.S. citizen?" on the form.** USCIS treats a "yes" as a false claim of citizenship, with serious consequences.

San Antonio-area DPS offices

Estimated wait for an appointment (DPS report, September 16, 2026). Waits change daily, so check the scheduler for current dates. San Antonio offices were much slower than Houston (2 to 8 days) and Austin.

OFFICE	FIRST-TIME LICENSE	ROAD TEST
San Antonio Pat Booker	about 30 days	about 29 days
San Antonio Gen McMullen	about 31 days	about 44 days
San Antonio Southeast	about 33 days	about 37 days
Leon Valley Mega Center	about 35 days	about 43 days
Castroville	about 36 days	about 27 days
Boerne	about 41 days	about 66 days
New Braunfels	about 17 days	about 41 days

If you can travel, smaller county offices can be much faster: the same report showed about 6 days for a first-time appointment in Uvalde and about 3 days in Del Rio.

For office addresses and hours, use the [DPS office locator](#), and check the address on your appointment confirmation before you go.

Driving on a foreign license

- **Visitors:** your home license with an International Driving Permit (or English translation), for up to one year from entry (ages 18 to 75, private vehicles).
- **New residents:** get a Texas license within 90 days. There is no test exemption for most foreign licenses.
- **Renting a car:** rental companies may also ask for the International Driving Permit.

Common mistakes

- Trying to apply in your first week (no 30-day address document yet).
- Bringing photocopies.
- Showing up for the road test without the ITAD certificate.
- Leaving the booking to the last minute: first-time appointments in San Antonio run about a month out.
- Watching the ITAD video too early and letting the 90-day certificate expire.
- Letting a Limited Term license expire.



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