

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · WEST LAFAYETTE

Driver Licenses in West Lafayette: One Option, 2026 Guide

A license is a state matter and West Lafayette has no rule of its own here. This guide summarizes the state rule briefly and gives the space to what it takes to do it from this city.

SHORT ANSWER

A license is a **state matter** and West Lafayette adds no rule of its own. The state answer is blunt in one sentence: **no credential is issued without proof of lawful status, not even an identification card**. A person with temporary status receives a credential carrying a **Restriction 9**, and it **expires on the end date of the lawful stay**, so if you are here on an F-1, a J-1 or an H-1B the card runs exactly as long as your status does. We set out the statute and the document list in [the license section of our Indiana guide](#); what belongs here is what it takes to do it in this city. **We print no fee figure and no counter address**, because the agency's own pages never opened during this research.

The state side in three sentences, with the detail in the state guide

We do not repeat these three sentences here, because they work identically everywhere in the state. In brief: the statute requires **documentary evidence of lawful status** for an identification card as well; a credential issued on temporary status carries a restriction marking; and that credential ends **on the last day of the lawful stay**. So an error on your entry record lands directly on your card. The document list, the tests and the fees are all on the state side.

QUESTION	THE INDIANA ANSWER
A driver license without proof of status	Not issued
An identification card without proof of status	Not issued. The statute requires evidence of lawful status for the ID card too
A trace of status on the card	A Restriction 9 marking. How it actually appears on the card we could not verify
Validity on temporary status	The last day of your lawful stay. For a student or a scholar that means the card tracks your status, not your academic calendar
What a new application asks for	One identity document, one lawful status document, proof of your Social Security number and two Indiana residency documents
Fee	Not printed. The agency's fee schedule never opened and third-party sources conflict

QUESTION

THE INDIANA ANSWER

If you arrive with another US state's license

No written test, only a vision screening. **This is the only waiver we could verify**

Three things this city adds

- **We print no counter address, and we say why.** The state agency's own site never opened during this research; we **could not verify** the branch list inside Tippecanoe County, the opening hours or the appointment procedure. Rather than invent an address we say this: book through the agency's own appointment system and confirm on the booking screen where you are going.
- **The two-residency-document rule hits harder here than in the other four settlements.** For someone living in a dorm or newly arrived that list is hard to fill, because in this city utilities are often folded into the rent and nothing is issued in your name. On top of that **the city does not supply water**, so even the one account you might open with the city does not produce a bill for you automatically. **We could not verify whether a dorm contract is accepted for a license application;** we know it is accepted for a library card, but the agency's list of accepted documents never opened. Take more than two documents with you and call before you go.
- **We print no fee figures.** Call and ask what you will pay at the counter before you go, and write the answer down.

DRIVING ON A TURKISH LICENSE, AND WHETHER THE TEST IS IN TURKISH: WE COULD NOT FIND OUT EITHER

- We could not read an official text showing that Indiana grants a test waiver to the holder of a valid foreign license, and we could not confirm an exchange arrangement with Türkiye.
- We could not establish **how many days a newcomer may drive on a Turkish license** either. Third-party guides say sixty days and cite a statutory section, **but the text of that section as we read it contains no such period.**
- **We also could not verify whether the knowledge test is offered in Turkish.** The agency offers it in several languages, the sources conflict on how many, and Turkish appears in none of the lists we read.
- **We are not saying there is nothing; we are saying the research could not confirm it.** We gathered the open questions in [the foreign license section of the state guide](#).
- **A practical plan:** get an international driving permit before you leave Türkiye; call the agency in the week you arrive and ask **in writing** what your window is and whether any waiver exists; and prepare for both tests as though there were none.

Can you postpone the license? The answer depends on who you are

Getting around here does not have one answer, and knowing the split saves money. **If you are affiliated with the university** there is a separate campus service, and the university's own announcement says it is free for students, faculty and staff. **But leaving campus is a separate thing and it costs money**, and it has cost money for university affiliates too since **August 19, 2024**. **For a family with no university connection,**

nothing here is free. So the cost of postponing a car in this city is two different figures depending on who you are.

One thing you cannot postpone: **photo identification** is asked for here not only for driving but when your car is towed, at the marriage license counter and when you request a birth certificate. The good news is that in those last two **a foreign passport sits on the primary identification list** and the county clerk's own document list names a passport. So there are doors you can walk through before an Indiana credential arrives; the detail is in our consulate guide.

- 1 Produce a document in your own name first.** In this city that document is usually a lease or dorm contract, a bank statement and an enrollment letter; keep all three together.
- 2 Think about the expiry of your status document and the expiry of the card together.** On temporary status the card ends on the last day of your stay; put the renewal date in your calendar now.
- 3 Book through the agency's own system** and read on screen which documents are asked for; this guide gives no address and no fee.
- 4 Take more than two residency documents.** We could not verify the list of accepted documents, so extra paperwork helps.
- 5 Check your entry record** at i94.cbp.dhs.gov. An error there lands directly on the expiry date of your card. If a status class was written wrongly on a summer re-entry, it hits both your card and your work authorization.
- 6 A change of address means two separate notifications:** one to the license agency and, if you are subject to reporting, one to USCIS. **Entering an address in the university's own system replaces neither.**
- 7 The document you use on an international flight is a passport.** We could not verify this round whether an Indiana license is accepted at the airport.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN WEST LAFAYETTE

Have a question about your immigration status?

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