The Alternate Basic Rider Course (ABRC)

The curriculum is approved by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and meets or exceeds the standards set by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

This seven-hour course provides another option for an individual to earn their license without having to take the full 17-hour basic course. It is only for individuals that have some riding experience and are seeking a Class "M" license.

Instruction is provided by the Motor Vehicle Administration and Motorcycle Safety Foundation certified instructors.

The pre-requisites for this course include the ability to:
- Use the clutch and throttle to get the motorcycle in motion;
- Stop the motorcycle properly in a designated area;
- Execute gradual and tight turns;
- Up and downshift smoothly; and
- Achieve a speed of at least 25 mph.

During the initial riding activities, each rider’s ability to operate a motorcycle will be evaluated by the instructors. **Riders who cannot demonstrate minimum riding proficiency will not be allowed to continue and will need to consider enrolling in the Basic Rider Course.** Riders who are not allowed to continue will not be eligible for a refund and may have to pay an additional fee to be enrolled in a Basic Rider Course.

All learning activities are conducted on a closed riding range. While there is no formal classroom segment; however, various topics including preparing to ride, road management and advanced riding techniques are discussed during the course.

Riders can elect to use a program training motorcycle, or they may use their personal motorcycle if it is street legal and they transport it to the training site legally. See the Program’s policy regarding riding a motorcycle to class. Personal motorcycles must be in good operating condition and pass a routine pre-ride check given as a part of the course. Riders must assume all liability for the use of their motorcycle in the course. The Program is not responsible for any damage to a rider’s motorcycle as a result of participation. Riders are to provide their own riding gear, which includes a helmet compliant with USDOT standards with proper labeling intact, eye protection, jacket, full-fingered gloves, long pants and sturdy over-the-ankle footwear. To complete the course riders must pass a knowledge and skill test administered at the end of the course. Riders who pass will receive a Maryland Motorcycle Safety Program Completion Card. **There is no guarantee that an individual enrolling in this course will pass or become eligible for a motorcycle license or endorsement.**

**Enrollment Requirements**

Individuals who possess a valid driver’s license, a Class "M" (motorcycle) learner’s permit or individuals who are eligible for a learner's permit may enroll in the Alternate Basic Rider Course. Parents or guardians of individuals under the age of 18 enrolling in the course must sign a consent/release form.

- Wear protective clothing (eye protection, suitable jacket, long pants, full-fingered gloves and over-the-ankle footwear) during the riding portion.
• Students are encouraged to bring their own helmets, but loan helmets are available at the centers. All helmets must be compliant with USDOT standards with labeling intact, fit properly and must be in good condition. Only open-face (3/4), or full-face style helmets may be worn. Partial coverage, also known as half-helmets may not be worn. Course participants are to bring their riding gear to the first class session for evaluation by the course Instructor.
• Pay the course registration fee to be officially enrolled in a course.

Course Completion Requirements & Getting Your License
To pass the course you must participate in the entire course as well as pass a knowledge test and on-cycle test. Riders satisfactorily completing the Alternate Basic Rider Course are eligible to receive a Maryland Completion Card and their Class M license.

• The MVA 25-question knowledge test will be administered during the last classroom session. The material on this test is covered during class, but you are encouraged to review the MVA Motorcycle Operator Manual.

General Information
• A motorcycle learner's permit is not required to participate.
• Training motorcycles are provided but participants may use their personal motorcycle if it is transported legally to the training center. Motorcycles with sidecars or trikes may not be used.
• Scooters may be used if they have an engine displacement of 51 cubic centimeters or more. Note: Please contact the Motorcycle Safety Program office or the training center where you are enrolling to make arrangements.
• Some insurance companies offer discounts on motorcycle premiums to course graduates.
• Course participants are required to report to all scheduled sessions regardless of weather.
• There are no refunds of the course fee.
• Participants are eligible for one retest of both course tests.

Lateness policy
All classes start promptly at the times indicated. If you are late for any session you will not be allowed to continue in the class. There is no grace period. The MVA and its training center sponsors are not responsible for traffic, weather or any other condition or circumstance that might cause a participant to be late. It is the participant's responsibility for being on time for each class session.