Basic Rider Course

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

This 17-hour course is designed for the true novice rider who has little or no riding experience. It includes classroom and riding instruction on the basic riding skills and strategies necessary for an individual to begin to practice street riding. Courses are taught by Motor Vehicle Administration and Motorcycle Safety Foundation certified instructors. You should be able to ride a bicycle to participate in this course.

During the seven hours of classroom time participants will discuss topics that include responsible riding, selecting proper riding gear and the basic riding skills. Other topics include defensive riding strategies and how to handle a variety of riding situations. Participants receive approximately 10 hours of riding on a training motorcycle practicing clutch-throttle control, stopping, turning, shifting, and basic crash avoidance skills. Throughout the course the instructors evaluate and coach each rider’s performance. Participants who do not achieve the minimum performance standards will not be allowed to continue in the course. 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.

Participants in a BRC should not ride their personal motorcycle to class unless done so legally.

Enrollment Requirements

Individuals who possess a valid driver’s license, a Class “M” (motorcycle) learner’s permit or individuals that are eligible for a learner’s permit may enroll in the basic 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 all the course sessions as well as pass a knowledge test and on-cycle test. Riders satisfactorily completing the Basic Rider Course are eligible to receive a Maryland Completion Card and their Class M license.
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- 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.
- Individuals applying for a motorcycle license as a first license will still have to complete the requirements of the Graduated Licensing System and must be eligible to be issued a full license before their Class M License Certificate expires.
- Training motorcycles are provided.
- 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 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.