Southern Oregon Driver Education, Inc.

Drive Assessment

REQUIRED SKILLS

In order to successfully complete the sixth and final drive, each student must demonstrate the ability to perform the skills below. This assessment tests the student's skills at a much higher level than the DMV drive test, and therefore the DMV drive test is waived for students under the age of 18.

- Smooth steering and control of the vehicle.

- Create and maintain appropriate space between vehicles.

- Recognize speed limits (posted or not) and maintain appropriate speeds.

- Identify the type of intersection prior to entering or turning.

- Apply correct searching and right-of-way rules:

  o When I have the right-of-way: 45° search prior to the intersection.

  o When I stop: 90° search, then complete a safety stop if appropriate.

  o At all uncontrolled intersections: deep 90° search.

- Demonstrate appropriate speed to maintain control into, through, and exiting turns and curves.

- Turn left and right in various intersection arrangements (including identifying the correct lane to turn into on one-way or two-way streets.)

- Pull parallel to the curb, back along the curb, then re-enter traffic.

- Lane change procedure (changing lanes, into turn lanes, pulling to/away from curb, etc.).

- Identification of pedestrians and appropriate response following the rules of the road.

- Perpendicular parking at the beginning and end of the drive.

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Descriptive Driving Procedures

Exiting a parking space (back and turn):

- Shift to reverse then release parking brake
- 360° search for space
- Left hand at top of steering wheel
- Target out the rear window (over right shoulder)
- Slowly release pressure on brake pedal using inching (very slow) speed
- Look front and rear until halfway out of parking space (using side view mirrors for reference)
- Turn the steering wheel (using push-pull) as fast as you can until locked, looking front and rear
- At about a 45° angle from the space, stop
- Shift to drive
- Target out the front
- Release brake and gradually accelerate

Slowing or stopping:

- Check rear (rear view mirror)
- Cover brake (foot over brake pedal, not touching)
- Start braking
- Find stopping point
- Stop and search

Lane change (lane to lane, from thru lane to turn lane, to curb or away from curb):

- Signal
- Mirror (rear view)
- Forward (front zone)
- Mirror (side view)
- Forward
- Blind spot check (chin to shoulder)
- Forward
- Go, when you see space

Backing straight back:

"Yield to everything except bugs."

- Shift to reverse
- 360° search for space
- Left hand at top of steering wheel
- Target out the rear window (over right shoulder)
- Find a target (curb or edge of road) through the middle of the trunk
- Slowly release pressure on brake pedal using inching (very slow) speed
- Can use quick glances at backup camera or right side mirror to see need for steering adjustments

Drive lines:

- Slow to proper speed before entering curve
- Curve to the left: LP3 – LP1 – LP1
- Curve to the right: LP2 – LP3 – LP1
- Steer to target

Point of No Return (PONR) — the point where you can no longer stop safely if a green signal changes to yellow:

- See green light in target area
- Locate PONR (about two seconds before intersection or crosswalk)
- Search 45° (at PONR) for space between pedestrians and traffic
- If signal changes to yellow before PONR, stop
- If signal changes at or after PONR, maintain speed through intersection

Identification:

- Pedestrians
- Speed limit changes
- Regulatory and warning signs

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Parking and Turnabout Procedures

Parallel park:

- Approach with side position 3' on right
- Pass parking space judging size
- Stop with body even with rear tires of car in front of parking space
- Signal right, shift to R, and 360° search
- Steer trunk toward curb until locked
- Back to 45° angle
- Straighten wheels
- Back straight to clear front right corner
- Steer trunk toward street until locked
- Back until parallel to curb
- Leave wheels turned and secure car

Back-in park:

- Approach with side position 3' on right
- Signal right
- Stop with body centered in parking space
- Steer left until locked
- Pull forward to 45° angle
- Shift to R, and 360° search
- Steer trunk toward parking space until locked
- Back until parallel to space
- Straighten wheels
- Back until rear limit reaches bottom of curb
- Secure car

Turnabout in a driveway

- Find space at curb after empty driveway
- Lane change procedure to curb and stop
- Signal right, shift to R, and 360° search
- Back straight until pivot point passes nearest edge of the driveway
- Steer trunk toward driveway until locked
- Back until parallel to driveway
- You should be in a safety stop position
- Shift to D, straighten wheels, signal left
- Search and exit by turning left

Turnabout in an intersection

- Pass intersection you will use to turn around
- Stop in LP1
- Signal right, shift to R, and 360° search
- Back straight until pivot point passes nearest edge of driving lane
- Steer trunk toward side street until locked
- Back until parallel to curb
- You should be in a safety stop position in LP1
- Shift to D, straighten wheels, signal left
- Search and exit by turning left

Types of parking in a lot:

- Head-in parking (on left, on right)
- Angled head-in parking
- Pull-through parking
- Back-in parking

Types of parking at the curb:

- Pull-to-curb parking
- Parallel parking
- Hill parking

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Key Concepts in the Skill of Driving

1. **Time and Space**
   - The most important skill is to give yourself enough time and space to respond
   - Create enough space so braking is only necessary for stopping or emergency situations
   - Communicate well in advance of the action

2. **Push-Pull Steering**
   - This method gives more control and balance than any other steering technique
   - Hands positioned at 9 and 3 or 8 and 4 during most driving
   - Both hands slide on the steering wheel, never crossing over or taking either hand off the wheel
   - During turns, hands move mirror image and meet near the top and bottom of the steering wheel

3. **Targeting**
   - Focus on a stationary object as far ahead as possible in your path of travel (the target)
   - The top center of the steering wheel should line up with the target

4. **Stopping Points**

   Legal stop is for pedestrian safety:
   - Before the first white line
   - Before the crosswalk
   - Before the sidewalk
   - 3 feet before edge of the road

   Safety stop, if needed for better line of sight
   - Before the curb
   - Far side of the crosswalk

   Behind another vehicle
   - See rear tires touching the pavement

5. **Intersection Right-of-Way**

   Signal controlled
   - Wait behind crosswalk for clear path
   - Green arrow has protected turn
   - Green ball yields when turning
   - No safety stop

   Uncontrolled intersection
   - Always slow for 90° search
   - Yield to vehicle on your right

   Stop sign controlled
   - Legal stop behind white line/crosswalk/sidewalk
   - Safety stop if needed for line of sight
   - Yield to peds and cars without stop sign

   All-way stop sign controlled
   - Legal stop behind white line/crosswalk/sidewalk
   - No safety stop
   - Yield to anyone stopped before you

6. **Search Patterns** (Left Front Right, Right Front Left)
   - 45° search when moving
   - 90° search when stopped, at uncontrolled intersections, and at railroad crossings
   - 360° search around the vehicle before backing
   - Over, under, around, and through parked vehicles

7. Turns

Before:	Start Turn:	Exit Turn:
Signal 5 seconds before	Keep constant speed	Recover when transition peg
Search LFR RFL	Turn head to target before	lines up with target:
- 45° when moving	turning wheel	- Left: left corner post
- 90° when stopped	Start at turning point:	- Right: rear view mirror
Choose speed	- Left: side mirror to middle	Recover steering wheel and
	- Right: side mirror to curb	accelerate

8. Lane Positions

LP1: Center of the lane—used unless there is a reason for a different lane position or when space is needed on both sides

LP2: Left edge of the lane—used to create space to the right or preparing to turn left

LP3: Right edge of the lane—used to pull to the curb, to create space to the left, or preparing to turn right

LP4: Straddling line on the left—used to create more space on the right or beginning to pass

LP5: Straddling line on the right—used to create more space on the left or pulling over to let others pass
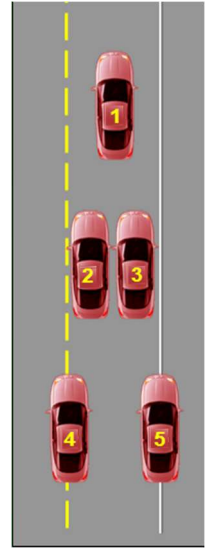
9. Drive Lines:

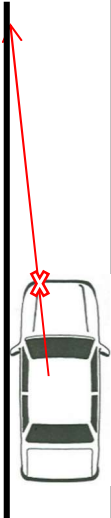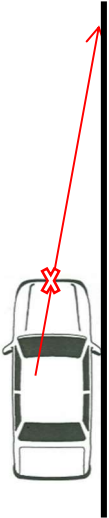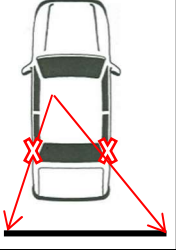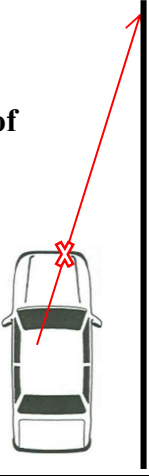Changing lane positions during a curve to maximize vision and minimize steering input.
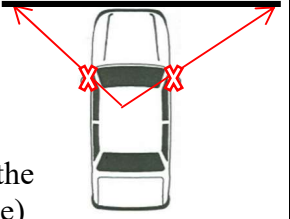
Single Left Curve	Single Right Curve	S-Curve (with good line of sight all the way through the curve)
LP3 – LP1 – LP1	LP2 – LP3 – LP1	Straighten the curve
- Move wide to LP3 before the curve for best line of sight - Gently move to LP1 halfway through the curve - Exit the curve in LP1	- Move wide to LP2 before the curve for best line of sight - Gently move to LP3 halfway through the curve - Exit the curve in LP1	- Start in LP1 - Move to the inside of each curve to minimize steering - Exit the curve in LP1

10. Measure Space Using Time:

When the car in front of you passes a stationary object on the right, start counting 1001,1002, 1003, … until you pass the same stationary object. You want at least 4 seconds of space between your car and the car in your front zone at all times while moving forward.

11. Reference Points

Reference points help us overcome the illusion created by the body of the car and place the vehicle precisely. Reference points visually line up a point on the car with a point on the ground.

Left Side Limit (LP2) **3–6 inches from a line on the left** Official Reference Point: **One foot in from the left corner of the hood** For Behind the Wheel: **Left headlight** Used to: - Create space on the right - Prepare to turn left - Park on left (one-way street)	**Right Side Limit (LP3)** **3–6 inches from a line on the right** Reference Point: **Middle of the hood** Used to: - Create space on the left - Pull to the curb - Prepare to turn right without a curb - Park on right
Pivot Point **Backing turns** **Works on either side of the car** Reference Point: **Above rear tires** Used to: - Start to turn while backing - Turnabout - Back-in/parallel parking	**3 Feet on Right** **3 feet from a line on the right** Official Reference Point: **Middle of the right half of the hood** For Behind the Wheel: **Right headlight** Used to: - Prepare to turn right with a curb - Approach back-in park
Front Limit **3–6 inches from a line in front** **Works on either side of the car** Reference Point: **Bottom of side mirrors** Used to: - Stop at a specific point (stop line, crosswalk, parking, etc.) - Start to turn (mirror to the curb, mirror to the middle)	**Rear Limit** **3–6 inches from a line behind** **Works on either side of the car** Reference Point: **Middle of rear passenger windows** Used to: - Back to a specific point - Finish a back-in park