

COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVING

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Commercial Truck Driving program is to provide accessible, quality educational opportunities that will provide individuals with the knowledge, technical skills, and attitudes necessary to obtain entry-level employment in the commercial truck driving profession. This program is intended to produce graduates who are prepared for entry-level employment, upon licensure, as Class “A” commercial truck drivers. Program graduates are to be competent in the technical areas of hours-of-service regulations, vehicle inspection procedures, basic backing skills, defensive driving techniques, basic driving techniques, and recognition of driving environment hazards.

Reid State Technical College will accomplish program objectives by providing students with a comprehensive technical training in the core area of Commercial Truck Driving. The occupational skill preparation is designed to meet the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency standards and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administration recognized skill standards. The College will ensure program quality through internal certification of graduate competencies and external licensure of graduates by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency Department of Public Safety.

Occupational data

Graduates of the Commercial Truck Driving program work in the transportation industry where they use their skills which are grouped under the classification of commercial truck driver personnel. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, the national median wage for commercial truck driver personnel was \$25.52/hr. in 2022.

Program Outcome Objectives

1. Program graduates will be proficient in communication, computation, and interpersonal skills.
2. Program graduates will be technically proficient.
3. Program graduates will be able to obtain industry certification.
4. Program graduates will be successfully employed in the field.
5. Employers of program graduates will be satisfied with their education and training.

Admission Requirements

Applicants to this program must complete the Commercial Truck Driving admission application, the TABE assessment through RSTC’s Adult Education Program, and be 18 years of age. Additionally, applicants must provide a motor vehicle driving record (MVR) for the last three years. Students will also submit a D.O.T. physical, drug screen, and Commercial Learners License in order to register. While enrolled, students are subject to random drug and alcohol tests in accordance with the Department of Transportation Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991.

Alabama Department of Public Safety regulation, effective January 1, 2006, requires a student to possess one of the following commercial licenses:

1. Commercial Learner Permit (CLP) – A CLP is required for someone to legally drive on the highway if they do not currently possess a CDL. A state learner permit, valid for up to one year, shall be considered a valid commercial driver’s license for purposes of behind-the-wheel training on public roads or highways.

Program Cost Estimate

Tuition, Fees, and Insurance \$3,500.00

Other costs for this program are out-of-pocket expenses to the student.

- Drug Screen and DOT Physical (Estimated) \$200.00
- Motor Vehicle Record fee (MVR) \$5.75
- Commercial Knowledge Test \$25.00
- CDL Permit \$36.25

Certification Requirements

The student will be eligible to take the CDL Third Party Road Test as part of his/her truck driving training if the student has received a satisfactory (S) rating in the overall program. The student would also be required to seek employment with a minimum of two truck-driving employers.

Evaluation/Grading

Student MUST receive a satisfactory (S) in all seven content areas to take the CDL final examination.

P- Pass
F- Fail

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MINIMUM HOURS REQUIRED: 345 Hours

Length: (8 Weeks)

Classes Meet: Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

COURSE CONTENT
Basic Vehicle Operation
Safe Operating Practices
Non-Vehicle Activities
Vehicle Maintenance
Advanced Operating Practices
Proficiency Development
Commercial Driver’s License

VA Student Class Attendance

Minimum attendance requirement for students enrolled in a NCD program is 80%. Attendance will be monitored every 30 days. If attendance falls below 80%, the student will be placed on attendance probation for one month. Exception: There is no probation period allowed for programs less than 30 days in length. If the student has not returned to satisfactory attendance at the end of the one-month attendance probation period+, VA education benefits will be terminated. Certification to VA for payment will not be resumed until satisfactory attendance is regained. Students whose absences result from authorized mitigating circumstances, as determined by the school Director/Owner, will not be counted against the student. Appropriate documentation for mitigating circumstances will be kept in the file.