Non-Credit Career Pathway Course

COMMERCIAL DRIVING (CDL)

BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE | North Dakota's Polytechnic Institution
Continuing Education & TrainND



What is a Class A CDL?

A Class A Commercial Driver's License is required to operate any combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 or more pounds. Driving a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) requires a higher level of knowledge, experience, skills, and physical abilities than that required to drive a non-commercial vehicle. In order to obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), an applicant must pass both skills and knowledge testing geared to these higher standards.

Students will have the opportunity to learn from an experienced instructor both in the classroom and behind the wheel. Students will learn key commercial driving skills with hours of driving practice over the road, on the backing range, and in various driving conditions.

This course meets the requirements for both Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) and Hazardous Material Endorsement Theory set by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

A Certificate of Completion will be provided to students upon completion of the Commercial Driving (CDL) course.

Course Outcomes

The Commercial Driving (CDL) course offered through BSC Continuing Education and TrainND SW is a combination of classroom theory instruction and hands-on training. Content delivery is provided in multiple formats including lecture, class discussion, audiovisual material, independent assignments, hands-on or behind-the-wheel demonstrations, and student participation. Hands-on demonstrations include simulator training and behind-the-wheel driving on local, county and highway routes. Backing maneuvers including alley dock, offset, parallel parking, and straight line. Students will also complete pre-trip inspections, coupling and uncoupling, chain installation, and demonstrate proficiency in the hazardous material theory required by the FMCSA.

BSC Continuing Education and TrainND SW is a certified third-party tester for the ND Department of Transportation.

An Industry with a High Demand for Drivers!

Train to earn your Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and prepare for a career in the trucking industry, one of the fastest-growing industries in the country. With over 300,000 truck driving jobs available in the United States, this course is designed for students with little or no commercial driving experience to gain a basic understanding of the trucking industry and behind the wheel experience.

Upon successful completion, students will be eligible to complete the ND State Drive Test and Hazardous Material Knowledge Test to obtain the H endorsement. The ND State Drive Test consists of four categories: pre-trip inspection, airbrake test, on-the-road driving skills test, and three back maneuvers. Students are limited to two testing attempts. A 48-hour waiting period is required before retesting after a failed attempt. Upon instructor availability, BSC Continuing Education and TrainND SW can provide two additional hours of practice time if a student fails the initial test. It is the responsibility of the student to utilize allotted hours at the time of their scheduled make-up session. After two unsuccessful attempts, a fee will be required for an additional two hours of practice time and for use of the truck to retest.

Students who successfully pass must obtain their license from the nearest ND DOT license issuance location and remit a $5 testing fee.

Course Commitment

Attendance, class participation, assignments, skills verification of assessments and procedures, chapter quizzes, weekly rubric and a final evaluation are used as learning tools. Students must complete homework, participate in the classroom, and demonstrate skills while operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). Students are required to meet predefined benchmarks as determined and outlined by instructors. Students must pass the in-class CDL written exam and the JJ Keller Hazardous Material Endorsement training assessments with an 80% or greater which correlates with the state requirements. The final evaluation includes all three state CDL demonstration requirements of operating a CMV safely including: driving, backing maneuvers, and pre-trip inspection.

Students who fail any evaluation or assessment may incur additional fees and be responsible to schedule make-up time should completion of the course be desired or an unsuccessful completion of the course will be issued.

2027 Two Week Course Dates

An accelerated course ideal for those with extensive experience in towing and backing trailers and manual transmissions.

Jan. 4 - 15	Feb. 22 - Mar. 5	Apr. 8 - Apr. 21
Jan. 6 - 20	Mar. 4 - Mar. 18	Apr. 26 - May 7
Jan. 19 - Feb. 1	Mar. 9 - Mar. 23	
Jan. 25 - Feb. 5	Mar. 22 - Apr. 5	
Feb. 4 - Feb. 18	Mar. 25 - Apr. 9	

2027 Three Week Course Dates

Designed for those who would benefit from more behind-the-wheel driving or observation due to limited experience backing and towing trailers and operating manual transmissions.

Feb. 8 - Mar. 1	Apr. 13 - May 3

Course Investment

- $6,795 tuition includes all classroom materials, truck use, drug screen, MVR check, and the ND State Drive Test.
- A non-refundable deposit of $500 is required to reserve a seat.
- Failure to provide payment will result in transferring the registration to the next available start date.
- Lodging and travel expenses are the financial responsibility of the student. If lodging is needed, please inquire with us about an opportunity for reduced lodging rates.

Commercial Driving (CDL) is a short-term, non-credit program; therefore, BSC Continuing Education and TrainND SW does not offer financial aid or tuition assistance. Students may qualify for funding from state and federal agencies. Go to bismarckstate.edu/drive to learn more.

This program is approved for funding by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Contact BSC's Military Affairs office at (701) 224-5779 or bsc.veteransoffice@bismarckstate.edu if you have questions about your VA educational benefits or if you would like to enroll using your benefits.

Course Prerequisites

The following must be provided before beginning the course and is required in order to operate a commercial motor vehicle:

- Current Class D Driver's License. The Class D Driver's License must be provided at registration.
- Current Class A Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP) through the state of North Dakota (passing of the general knowledge, airbrake and combination tests). The CLP must be provided at registration.
- A current/unexpired Medical Examiner's Certificate from a Department of Transportation (DOT) Physical and includes the CLP/CDL designation.
- DOT Drug screen dated within 10 business days of the course start date.
- Motor Vehicle Report (MVR) for each state of residency in the last two years.
- Be able to read, write, and speak English well enough to speak with the public, understand highway traffic, signs and signals, respond to official inquiries, and make entries on reports and records.

Course Schedule

The courses run from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, unless otherwise specified. Class does not meet on state-recognized holidays. Some exceptions may apply and those will be outlined by the instructor. Contact BSC Continuing Education and TrainND SW for course availability or visit us online at bismarckstate.edu/drive.

Course Size

The three week course is limited to four students per instructor. The two week course is limited to two students per instructor. The limited enrollment allows for a maximum learning experience. Enrollment is based on a first-come, first-served basis. Waiting lists are established once classes have met maximum enrollment.

Registration Requirements

1. Must be at least 18 years old, however, the required age for operating with a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) outside of state lines is 21 years of age.
2. Complete the registration form (available at bismarckstate.edu/drive).
3. Send a copy of the following prerequisites: Class D Driver's License and Class A CLP (front and back).
4. Submit the registration form and required documents in person at Bismarck State College National Energy Center of Excellence, 1200 Schafer Street, 1st Floor, Room 107 or online through our secure portal: https://sendfiles.ndus.edu/filedrop/BSC-ContinuingEducation
5. Remit a non-refundable $500 deposit to hold a seat either in person or by calling (701) 224-5600.
6. The following items are due no later than 10 business days prior to the course start date: (1) A current/unexpired Medical Examiner's Certificate from a DOT Physical, (2) Payment of the tuition balance.
7. The DOT drug screen must be completed by the BSC-approved provider between 10 and five business days prior to the course start date. Students will be emailed instructions.
8. Upon receipt of the registration, documents, and deposit, students will receive an email from bsc.training@bismarckstate.edu detailing the next steps. Our primary method of communication is by email. Consistently monitor your email for communication from bsc.training@bismarckstate.edu.

These items must be completed no later than 10 business days prior to the course start date. Failure to provide course prerequisites and the remaining tuition balance will delay registration, result in added fees, and being transferred to the next available course.

Refund Policy

A $500 deposit paid upon registration is required to reserve a seat and is non-refundable. Students must contact the BSC Continuing Education and TrainND SW office at least 10 business days prior to the course start date to request a refund on the remaining paid balance at (701) 224-5600. If a student cancels less than 10 business days prior to the start of the course, the entire registration fee is forfeited. Full refunds are guaranteed if BSC Continuing Education and TrainND SW cancels a course.

Transfer Policy

Students must contact the BSC Continuing Education and TrainND SW office at least 10 business days prior to the start of course to request a transfer at (701) 224-5600. If a participant requests a transfer less than 10 business days prior to the start of the course, the entire registration fee is forfeited. Students will be allowed one transfer before registration is dropped requiring the student to complete the application process again.

In Person
National Energy Center of Excellence
1200 Schafer Street, Room 107, Bismarck ND
Phone: (701) 224-5600 or (877) 846-9387

Mail
BSC Continuing Education & TrainND
PO Box 5587, Bismarck, ND 58506-5587

Online
bismarckstate.edu/drive

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