



Course Locations

Abingdon

Virginia Highlands Community College
(276) 739-2468

Airway Motorcycle Authority

Franklin, VA
(757) 777-4777

Alberta

Southside Virginia Community College
Christanna Campus
(434) 949-1026

Alexandria

Northern Virginia Community College
(703) 845-6110

Charlottesville

Albemarle County Community Education
(434) 975-9451

Chesapeake

Tidewater Community College
Chesapeake Campus
(757) 822-5247

Eastville (Eastern Shore)

Tidewater Motorcycle Training Center
Northampton High School
(757) 678-8040

Danville

Danville Community College
(434) 797-2222

Dublin

New River Community College
(540) 674-3613

Fairfax

Apex Cycle Education
(571) 201-7661
www.apexcycleeducation.com

Fulks Run/Harrisonburg

Five Star Services LLC
(540) 896-2238
www.5starservices.us

Franklin

Paul D. Camp Community College
(757) 569-6050

Fredericksburg

Apex Cycle Education
(571) 201-7661
www.apexcycleeducation.com

Germanna Community College

(540) 937-2913

Glenns

Rappahannock Community College
(804) 758-6750

Hampton

Thomas Nelson Community College
(757) 825-2758

Keysville

Southside Virginia Community College
John H. Daniel Campus
(434) 736-2011

Lexington

Dabney Landcaster Community College
(540) 863-2863
(540) 463-6673

Loudoun

Northern Virginia Community College
Loudoun Campus
(703) 450-2551

Lynchburg

Central Virginia Community College
(434) 832-7622

Manassas

Apex Cycle Education
(571) 201-7661
www.apexcycleeducation.com

Martinsville

Patrick Henry Community College
(276) 656-0260

Prince George

Colonial Harley Davidson
(804) 861-4700
www.colonialharley.com

Portsmouth

Tidewater Motorcycle Safety
www.tmstrain.com

Richlands

Southwest VA Community College
(276) 964-7241

Richmond/Petersburg

Motorcycle Safety Center
(804) 368-0989
www.mscv.org

Roanoke

Virginia Western Community College
(540) 857-7375

Staunton

Shenandoah Harley-Davidson/Buell
(540) 213-8026

Warsaw

Rappahannock Community College
(804) 333-6828

Weyers Cave

Blue Ridge Community College
(540) 453-2284 or (888) 750-2722 ext. 2284

Winchester

Lord Fairfax Community College
(540) 868-7121

Personalize your
motorcycle
with a
special plate



www.dmvNow.com



**The Keys to Safe
Motorcycle Riding**

DMV 212 (December 2008)
© 2008 Commonwealth of Virginia, DMV. All rights reserved.

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

A motorcycle can offer you freedom, excitement and a fun way to travel. However, operating a motorcycle requires extra concentration and additional training. Virginia's motorcycle requirements are designed to ensure the safety of motorcyclists as well as others traveling on the road.

Class M Designation

If you operate a motorcycle in Virginia, you must hold a valid Class M designation on your driver's license, or have a driver's license restricted to the operation of a motorcycle. If a person is convicted of operating a motorcycle without being properly licensed, he or she faces a Class 1 Misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$2,500 fine and one year in jail.

To obtain your Class M designation or a motorcycle-restricted driver's license, you may be required to pass the motorcycle knowledge exam and motorcycle road skills test. Presenting a certificate of completion from the Virginia Rider Training Program exempts the rider from these requirements.

Virginia Rider Training Program

Classes are designed for both beginning riders and experienced riders, and are taught by certified motorcycle safety instructors. Classes will provide you with the opportunity to learn new techniques and practice your skills in a controlled, safe environment. Classes are offered at community colleges and other locations throughout the state. For information about a course near you call 1-800-435-5137 or see the list on the back of this brochure.

Helmets

A helmet is the most important safety equipment a motorcyclist wears. Helmets are about 29 percent effective in preventing motorcycle deaths and about 67 percent effective in preventing brain injuries. A rider

with no helmet is 40 percent more likely to suffer a fatal head injury than is a helmeted rider.

In Virginia, motorcyclists and their passengers must wear an approved motorcycle helmet that meets or exceeds the standards and specifications of the Snell Memorial Foundation, the American National Standards Institute or the United States Department of Transportation.

Eye Protection

Motorcycle riders must protect their eyes against insects, dirt, rocks or other debris. Even the wind can cause the eyes to tear and blur vision, and good vision is imperative when riding. Motorcycle operators should choose quality goggles, glasses with plastic or safety lenses or a helmet equipped with a face shield. Goggles, glasses and face shields should be scratch free, shatterproof and well-ventilated to prevent fog buildup. Only clear shields should be used at night since tinted shields make it more difficult to see. Even if the motorcycle has a windshield, eye protection is recommended.

Jackets and Pants

In the event of a crash, clothing worn should provide some measure of protection from abrasion. Clothing should be made of a durable material, such as leather. Jackets should be long sleeved. Long pants, not shorts, should be worn. They should not be baggy or flared at the bottom to prevent entanglement with the chain, kick starter, foot-pegs or other protrusions on the sides of a motorcycle.

Upper body clothing should be brightly colored. Some motorcyclists wear lightweight reflective orange or yellow vests over their jackets.

Use of retro-reflective material on clothing, helmet and the motorcycle helps make you visible to other motorists, especially at night. Many vehicle/motorcycle crashes occur because the driver of the other vehicle failed to see the motorcyclist in time to avoid the crash. Gauntlet-type gloves keep air out of a motorcyclist's sleeves.



Gloves

Durable, non-slip gloves are recommended to permit a firm grip on the controls. Leather gloves are excellent, as are special fabric gloves with leather palms and grip strips on the fingers.

Footwear

Proper footwear affords protection for the feet, ankles, and lower parts of the legs. Leather boots are best. Durable athletic shoes that cover the ankles are a good second choice. Sandals, sneakers and similar footwear should not be used since they provide little protection from abrasions or a crushing impact. Motorcyclists should avoid dangling laces that can get in their way.

Safety Information

- ▶ Treat other motorists with courtesy and respect
- ▶ Avoid tailgating
- ▶ Obey posted speed limits
- ▶ Know and obey traffic laws, including ordinances in your community
- ▶ Avoid excessive noise by leaving the stock muffler in place or using a muffler of equivalent noise reduction
- ▶ Use signals when appropriate
- ▶ Ride drug and alcohol free

Be courteous. The practices of some riders are offensive to other motorists, such as weaving in and out of stalled traffic or riding on shoulders. Being inconsiderate of other motorists creates a negative image for all riders, and can cause crashes.

Resources



For more information about motorcycle safety, visit DMV's Virginia Highway Safety Office website at www.dmvNOW.com/highwaysafety. For more information about the Virginia Rider Training Program, visit www.learn2ride.com.

