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Continuing Education
Kirkwood Community College
6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

Kirkwood
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**TRUCK DRIVING
PROGRAM**

www.kirkwood.edu/td

Member of the National Association of Publicly Funded Truck Driving Schools (NAPFTDS), the Iowa Motor Truck Association (IMTA) and the truckload carriers association (TCA).



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Four Short Weeks— one great career!

ROLE, NEED AND IMPORTANCE

The United States relies heavily on the trucking industry and professional drivers to transport nearly everything consumers use. The American Trucking Association estimates 35,000 drivers are needed immediately, increasing to 200,000 by 2020. And with an ever-increasing number of drivers on today's roadways, it is even more important for these drivers to participate in a training regimen like Kirkwood's Truck Driving Program.

No other job offers the freedom, stability and rewards that you'll experience as a professional driver. And there's no better place to start your training than at Kirkwood Community College, where you can get your commercial driver's license in just four short weeks (204 clock hours)!

Plus, we'll help you find full-time employment with interstate trucking companies that hire our graduates directly out of the course. You can soon be enjoying the many advantages and benefits of employment as a full-time truck driver.

Scope

Founded in the early 1970s, our program is one of the longest running in the state of Iowa, and one of the premier driver training programs in the United States. Participants enter with little or no professional driving experience, and in just four weeks, are equipped to handle a commercial vehicle in a safe and professional manner.

Course Content

Accredited by the North Central Association, our truck driving course is certified by the Professional Truck Driver Institute.

The course format is a combination of classroom and lab instruction, including lecture, demonstrations covering U.S. Department of Transportation rules and regulations, preventive maintenance, and current events in the industry. Each student receives 107 hours of classroom/lab time and a minimum of 44 hours of in-truck, behind-the-wheel instruction, including driving range, highway, interstate, village and city driving.

Tuition includes books, power industrial forklift, advanced backing and coaching the professional driver training, along with testing with the Iowa DOT at our site. Tuition assistance is available.

Major Units Include:

- Basic operations.
- Safe operating practices.
- Advanced operating practices.
- Vehicle maintenance.
- Non-vehicle activities (trip planning, documentation, cargo handling, etc.).

Entrance Requirements

Applicants must be at least 18 years old. Applicants who are 18–21 years of age are only allowed to drive within state lines (intrastate). Jobs for those who meet this criterion are very limited and are not readily available. A Class A CDL is not required to enroll in the course, but registered students must obtain a CDL permit, obtained at any Iowa driver's license station by passing the general knowledge test. The permit is required by law for students to drive with instructors. In addition, students must have passed the air brakes test and the combination vehicle test at the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Department of Transportation long-form physical is required to take the course and usually required by employers. A pre-employment drug test is required before the start of the program, as mandated by federal regulations. Random testing may be required during the length of the program (see cost).

Course Objectives

1. Develop driving skills in maneuvering semitrailer equipment as required by the trucking industry.
2. Acquaint students with safety regulations and precautions throughout the training program.
3. Identify Department of Transportation laws and regulations governing truck traffic.
4. Develop the proper attitude of responsible employees who will perform their duties in a manner that will be a credit to the occupation.
5. Provide a general overview of the trucking industry, how it functions and what to expect as drivers.
6. Acquaint students with driving on public streets and highways through applied "touch driving" experience in traffic.

Faculty

Kirkwood employs only qualified driving instructors with extensive field experience and training. Our instructors are approved by the Iowa Department of Education.

State Licensing

Department of Transportation license examiners administer the driving test portion of the Class A CDL near the end of the course. Program equipment is used for testing.

Equipment

Kirkwood uses conventional trucks, 53-foot vans, flatbeds and reefers to train students in our program.

Sequence

- Introduction to Trucking, Controls and the Commercial License
- Hours of Service
- Communication and Visual Search
- Space and Speed Management
- Advanced Backing
- Power Industrial Forklift Operations
- Vehicle Inspection, Systems and Backing
- Skid Control, Hazard Awareness and Emergency Maneuvers
- Preventive Maintenance and Malfunctions
- Railroad Crossings and Accident Procedures
- Extreme Driving Conditions
- Sliding 5th Wheel and Trailer Tandems
- Coupling and Uncoupling
- Special Rigs and Job Search
- Security, Driver Health and Safety
- Mapping, Trip Planning and International Routes
- Cargo and Cargo Documentation
- Hazardous Material
- Transportation Technology
- Night Driving
- Whistleblower Protection
- Obtain Commercial Driver's License
- Coaching the Professional Driver

Placement

Students are assisted in finding full-time employment with interstate trucking companies that hire graduates directly out of the course. Federal regulations require each driver to be at least 21 years old, able to pass a Department of Transportation physical and drug test, and have a driving record free of violations that may hinder or prevent employment as a truck driver.

Program Facts

Length: Four weeks

Days: Monday–Saturday (four-week class)

Must be available from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tuition: \$4,400 (books included in tuition)

Drug Test: \$50–\$100 (depending on where it is conducted)

Physical: \$80–\$150 (depending on where it is conducted)

CDL Permit: \$12 (issued at the drivers license station)

Tuition assistance is available, and new training classes start every month.

Registration

To register, or for general information about the truck driving program, call **319-398-7130** or **800-332-2055**, ext. **7130**, or visit **www.kirkwood.edu/td**. To register we will need your name, social security number, address and telephone number.