



Class A Commercial Driver's License Training Program

The Stark State College (SSC) commercial driver training program is completed pursuant to Ohio's Administrative Code 4501-7-28 and fulfills all requirements of the federal Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) rule effective February 7, 2022. SSC's CDL training is summarized below.

- SSC offers a minimum of 160 hours of training time for Class A CDL trainees.
- Our CDL classes include the Ohio Department of Public Safety's (ODPS) mandatory topics and duration which comprise a minimum of 40 hours of classroom instruction and 40 hours behind-the-wheel. Students shall receive an ODPS Certificate of Completion once these hours are completed.
- Stark State College (SSC) also certifies the additional training hours completed by the student for the purposes of pre-employment screening requirements. Typically, employers require a minimum of 160 hours of pre-employment training for new license holders.

Requirements for SSC's CDL Training:

1. Valid Ohio Driver's license with no driving restrictions, social security card, U.S. birth certificate or proof of legal presence in the United States. *CDL permit not required to start training.*
2. A NON-DOT 5-Panel Drug Screening (non-diluted, negative result outcome) is required to start training.
3. A Medical Examiner's Certificate (DOT physical) meeting the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulation standards must be obtained to start training.

CDL Course Delivery Options

SSC's CDL training classes (**2270 PICTON PARKWAY, AKRON 44312**) are offered year- round on the following schedule:

Day Track – 5 Weeks

Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Evening/Weekend – 8 Weeks

4 nights/week plus every Saturday

Monday - Thursday 5:30-9:30pm

Saturdays 8:00 am – 4:00 pm



There are two options for enrollment:

Option 1:

Non-Credit Class A Commercial Driver’s License (CDL): Students receive the training detailed above in five or eight weeks. The cost of the non-credit program is \$7,165.20. Non-credit is defined as a student not pursuing a college degree or certificate.

This option is NOT eligible for federal financial aid.

Some students may qualify for supplemental funding through state or local programs.

How to enroll in Non-credit Class A CDL training

- Schedule an appointment with a Stark State CDL Representative by calling 330-494-6170 EXT: 4444 or email to CDL@StarkState.edu to register for one of our upcoming sessions
- Payment due in full to schedule a class.

Option 2:

College Credit (22 Credit Hours) Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) Career Enhancement Certificate (CEC): The cost of the college credit career enhancement credit program is \$9391.20.

The CDL-CEC credit courses provide the student with in-demand skills and certifications for the transportation industry. *Students enrolled and intending to complete CDL-CEC may apply for federal financial aid by completing a FAFSA application.*

 	CAREER ENHANCEMENT CERTIFICATE COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE (CDL)	2025-26 Catalog Effective Summer 2025
	<i>The catalog in force is assigned to students based on the academic year they first applied to the college, and changes only when students change their major or request the change in writing. Refer to Policy No. 3357:15-13-28.</i>	4460

Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Pre- and Co-Requisites	Completed Sem./Year
AUT121	Automotive Technical Skills	2		
AUT122	Automotive Systems and Engine Technology	4	AUT121	
CDL121	Commercial Driver’s License - Class A – Safe Operation and Control*	6		
CDL122	Commercial Driver’s License Class A – Advanced Operations and Maintenance	6	CDL121	
CDL120	Introduction to Truck Operations and Maintenance	2		
CDL124	Commercial Truck Advanced Safe Operation and Control	2		
	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	22		



Option 3:

College Credit (12 Credit Hours) Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL CORE): The cost of the college credit program is \$7295.20 and includes all training in Option 1.

This option is NOT eligible for federal financial aid.

How to apply for college credit CDL (CDL-CEC) or (CDL_CORE)

1. Apply online to Stark State College at www.starkstate.edu/admissions
2. Request that your official transcripts be sent directly to SSC. This includes official high school or GED transcript and college transcripts (if applicable).
3. Demonstrate reading proficiency by taking the Accuplacer reading assessment at SSC **or** providing your ACT/SAT score (within last 5 years) **or** prior college credit.
4. If you plan to apply for federal financial aid, complete your FAFSA at www.studentaid.gov. Stark State's school code is 011141. Please note: students must intend to pursue and complete the **CDL-CEC 22 credit hour short-term certificate** as a federal financial aid eligibility requirement.
5. Financial Aid must be fully in place (packaged/awarded/accepted financial aid) to schedule classes. Registration must be done with CDL representative.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Where is the program located?**
The CDL Training Center is located at **2270 Picton Parkway, Akron 44312**. Student services, including financial aid & registration, are available at the Akron or Main Campus in North Canton.
2. **What is required to start the CDL driving classes?**
You must have a valid Ohio driver's license with no restrictions. After meeting the initial requirements for admission to SSC (see page 2) and securing funding to pay for the program, your next step will be to meet with our CDL program specialist to schedule classes. Then you must screen for a non-DOT five-panel drug assessment showing **NEGATIVE** result and DOT physical at your own expense prior to the start of your scheduled CDL Training session. A social security card and U.S. birth certificate or verification of legal presence in the US is also required to bring on your first day.
3. **When is the next CDL class?**
SSC's day and evening CDL classes are staggered every 3-4 weeks year-round. Class sizes are limited to maximum of ten students for the day session and eight students for the evening/Saturday session and tend to fill up quickly. Therefore, there could be a waiting period before you can start training. Enrollment is on a first-come, first served basis after a student is determined to be eligible and has secured funding to pay for the program.



4. **What can I expect from the truck driving classes (CDL 121 and CDL 122)?**

The first 40 hours of class will prepare you to take your temporary permit test. The second 40 hours consists of mandatory, state required topics and HazMat endorsement training (ours is based on the JJ Keller curriculum). The remaining 80 hours (three weeks for day session and five weeks for the evening/Saturday session) will involve pre-trip and maneuvers at our training range and over-the-road driver's training. Behind the Wheel (BTW) training time, Instructor: Student ratios and Student: Truck ratios are established in Ohio Administrative Code 4501-7-28. Circumstances beyond our control (breakdowns, weather, school closings) may result in modified scheduling to maintain these ratios.

5. **Do I need my CDL temporary permit to start the class?**

No. We will prepare you to take your CDL temporary permit test the first week of class. The cost is \$28.50, payable at the time you test at the license bureau. *Official U.S. Birth Certificate (or proof of legal presence in the US) and social security card required to obtain the temporary permit.

We will also prepare you to take the hazardous (H endorsement) and written exams at that time. Additional testing fees apply.

6. **Is there a benefit to having my CDL temporary permit or preparing ahead of time?**

All students will receive the same preparatory training during the first 40 hours of classroom time regardless of whether they have a learner's permit in hand. Preparing ahead of time or having the permit can be beneficial. Exercise caution when obtaining your permit unless you are certain that you will be able to start and complete your training. Once a CDL permit is obtained, you will have one year to obtain your CDL. Only one extension is allowed in a 2-year period. However, if you do not obtain your CDL within that timeframe, then you must wait two years from the date of your first permit to apply for another permit.

7. **When should I get my five-panel drug screen and DOT Physical?**

You are responsible for submitting five-panel drug screen results AND copy of the medical examiner's certificate (DOT physical card) at least two (2) weeks before class begins to ensure a seat in the class. This means that you should schedule an appointment with the lab in advance to meet this deadline. Prices range on average \$100.00-175.00 for both drug screen and physical. A convenient location can be discussed during your advising appointment.

8. **I have points on my license. Is that ok?**

If you have more than 2 points on your license, your prospects for employment will be more limited. It is very important to maintain a safe driving record, as it is the most important part of your resume regarding CDL employment. Students can view their Ohio driving record and BMV history at <https://bmvonline.dps.ohio.gov/> or obtain an official abstract at the local license bureau.

9. **Are there any out-of-pocket costs besides tuition?**

- A temporary CDL permit in Ohio is \$28.50.
A current driver's license, social security card and birth certificate (or proof of legal presence in the US) is required to obtain your temporary permit.
- A NON-DOT five-panel drug screen and a DOT physical provided by a DOT physician is required before you can start class. Cost is approximately \$100-\$175 for both.
- Additional costs of \$86.50 (Optional) - this is hazardous materials endorsement threat assessment program application fee.



10. Can I use Federal Student Aid for this program?

Students enrolled and intending to complete the CDL-CEC may apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) via www.studentaid.gov
Please note: Students enrolled in non-credit Commercial Driver's License courses are not eligible to apply for financial aid.

11. How much federal financial aid can I expect to receive?

For students enrolled and intending to complete the CDL-CEC program, amounts are determined based on your eligibility as determined by the results of your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Federal grant awards are not sufficient enough to cover the full cost of the CDL-CEC. Students will be evaluated for possible scholarship award (based on availability).

12. When will I know how much aid I will receive?

Once your financial aid application is received and all outstanding requirements are completed, your financial aid package is available for viewing on your MySSC portal.

13. What other funding options are available? The list below are some available options:

- Self-pay (cash, check, credit card, college savings plan)
- Military Benefits (must take CDL121/122 as college credit)
- Sallie Mae Smart Open Loan (must take CDL121/122 as college credit)
- Employer paid or reimbursement
- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (visit www.ood.ohio.gov)
- Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) through Ohio Means Jobs

Ohio Means Jobs (OMJ) has training assistance for income and criteria-eligible applicants. Expect the application approval process to take several weeks to complete. Visit your county OMJ directly or visit <https://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/WIOA/>

14. What are the job outcomes for a Class A CDL and CDL_ CEC?

Safe drivers with a clean driving record are readily employable and in demand. Every company will have a supplemental training program for you when you start as a new driver. Your wages as a new driver trainee will typically go up once you are deemed safe enough to be an independent driver.

Class A over-the-road (OTR) jobs usually mean you'll travel around the country and be home on weekends, although there are many variations. Local trucking jobs also are available, with most paying hourly. Local routes include delivery of construction materials, sand and gravel, building supplies, trash collection and delivery services.

Individuals with criminal backgrounds or history are employable; employers operate on a case-by-case basis. Your options may be more limited than other individuals, but with 6-12 months of experience, those limitations can be significantly reduced.

15. Will you help me find employment after I complete my CDL program and Class A license?

We offer career services free of charge to assist you with resumes, interview preparation, job searching and more. Visit starkstate.edu/careerservices or call 330-966-5459 to schedule an appointment. SSC has relationships with employers who are looking to hire former students. Please visit our online career board, joinhandshake.com to search for positions. Additionally, employers may visit the CDL Training Center to discuss career opportunities with you.



**2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR
COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE TRAINING COSTS**

Cost of Non-Credit Commercial Driver's License

COST ITEM	AMOUNT
Commercial Driver's License Course Fee	\$7,165.20
Total	\$7,165.20

Cost of Commercial Driver's License Career Enhancement Certificate (CDL_CEC)

COST ITEM	AMOUNT
Tuition – (\$209.60 per credit hour x 22 credit hours)	\$4611.20
Commercial Driver's License Program Fee – charged when taking CDL121/CDL122	\$4,650.00
One-Time Processing Fee – charged at the time of admission to the college	\$95.00
Security and Maintenance Fee – per semester, if taking 4 credit hours or more	\$35.00
Total	\$9391.20

Cost of 12 Hour Credit Program (CDL_CORE)

COST ITEM	AMOUNT
Tuition – (\$209.60 X12 credit hours)	\$2515.20
Commercial Driver's License Program Fee – charged when taking CDL121/CDL122	\$4,650.00
One-Time Processing Fee – charged at the time of admission to the college	\$95.00
Security and Maintenance Fee – per semester, if taking 4 credit hours or more	\$35.00
Total	\$7295.20



Additional Estimated Costs for both Non-Credit CDL and CDL- CEC Program

COST ITEM	ESTIMATED COST
* Five-Panel Drug Screen (<i>payable to the lab prior to start of class</i>)	\$50.00
* DOT Physical (<i>payable to the lab prior to start of class</i>)	\$100.00
CDL Temporary Permit Fee (<i>payable to Ohio BMV during weeks 1 or 2 of CDL121</i>)	\$28.50
First CDL License (<i>payable to Ohio BMV after completing course & passing final test</i>)	\$44.50
Optional – Hazardous Materials Endorsement Threat Assessment Program Application fee for HAZMAT Endorsement (<i>payable to Transportation Security Administration at time of application</i>)	\$86.50
Total Estimated Costs	\$309.50

*** Five-Panel Drug Screen and DOT Physical is required two weeks prior to starting CDL Training Program.**