

Driving Instructor

Teach new drivers in a car with a second set of pedals. Cheap to get into, and the pay depends on how many lessons you fill.

TYPICAL PAY

\$42,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$31k to \$66k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Driving schools, classrooms, cars, student pick-ups

How you get there

- 1 Get your full licence and keep it clean** A few years of driving
 Provinces want a full class licence held for several years with few or no convictions and demerit points. This is the real gate.
- 2 Instructor training course** Weeks
 A short course from a private provider covering teaching methods, the curriculum and in-car coaching.
- 3 Get licensed as an instructor** Weeks to a few months
 Apply to your province, pass the required tests, and provide a driving record and a background check.
- 4 Get hired by a licensed school** Weeks
 Schools that deliver the government-approved course must use licensed instructors, and that is where most jobs are.
- 5 Add endorsements later** Optional
 Commercial truck or bus training, motorcycle instruction, or opening your own school.

Pros and cons

- + Cheap and fast to qualify
- + Steady demand, new drivers every year
- + Flexible hours, good as a second career
- Pay is low unless you fill your schedule
- Gaps between lessons are unpaid
- Evenings, weekends and school holidays are your busy times

Good to know

The course is 40 hours, not a weekend

Ontario's approved beginner course adds up to 40 hours: 20 in class, 10 in the car, and 10 of flexible instruction, all completed within a year. Classes are capped at 40 students in person and 20 online.

The government audits driving schools

Approved schools in Ontario are licensed and inspected, and must keep records for every instructor, car and student. A school that cuts corners can lose its licence.

Optional boosts

Commercial truck instructor. Motorcycle instruction. Defensive driving and fleet training. Own a school.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Driving instructor, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Ontario: government-approved driving schools and course standards

Ontario: open and operate an approved driving school

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/driving-instructor>



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