



COMMERCIAL DRIVING (CDL)



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.

A growing industry with high demands 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.

Course Outcomes

The Commercial Driving (CDL) course offered through TrainND Southwest is a combination of classroom 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 behind-the-wheel driving on local, county and highway routes. Backing maneuvers to include alley dock, offset, and straight line. Students will also complete pre-trip inspections, coupling and uncoupling, and chain installation.

Upon successful completion, students will be eligible to complete the ND State Drive Test. It consists of three (3) categories: on-the-road driving skills test, three (3) back maneuvers, and the pre-trip inspection. Students are limited to two (2) testing attempts. Upon instructor availability, TrainND Southwest can provide two (2) additional hours of practice time if a student fails the initial test. It is the student's responsibility to utilize allotted hours at the time of their scheduled make-up session. After two (2) unsuccessful attempts, a fee will be required for an additional two (2) hours of practice time and for the TrainND Southwest truck use to retest.

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

Course Commitment

Commercial Driving (CDL) is a three-week, 120-hour course. Missed classroom and/or behind-the-wheel time by the student as part of the TrainND Southwest Commercial Driving (CDL) course for any reason, may result in additional fees and separate scheduled time for make-up time should completion of the course be desired or an unsuccessful completion of the course.

Course Investment

\$4,995 tuition includes all classroom materials, truck use, drug screen, MVR, and scheduling of the ND State Drive Test. A non-refundable deposit of \$300 is required to reserve a seat. The remaining tuition amount is due ten (10) business days before the course start date. Failure to provide payment will result in transferring the registration to the next available start date. Students will be allowed one (1) transfer before registration is dropped and will need to complete the application process again. Lodging and travel expenses are the financial responsibility of the student.

Commercial Driving (CDL) is a short-term, non-credit program; therefore, TrainND Southwest does not offer financial aid or tuition assistance. **Students may qualify for funding from state and federal agencies. Please contact ND Job Service at (701) 328-5033 (jobsnd.com/job-seeker) or Vocational Rehabilitation (701) 328-8950 (nd.gov/dhs/dvr/individual) for eligibility.**

Refund Policy

A \$300 deposit paid upon registration is required to reserve a seat and is non-refundable. Students must contact the BSC Continuing Education office at least ten (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 ten (10) business days prior to the start of the course, the entire registration fee is forfeited. Full refunds are guaranteed if BSC Continuing Education cancels a course.

All approved refunds are made by mail unless paid with a credit card or electronic check in which case the card or account is credited. Please allow three (3) weeks to process refunds.

Transfer Policy

Students must contact the BSC Continuing Education office at least ten (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 ten (10) business days prior to the start of the course, the entire registration fee is forfeited. Students will be allowed one (1) transfer before registration is dropped requiring the student to complete the application process again.

Course Prerequisites

The following is required for course registration and to operate a commercial motor vehicle:

- 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
- 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
- Current Driver's License
- Medical Examiner's Certificate from a Department of Transportation (DOT) Physical within 24 months prior to the course start date and includes the CLP/CDL designation
- Current Class A Commercial Learner's Permit through the State of North Dakota (passing of the general knowledge, airbrake and combination tests)
- DOT Drug screen dated within ten (10) business days of the course start date
- Motor Vehicle Report (MVR) for each state of residency in the last two (2) years

Registration Requirements:

1. Complete an application (available at bismarckstate.edu/commercialdriving) and submit it in-person at Bismarck State College National Energy Center of Excellence, 1200 Schafer Street, Room 107 or online to bsc.training@bismarckstate.edu*
2. Remit a non-refundable \$300 deposit to hold a seat either in-person or by calling (701) 224-5600*
3. Upon receipt of the application form and deposit, students will receive an email from bsc.training@bismarckstate.edu detailing how to create an online account with CastleBranch. CastleBranch will be used to complete the previously-referenced prerequisites.*
4. The remaining tuition, less the deposit, is due ten (10) business days prior to course start date*

**These items must be completed no later than ten (10) business days prior to the course start date. Failure to provide these documents and remaining tuition balance will delay registration and may result in being transferred to the next available course.*

Course Size

Each course is limited to 4 students per instructor to allow for the maximum learning experience. Enrollment is based on a first-come, first-served basis. Waiting lists are established once classes have met maximum enrollment.

Course Schedule

This course is 120 hours which includes theory, simulation and drive time. Contact TrainND Southwest for course availability or visit us online at bismarckstate.edu/commercialdriving

2021 Course Start Dates

January 11	July 19
February 8	August 16
March 8	September 13
April 5	October 11
May 3	November 8
June 7	December 6



Powered by: Bismarck State College

Brian Ellersick

TrainND Manager
Bismarck State College
(701) 224-5600

brian.ellersick@bismarckstate.edu