



Truck Driver Training (TRK)

Program Information

The Truck Driving program at H. Council Trenholm State Community College is designed to prepare the student to operate vehicles requiring a commercial driver's license. A ten-week Truck Driving program is offered that utilizes the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) model curriculum as the foundation for training and takes the student from basic through advanced operation of a tractor/trailer. Additionally, courses taught include safe operation practices and non-vehicle activities which are not directly related to the vehicle but which must be performed by the operator. Information is presented in an intensive question and answer format to provide the most efficient and cost-effective method for preparing a student for a commercial driver's license.

Occupational Choices

Job opportunities should be favorable for truck drivers. In addition to growth in demand for truck drivers (20% from 2010 to 2020) faster than the average for all occupations), numerous job openings will occur as experienced drivers leave this large occupation to transfer to other fields of work, retire, or leave the labor force for other reasons. As the economy grows, the demand for goods and services will increase, and more truck drivers will be needed to keep supply chains moving. Jobs vary greatly in terms of earnings, weekly work hours, the number of nights spent on the road, and quality of equipment. There may be competition for the jobs with the highest earnings and most favorable work schedules. Working as a long-haul driver is a major lifestyle change, because these drivers can be away from home for days or weeks at a time. They spend much of this time alone.

Truck drivers and driver/sales workers held about 2.9 million jobs in 2010. Of these workers, 43 percent were light or delivery drivers/sales workers and 57 percent were truck drivers. Most truck drivers find employment in large metropolitan areas or along

major interstate roadways where trucking, retail, and wholesale companies tend to have their distribution outlets. Some drivers work in rural areas, providing specialized services such as delivering newspapers to customers.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-2017 Edition, Survey 2015.

Average Full-Time Wage

The median annual wage for heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers was \$40,260 in May 2015. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$26,240, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$62,010.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-2017 Edition, Survey 2015.

Additional Requirements

Students entering the Truck Driving Program must have a valid driver's license, be at least twenty-one (21) years of age for a class "A" CDL and successfully pass a DOT physical which includes a drug screen, and present a current Motor Vehicle Report (MVR). While enrolled in the Truck Driving Program, students must obtain the Alabama Commercial Drivers Learner's License and are subject to DOT random drug testing rules. This program does not accept any "English as a second language" applicants.

Awards Available

Short Term Certificate
Truck Driver Training

Program Contact

Kent Turner
Program Coordinator/Instructor
334-420-4411
Location: 5420 Troy Highway

Estimated Program Length & Cost *

Award	Length	Credit Hours	Tuition Fees	Books	Tools	Supplies
Short Term Certificate	10 Weeks	15	\$1,500	\$95	0	\$25

* Tax not included. Prices are subject to change without prior notice; cost of books may vary considerably among suppliers. The length of the program is based on full-time status of 12-15 credit hours per term. Enrollment in transitional level general education courses will alter the length of the program.

Short Term Certificate Truck Driver Training

(This award is not Pell Grant Eligible)

Required Technical Courses (15 credit hours)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Hrs</u>
TRK-111	Basic Vehicle Operation	4
TRK-112	Safe Operating Practices	3
TRK-113	Nonvehicle Activities	2
TRK-114	Vehicle Maintenance	2
TRK-115	Advanced Operating Practices	1
TRK-116	Proficiency Development	1
TRK-117	Commercial Drivers License	2

Total Hours: 15 Credit Hours; 300 Contact Hours

As part of ongoing planning and evaluation,
the College regularly evaluates student learning
outcomes for each program.

**Truck Driving is located at the
Truck Driving Extension Center
5420 Troy Highway,
Montgomery, AL 36116**

Course Descriptions for Truck Driver Training (TRK)

Course #	Course Title	Theory Contact Hours/Wk	Lab Contact Hours/Wk	Credit Hours
TRK-111	BASIC VEHICLE OPERATION PREREQUISITE: None. (COREQUISITES: TRK112, TRK113.) This course introduces students to the fundamentals of becoming a professional commercial motor vehicle driver. Topics include orientation, control systems, vehicle inspections and reporting, basic control, shifting, backing, coupling and uncoupling, proficiency development, and special rigs. Upon completion, the student should demonstrate proficiency in skill field tasks and pre-trip inspections to Commercial Drivers License standards. This is a CORE course.	3	2	4
TRK-112	SAFE OPERATING PRACTICES PREREQUISITE: None. (COREQUISITES: TRK111, TRK113.) This course offers proper defensive driving techniques applicable to the commercial motor vehicle driver and involves the interaction between the student/vehicle and the highway traffic environment. Topics include visual search, communication, speed and space management, night operation, extreme driving conditions, and proficiency development. Upon completion, the student should demonstrate basic operating skills that ensure safety of the driver and other vehicle operators to Commercial Drivers License standards. This is a CORE course.	2	2	3
TRK-113	NONVEHICLE ACTIVITIES PREREQUISITE: None. (COREQUISITES: TRK111, TRK112.) This course focuses on activities not directly related to the vehicle itself, but that are related to the potential job performance of the commercial motor vehicle driver. Topics include handling cargo, cargo documentation, hours of service requirements, accident procedures, personal health and safety, trip planning, employability skills, and public and employer relations. Upon completion, the student will demonstrate performance of these activities to Commercial Drivers License standards to ensure safety to the driver, vehicle, cargo, and other motorists. This is a CORE course.	1	2	2
TRK-114	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE PREREQUISITE: None. (COREQUISITES: TRK111, TRK112, TRK113, TRK115, TRK116.) This course introduces students to the various components of the vehicle and how they work in order that malfunctions and safety hazards may be recognized before serious damages or accidents occur. Topics include vehicle systems, preventive maintenance and servicing, and diagnosing and reporting malfunctions. Upon completion, the student should be able to perform routine service functions and simple maintenance tasks and recognize when a vehicle needs repairs. This is a CORE course.	1	2	2
TRK-115	ADVANCED OPERATING PRACTICES PREREQUISITE: None. (COREQUISITES: TRK111, TRK112, TRK113.) This course is designed for extended high level skills training for coping with hazards of the roadway-traffic environment. Topics include hazard perception, emergency maneuvers, and skid control and recovery. Upon completion, the student should demonstrate perceptual skills for recognition of potential hazards as well as the manipulative skills needed to handle the vehicle in an emergency. This is a CORE course.	0	2	1
TRK-116	PROFICIENCY DEVELOPMENT PREREQUISITE: None. (COREQUISITES: TRK111, TRK112, TRK113.) This course provides an opportunity to refine and polish, within the highway traffic environment, vehicle handling skills, and the safe and fuel efficient operating practices. Student performance is closely monitored by instructors to ensure that student's progress toward the level of proficiency required for attainment of the Commercial Drivers License. This is a CORE course.	1	0	1
TRK-117	COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSE PREREQUISITE: None. This course is a review of information and requirements for obtaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Upon completion, the student should demonstrate preparedness for passing the Commercial Drivers License examination with CDL endorsements. This is a CORE course.	2	0	2