

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers transport goods from one location to another often delivering goods over routes that sometimes span several states. They typically do the following per US Bureau of Labor Statistics:

- Drive long distances
- Report any incidents encountered on the road to a dispatcher
- Follow all applicable traffic laws
- Secure cargo for transport
- Inspect their trailers before and after the trip and record any defects they find
- Maintain a log of their working hours, following all federal and state regulations
- Report serious mechanical problems to the appropriate people
- Keep their trucks and associated equipment clean and in good working order

## **PAY**

\$57,440 median wage per year (\$27.62 per hour) as of May 2024

## **JOB OUTLOOK**

5% (As fast as average) for 2023-2033

## **EDUCATION/TRAINING**

Most companies require their truck drivers to have a high school diploma or equivalent. Many prospective drivers attend either a private truck-driving school or a program at a community college that lasts between 3 and 6 months. They take training courses to learn how to maneuver large vehicles on highways or through crowded streets. During these classes, drivers learn the federal laws and regulations governing interstate truck driving. Upon finishing their classes, drivers receive a certificate of completion.

After completing truck-driving school and being hired by a company, drivers normally receive several weeks of on-the-job training. During this time, they drive a truck accompanied by an experienced mentor-driver in the passenger seat to learn more about the specific type of truck they will drive and material they will transport.

## **EDUCATION/TRAINING** *(continued)*

All long-haul truck drivers must have a commercial driver's license (CDL). Qualifications for obtaining a CDL vary by state but generally include passing both a knowledge test and a driving test.

To obtain a Commercial Driver License (CDL) or Commercial Learner Permit (CLP) in the State of Ohio, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old, have a valid Ohio driver license, and provide proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent residency
- Pass a vision and hearing test

Getting your CLP requires you to:

- Pass the written knowledge test
- Pass required skills test
- Provide one document proving legal residency in the U.S.
- Submit a review of your driving record
- Present a valid Medical Examiner's certificate

[www.bmv.ohio.gov/dl-cdl-classes.aspx](http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/dl-cdl-classes.aspx)

## **IMPORTANT SKILLS**

- **Hand-eye coordination.** Drivers of heavy trucks and tractor-trailers must be able to coordinate their legs, hands, and eyes simultaneously so that they will react appropriately to the situation around them and drive the vehicle safely.
- **Hearing ability.** Truck drivers need good hearing. Federal regulations require that a driver be able to hear a forced whisper in one ear at 5 feet away.
- **Physical health.** Federal regulations do not allow people to become truck drivers if they have a medical condition which may interfere with their ability to operate a truck. The [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safety/federal_motor_carrier_safety_administration/) website has a full list of medical conditions that disqualify someone from driving a long-haul truck.
- **Visual ability.** Truck drivers must be able to pass vision tests. Federal regulations require a driver to have at least 20/40 vision. Must be able to distinguish colors.

## TRAINING PROGRAMS

### **GREAT LAKES TRUCK DRIVING SCHOOL** (*Columbia Station*)

This program is designed for individuals who have no previous tractor-trailer experience. This training prepares students for the CDL Skills Test and entry-level employment as a tractor-trailer driver.

<https://greatlakestds.com/programs/>

### **CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION CENTER** (*Euclid*)

Offers training in Class A CDL, Class B CDL, Forklift, and Logistics.

A state CDL testing office — one of only 16 in Ohio — also operates at the site.

[www.tri-c.edu/workforce/transportation-center/index.html](http://www.tri-c.edu/workforce/transportation-center/index.html)

### **HAMRICK TRUCK DRIVING SCHOOL** (*Medina*)

This program is designed for individuals who have no previous tractor-trailer driving experience, prepares the student for CDL Temporary Permit Test, 6.1 weeks for completion. (Full-time, Days, Monday – Friday) 244 hrs. Includes classroom instruction, site training, city and highway driving, CDL skills exam preparation.

<https://www.hamrickschool.edu/>

### **160 DRIVING ACADEMY** (*Cleveland*)

- 40 Hours of classroom training
- 120 hours of experience driving in the yard, on local streets, highways, and interstate roads which includes both behind the wheel and observation time

[www.160drivingacademy.com/locator/16470.15517.160-driving-academy-cleveland/](http://www.160drivingacademy.com/locator/16470.15517.160-driving-academy-cleveland/)

### **MTC TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING** (*Akron*)

This program is part of the Driver Resource Center's nationwide network of certified training schools Truck Driver Training in Akron, Ohio.

<https://driverresourcecenter.com/location/akron-oh/>

### **STARK STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE** (*Akron*)

SSC's day and evening CDL classes are staggered every 3-4 weeks year-round.

[www.starkstate.edu/academics/programs/cdl/](http://www.starkstate.edu/academics/programs/cdl/)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Website

<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/>

FMCSA Training Directory

<https://tpr.fmcsa.dot.gov/Drivers/SelectingAProvider>