

JOB DESCRIPTION

Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers transport goods from one location to another, often delivering goods over routes that span several states. They typically do the following:

- 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

4% (As fast as average) for 2024-2034

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 three- to six-month program at a community college. 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 the material they will transport.

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(continued)*

All long-haul truck drivers must have a commercial driver's license (CDL). The 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's license
- 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 the 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

IMPORTANT SKILLS

- Hand-eye coordination. Drivers of heavy trucks and tractor-trailers must be able to coordinate their legs, hands, and eyes simultaneously to 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 that may interfere with their ability to operate a truck. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration website at www.fmcsa.dot.gov 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

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/

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

GREAT LAKES TRUCK DRIVING SCHOOL (Columbia Station)

This program is designed for individuals with no previous tractor-trailer experience. This training prepares students for the CDL Skills Test and entry-level employment as a tractor-trailer driver. Other programs include truck/bus training, crane operations, and heavy equipment /construction.

www.greatlakestds.com/programs/

HAMRICK TRUCK DRIVING SCHOOL (Medina)

This program, designed for individuals with no previous tractor-trailer driving experience, prepares students for the CDL Temporary Permit Test. (4.3 weeks for completion; full-time, daytime, Monday – Friday; 184 total hours.) Includes classroom instruction, site training, city and highway driving, and CDL skills exam preparation.

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

MTC TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING (Akron)

This program is part of the Driver Resource Center's nationwide network of certified training schools.

www.driverresourcecenter.com/location/akron-oh/

STARK STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (Akron)

Offers day and evening CDL classes that are staggered every 3-4 weeks year-round. This program provides 160 hours of training.

www.starkstate.edu/academics/programs/cdl/

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

www.fmcsa.dot.gov/

FMCSA TRAINING DIRECTOR *for additional training options*

tpr.fmcsa.dot.gov/Drivers/SelectingAProvider

OHIO DEPT OF EDUCATION COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVER STUDENT AID PROGRAM

Students may be eligible for grants and loans if enrolled at an eligible institution with an approved CDL training program.

highered.ohio.gov/businesses/services-programs/cdl