Motorcycle Safety Training

2015 Student Information

Printable version - 2015 Student Information

COURSE REGISTRATION
Registration begins Monday February 2, 2015 and continues until all course sections are full (November 2015). The first Basic Rider Course begins March 2, 2015. If you sign up for early season classes, be prepared for cold and possibly wet weather. Information below explains your options in registering for a motorcycle rider course at the college. To be officially enrolled, you must pay the course registration fee. See “Selecting the Class That Is Right For You” section below.

Costs
Basic Rider Course (BRC) and Alternate Basic Rider Course (ABRC): $295.00, $300.00 for non-Charles, Calvert, St. Mary’s county residents, $305.00 for non-Maryland residents. Basic Rider Course 2 (Formally Experienced Rider Course (ERC) course: $150.00 for Maryland residents, $155.00 for non-Charles, Calvert, St. Mary’s county residents) $160.00 for non-Maryland residents.

How to register
Complete the college continuing education registration form. Be sure to indicate the section (from the schedule on the web site) of your choice when registering. Applicants are entered into the college system in the order the information is received.

Use one of the two registration methods:
1. Online through the college web site at: www.csmd.edu under continuing education registration. If you have problems with this feature, contact the college information center at 301-934-7765.
2. Walk-in to any CSM college campus Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (check the college web site for directions and contact information for each campus).

Notes:
Once you have registered, report for all motorcycle classes to 5825 Radio Station Rd, La Plata, MD, 20646. Try to arrive no later than 30 minutes before the start time of your class to handle course administrative matters. All of your course paperwork will be provided at the first class session. Ensure that you bring your license.

Students under the age of 18 must also provide proof of completing a driver education course before taking the licensing skill test and a parent or guardian must sign all waiver forms.

You will be notified if:
a.) a section closes;
b.) a schedule change is made; or
C.) a class is canceled. A minimum number of students are required to run each course (usually six is set as the minimum)
Refunds may be allowable. If you are unable to participate in the section you have registered, you MUST complete the college Change in Continuing Education Class Schedule Form before that section begins. Transfers to other sections are made based on seat availability. Refunds are processed according to college policy: http://www.csmd.edu/Bursar/Tuition/refund.htm

Students officially withdrawing from a continuing education course are eligible for refunds if the request is processed prior to the course begin date. Students withdrawing after the course starts will not receive a refund.

COURSE INFORMATION
Accepting Risk
You and your classmates will be operating a motorcycle during the course. You must be willing to accept the risk involved in operating the motorcycle. You should be prepared to pay your own medical bills if you are injured while participating in the course. The State of Maryland, the MVA, or the college will NOT assume responsibility for payment of medical bills.

Attendance Requirements
It is YOUR responsibility to be on time for each class session. In compliance with MVA guidelines, all classes start promptly at the times indicated. If you are late for the first session, your spot may go to a standby student. Being late for subsequent sessions, may result in your inability to comply with the MVA’s attendance requirements for testing. Take into consideration traffic, weather or any other condition or circumstance that might cause lateness.

Student Stand-by Process
If a registered student does not show up for their course, or arrives 20 minutes past the scheduled start time, an open slot for another student is created. When this happens, a pre-registered stand-by student (a pre-registered student who is physically present at the first class session or a non-registered student - will not be issued a completion certificate until proof of payment is produced at a later date) is given the opportunity to change their schedule after completing a drop/add form and attend the earlier session. Schedule adjustment is awarded on a first-come-first-service basis. It is highly recommended that you report to the training center 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the course and let the instructor know that you are requesting a standby seat.

Course Completion
Participants must meet the minimum criteria in both knowledge assessment and skill operation. Per MVA: “Not everyone should or can operate a motorcycle. The RiderCoaches will monitor your progress throughout the course. The course progresses at a pace that accommodates most students. If you are having difficulty in achieving the minimum performance criteria, the RiderCoach may request that you no longer participate in the class. The danger in continuing riding exercises without having achieved performance objectives from previous exercises is that a hazard is posed to the rider, other students, and the RiderCoaches. If you feel that you cannot complete an exercise or the course, you may elect to leave the course by telling your RiderCoach. If you have health problems that could interfere with your full participation in the course, you must notify your RiderCoach. You have to be physically capable of handling a 350 pound motorcycle.
Upon successful completion of all requirements, a Maryland Completion Certificate is issued that can be taken to any full service MVA to obtain the class "M" license. The MVA charges an additional licensing fee because a new license is issued. Only participants holding a MD license are issued the MD Completion Certificate. A MD certificate will NOT be issued to out-of-state license holders. However, a course completion card is issued to all participants who successfully complete the course as proof of course completion.

In 2013, compliant partial coverage helmets (a.k.a. half-helmets) were prohibited for use while participating in a Basic Rider Course. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation does not include any mention of this style of helmet in the BRC Rider Handbook because they have determined that it does not provide sufficient protection for a rider in this level of instructional environment. The Program has identified that there are fit and retention problems associated with this style of helmet. A recent study suggests there is evidence that in motorcycle crashes the wearers of partial coverage helmets were more than twice as likely to suffer traumatic brain injury than wears of open or full face helmets. A poll conducted through the National Association of Motorcycle Safety Administrators (SMSA) indicated that about half of all safety programs prohibit the use of partial coverage helmets. The primary identifying characteristic of a partial coverage helmet is that the shell does not completely cover the wearer’s ears. A padded zip-in neck collar does not count as part of the shell.

In 2012, it was encouraged that participants in the BRC/ABRC obtain a Class M Learner's permit prior to their BRC/ABRC participation. The learner’s permit fee is still only $30. If you don’t obtain the permit, when you take the course Completion Certificate to get your M license, you will be assessed the fee for a new license. As of October 1, 2012 the fee for a new license was increased from $45 to $72. This fee is based on $9 per year to renew. A license now renews every eight years and 8 years x $9 = $72. This essentially means you will be paying an additional $42 for not having obtained the M permit up front. The MVA Motorcycle Program Office is working on getting the Drivers Licensing System updated to consider the BRC/ABRC course Completion Certificate to be the same as a valid permit, but in the interim, we advise getting a learner’s permit first.

In 2011, the MVA has changed the age requirement for teenagers, “A Class M license will not be issued to anyone under 16 years and 6 months of age and if a “first” license proof of satisfactory completion of a driver education course must also be presented”. A Motorcycle permit can be issued at 15 years 9 months. The Rider Course Completion Certificate is valid for 6-months from issue. Teenagers should not participate in the Rider Course until they are 16 years old due to if taken earlier than that, the issued certificate will expire before being able to obtain a license.
Protective Gear Required for all Motorcycle Safety Classes:
1. Students are encouraged to bring their own riding apparel.
2. Loaner helmets, gloves and eye protection are available as part of the course enrollment.
3. Students are required to wear all the following protective riding gear at all times whenever mounted on the motorcycle:
   a. Motorcycle helmet in good condition that meets DOT standards and provides ¾ coverage or greater
   b. Eye protection in the form of a helmet face shield, motorcycle goggles, *sunglasses, *eyeglasses (* okay for range use, not recommended for street use)
   c. Full fingered gloves made of leather or other appropriate material that is designed for motorcycle use
   d. Long sleeve shirt or jacket
   e. Long sturdy pants
   f. Functional, sturdy over-the-ankle footwear that provides good traction and ankle support

Note: In very hot, humid weather, light colored clothing will keep the rider much cooler especially in the afternoon sessions.

STUDENTS WHO SHOW UP WITHOUT APPROPRIATE RIDING GEAR WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RIDE A MOTORCYCLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Classes are conducted as long as the weather is considered nice enough to play baseball in, but be prepared and obtain a rain suit. Consider weather conditions. Bring plenty of cold water on hot humid days and rain-gear on rainy days. If weather forces a class to cancel, the remaining course sessions will be rescheduled for the earliest dates/times that work for most the students.

Classroom and riding sessions are held at the College of Southern Maryland’s Industrial Training Center located at 5825 Radio Station Road, La Plata, Maryland, 20646. GPS Coordinates of 5825 Radio Station Road (N 38 33.168, W 76 57.001).

General Information
- CSM is offering this program under the authority of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA).
- A motorcycle learner’s permit is not required to participate.
- Some insurance companies offer discounts on motorcycle premiums to course graduates.
- The MVA approves all licensing curriculum.
- Courses are taught by certified Motor Vehicle Administration and Motorcycle Safety Foundation certified RiderCoaches.
- At the first class session you will be asked to sign a testimony that you have read this information and that you will comply with all requirements of the motorcycle safety course at the College of Southern Maryland for which you are registered.

SELECTING THE COURSE THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU
TRA 8000 Basic Rider Course (BRC)
This 17-hour course with eCourse component is designed for the true novice rider who has little or no riding experience. It includes classroom and riding instruction on the basic riding skills and strategies necessary for an individual to begin to practice street riding. Courses are taught by Motor Vehicle Administration and Motorcycle Safety Foundation certified instructors. You should be able to ride a bicycle to participate in this course.

During the seven hours of classroom time participants will discuss topics that include responsible riding, selecting proper riding gear and the basic riding skills. Other topics include defensive riding strategies and how to handle a variety of riding situations. Participants receive approximately 10 hours of riding on a training motorcycle practicing clutch-throttle control, stopping, turning, shifting and basic crash avoidance skills. Throughout the course the instructors evaluate and coach each rider's performance. **Participants who do not achieve the minimum performance standards will not be allowed to continue in the course.** To complete the course, riders must pass a knowledge and skill test administered at the end of the course. Riders who pass will receive a Maryland Motorcycle Safety Program Completion Card. **There is no guarantee that an individual enrolling in this course will pass, or get their license.**

**Participants in a BRC should not ride their personal motorcycle to class unless done so legally. Please see the Program's policy about riding a motorcycle to class.**

Enrollment Requirements
- Individuals who possess a valid driver’s license, a Class “M” (motorcycle) learner’s permit or individuals that are eligible for a learner’s permit may enroll in the basic course. Parents or guardians of individuals under the age of 18 enrolling in the course must sign a consent/release form.
- Wear protective clothing (eye protection, suitable jacket, long pants, full-fingered gloves and over-the-ankle footwear) during the riding portion. Students are encouraged to bring their own helmets, but loaner helmets are available. All helmets must be DOT certified, fit properly and in good condition with labeling intact. Course participants are to bring their riding gear to the first class session for evaluation by the course Instructor.
- Pay the course registration fee to be officially enrolled in a course. You may attempt to enroll in a course as a stand-by student by reporting to the center on the first day of the course and if selected paying for the course.

To obtain your code to register for the eCourse (cost included as part of your tuition costs) contact:

Transportation Training
College of Southern Maryland
P:  301-934-7870
F:  301-934-7528
e-mail:  motorcycle.TSD.CCLA@csmd.edu
Course Completion Requirements

To pass the course, you must participate in all the course sessions and pass a knowledge test and the on-cycle test.

- Complete the eCourse requirement within 30 days of your first riding session and provide completion certificate to your RiderCoach prior to the first riding session;
- Participate in all course sessions;
- Pass a written knowledge test;
- Pass a riding skills test.

Riders who pass the course will receive a Maryland Motorcycle Safety Program Completion Card.

Getting Your License

Riders satisfactorily completing the Basic Rider Course are eligible to receive their Class M license at the MVA with no further testing but additional fees apply.

Out of State License Holders

To be issued a MD Certificate, the participant must present at the beginning of class a MD license. A MD certificate will NOT be issued to out of state license holders. If it is desired to obtain the certificate, it is recommended that the participant go to the MVA before the class to obtain a regular MD drivers license. A completion card will be issued to all participants.

If things don’t go as planned, there are opportunities to:

- Reschedule the motorcycle rider course
- Request a refund the course registration fees
- Retake the motorcycle rider course test(s)
TRA 8100 Alternate Basic Rider Course (ABRC)
This seven-hour course provides another option for an individual to earn their license without having to take the full 17-hour basic course. It is only for individuals that have some riding experience and are seeking a Class "M" license.
Instruction is provided by the Motor Vehicle Administration and Motorcycle Safety Foundation certified instructors. The pre-requisites for this course include the ability to:
- Use the clutch and throttle to get the motorcycle in motion;
- Stop the motorcycle properly in a designated area;
- Execute gradual and tight turns;
- Up and downshift smoothly; and
- Achieve a speed of at least 25 mph.

During the initial riding activities, each rider's ability to operate a motorcycle will be evaluated by the instructors. Riders who cannot demonstrate minimum riding proficiency will not be allowed to continue and will need to consider enrolling in the Basic Rider Course.

All learning activities are conducted at the riding range. There is no formal classroom, however various topics including preparing to ride, road management and advanced riding techniques are discussed during the course.

Riders can elect to use a program training motorcycle, or they may use their personal motorcycle if it is street legal and they transport it to the training site legally. Personal motorcycles must be in good operating condition and pass a routine pre-ride check given as a part of the course. Riders are to provide their own riding gear, which includes a DOT certified helmet, eye protection, jacket, full-fingered gloves, long pants and sturdy over-the-ankle footwear. To complete the course riders must pass a knowledge and skill test administered at the end of the course. Riders who pass will receive a Maryland Motorcycle Safety Program Completion Card. There is no guarantee that an individual enrolling in this course will pass, or get their license.

Enrollment Requirements
- Individuals who possess a valid driver's license, a Class "M" (motorcycle) learner's permit or individuals who are eligible for a learner's permit may enroll in the basic course. Parents or guardians of individuals under the age of 18 enrolling in the course must sign a consent/release form.
- Wear protective clothing (eye protection, suitable jacket, long pants, full-fingered gloves and over-the-ankle footwear) during the riding portion. Students are encouraged to bring their own helmets, but loan helmets are available at the centers. All helmets must be DOT certified and in good condition with proper labeling intact.
- Pay the course registration fee to be officially enrolled in a course. You may attempt to enroll in a course as a stand-by student by reporting to the first class session prior to the scheduled start time.
Course Completion Requirements
To pass the course, you must participate in all the course sessions and pass a knowledge test and the on-cycle test.
- Participate in all course sessions
- Pass a written knowledge test
- Pass a riding skills test

Riders who pass the course will receive a Maryland Motorcycle Safety Program completion card.

Getting Your License
Riders satisfactorily completing the Alternate Basic Rider Course (ABRC II) are eligible to receive their Class M License.

Out of State License Holders
To be issued a MD Certificate, the participant must present at the beginning of class a MD license. A MD certificate will NOT be issued to out of state license holders. If it is desired to obtain the certificate, it is recommended that the participant go to the MVA before the class to obtain a regular MD drivers license. A completion card will be issued to all participants.
TRA 8200 Basic Rider Course 2 (Formally – Experienced Rider Course (ERC))
Formally known as the Experienced Rider Course (ERC) this six-hour course is for the licensed rider who wants to improve or refresh their skills, or who has recently completed the Basic Rider Course and wants additional practice on their personal motorcycle. The class consists of nine riding exercises. Eight of the exercises are borrowed from the Basic Rider Course (BRC) with some minor enhancements for the more experienced rider and one completely new exercise.

Instruction is provided by Motor Vehicle Administration and Motorcycle Safety Foundation certified instructors. Individuals enrolling in this course must have a valid Class M motorcycle license.

During the initial riding activities, each rider’s ability to operate a motorcycle will be evaluated by the instructors. Riders that cannot demonstrate minimum riding proficiency will not be allowed to continue and will need to consider enrolling in the Basic Rider Course.

Riders are expected to use their own motorcycle. Personal motorcycles must be street legal, in good operating condition and pass a routine pre-ride check given as a part of the course. Riders are to provide their own riding gear, which includes a DOT certified helmet, eye protection, jacket, full-fingered gloves, long pants and sturdy over-the-ankle footwear.

To complete the course riders must pass a skill test administered at the end of the course. Riders who pass will receive a Maryland Motorcycle Safety Program Completion Card.

General Information:
- Participants are expected to ride their own motorcycles. Motorcycles with sidecars, trikes or scooters may not be used.
- Course participants are required to report to the scheduled session regardless of the weathers.
- The course is conducted by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration and meets or exceeds the standards established by the National Motorcycle Safety Foundation.
- Must be a licensed motorcycle operator.
- Wear protective clothing (eye protection, suitable jacket, long pants, full-fingered gloves, and over-the-ankle footwear) during riding portions. Participants are encouraged to bring their own helmets, but program are available. All helmets must be DOT certified, fit properly and be in good condition with proper labeling intact.
- Personal motorcycles must be in good mechanical condition, properly tagged and insured.
- Attend the entire course and pass the “on-cycle” skill test.
- Pay the course registration fee to be officially enrolled in a course. You may attempt to enroll in a course as a stand-by student by reporting to the range on the day of the course prior to the course start time.
- The BRC 2 is taught at the La Plata Center for Transportation Training, 5825 Radio Station Road, La Plata MD, 20646. GPS Coordinates of 5825 Radio Station Road (N 38 33.168, W 76 57.001).
**TRA 8300 Personalized Basic Rider Course**

Exactly the same course as the Basic Rider Course except that the class size is limited to six students. The ratio is two instructors to six students in the Personalized BRC, versus two instructors to a maximum of 12 students in the regular BRC. Some students are more comfortable in a smaller class size environment in which to learn.

If you have a group of 6 or more participants, we may be able to assist you in setting up a course specifically for your group. Contact:

Transportation Training  
College of Southern Maryland  
P: 301-934-7870  
F: 301-934-7528  
e-mail: motorcycle.TSD.CCLA@csmd.edu  
Web site: CSM Motorcycle Safety Program