



**HARVARD**

THE DEREK BOK CENTER FOR  
TEACHING AND LEARNING

# TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Proposal to the Ontario Government on eLearning for Driver Education

By Carmel Tse

November 12, 2018

© 2018 Harvard - s Bok Center  
All Rights Reserved



**HARVARD**

THE DEREK BOK CENTER FOR  
TEACHING AND LEARNING

# Online Beginner Driver Education in Ontario

## Executive summary:

- This proposed syllabus is to revolutionize Beginner Driver Education in Ontario
- eLearning will replace the 20-hour classroom portion in the existing curriculum
- Adaptive online assignments will replace the 10-hour paper-based assignments
- Use of technology will support evidence of learning

## Background

Existing regulations for driving schools under the Ontario Highway Traffic Act were last major revised in 2007.<sup>1</sup> Legislative changes may not be necessary as this eLearning syllabus is within the bounds of existing regulations. Concurrent Ministry of Transportation policies require students receiving Beginner Driver Education (BDE) to receive 20 hours of traditional classroom lessons, 10 hours of in-the-car training, and 10 hours of home assignments. BDE, although not mandatory for novice drivers, allows candidates to shorten road test waiting period and receive possible premium discounts from the insurance industry.

While there is a total of 617 fully online asynchronous courses<sup>2</sup> – including degree granting programs – available in Ontario’s higher education system, the classroom portion of existing BDE is only available through traditional classrooms. In other examples, one can study online to become a real estate agent or obtain a high school diploma, but not learn how to drive safely.

BDE programs train drivers to be safer road users. An online option will provide better accessibility, possibly lower the tuition and enable more novice drivers to learn how to drive safely.

Current rubrics are paper based and documents are required by law to be stored on site at the driving school for three years. Once every three years, an on-site audit is commissioned to ensure compliance. Even with the audits, there are still some bad apples in the industry, they are paper mills that sell the classroom certification without requiring students to take part in any classroom activities. A well-administered eLearning program can actually prevent this type of fraudulent activities by providing solid evidence of learning.

This syllabus will form the foundation of a three-way contract among the school, the regulatory authorities and the students.



## The environment

With a lot of trees being killed and programs inaccessible to students living in rural areas, the Government of Ontario should take advantage of new technology and progress with times to allow for online deliveries of the 20-hour classroom portion of BDE.

## Successful models

Twelve states in the U.S. have adopted online beginner driver education courses and those states also made completion of the course a prerequisite for a driver's license.



## Learning outcomes:

- Full eLearning through an online adaptive asynchronous course
- Prepare students to be safe drivers
- Behind-the-wheel practical training
- Fulfills academic requirements for driver education under the Highway Traffic Act

## The online campus

The adaptive asynchronous course is delivered by eBDE, an online campus operated by iPass Driving School. iPass is a Ministry of Transportation of Ontario Approved BDE Course Provider and a Canadian Automobile Association approved driving school.

An asynchronous course allows candidates to combine driver education with family, regular school, work and other responsibilities. Students can access the course anytime and from anywhere in the world as long as there is internet access. A duration limit is placed on each module and students are required to follow structured lesson plans.

The adaptive nature of this course and its assignments ensure students learn in a progressive manner. Students have to progress in stages following time-measured activities.

## Security and credibility

The web site hosting the course is secured and certified by [SecurityMetrics®](#) as General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliant and Personally Identifiable Information (PII) protected.

Each registered student will be assigned a secured login account where all activities take place. Visiting hours are logged and activities are hot spot measured. A progress bar indicates student achievement as each section is completed in each module.

Each student must upload an image of the Ontario Driver's Licence for identification purpose. Students must also accept the eBDE code of honor.

All completed assignments, exams and forum discussion by the student will be stored in the student's portfolio for verification.

## Accessibility

The online course requires students to use a computer or tablet and have access to the internet. Although the portal is accessible via smart phones, it's recommended



that the written assignments should be completed on devices other than smart phones.

Chapters of textbooks used in each module are published as PDFs and available online to registered students. The tuition includes PDF versions of the textbook. Printed version of the text book is available at extra charge.

## Parity

eBDE offers the same quality of driver education compared to existing classroom curriculum. An added benefit is students will have easy after-course access to searchable materials covered in completed modules.

## Duration

**Online portion** [Total 30 hours]

The eBDE online portion can be finished in as quickly as four days, devoting a minimum of 7.5 hours each day to asynchronous lectures, class activities and assignments. Students can take up to two sessions a day. Most students are expected to finish the online portion in 2 to 4 weeks.

**In-car portion** [Total 10 hours]

The 10 hours in-car portion, delivered one-on-one by a professional in-car instructor, can be completed in one to six months. The schedule is mutually planned between the student and the instructor. Students can only learn up to 2 hours in any given day. MTO regulations prohibit G1 drivers from driving between midnight and 5 a.m.

**Note: Both online and in-car portions must be completed within 12 months of start date.**

## Tuition

The cost of for different packages is listed under the [tuition section](#). Payment options are available.

## Prerequisite

- Students must hold a valid Ontario [G1, G2 or G] driver's licence. Students who do not hold a driver's licence can still start with the online portion, but the candidate must obtain a G1 licence before in-car lessons can commence.

---

Tel: +1 519-673-7333 | Email: [ctse@qint.com](mailto:ctse@qint.com) | Website: [ipassdriving.ca/tse/resume.htm](http://ipassdriving.ca/tse/resume.htm)

© 2018 Harvard's Bok Center

All Rights Reserved

Page 5 of 10

- Students must have basic knowledge in using an internet browser on a computer or tablet.
- Students must have basic knowledge of the English language. A French portal will be available at a later date.

## Course outline [Online portion]

### Code of honor

Read and accept the eBDE Code of Honor. **Must accept to proceed further**

### Orientation session [1 hour]

Welcome to eBDE, the online campus of iPass Driving School.

### Session 1 [3.5 hours]

Learn driving is a privilege not a right and understand the limits of a driver's licence in Ontario. Students will learn the fundamentals of risk management on the road.

Assignment 1: Teen-Parent Driving Agreement or Adult Driving Pledge **Graded activities**

### Session 2 [3.5 hours]

Understand vehicle space needs and learn the basic control of a vehicle.

Assignment 2: Research. Trip Planning **Graded activities**

### Session 3 [3.5 hours]

#### **Assignment 1 due**

Learn traffic laws and traffic control devices on roadways

Assignment 3: Essay. Behavior and road rage **Graded activities**

### Session 4 [3.5 hours]

#### **Assignment 2 due**

Managing Risk: Vision and perception

Assignment 4: Video review. **Graded activities**

### Session 5 [3.5 hours]

#### **Assignment 3 due**

Managing Risk: Time and space

Online mid-term exam **Graded activities**

Assignment 5: Media research. Environment and driving. **Graded activities**

Session 6 [3.5 hours]

**Assignment 4 due**

Sharing the road

Assignment 6: Interactive project. Collision reporting. **Graded activities. Due in class**

Session 7 [3.5 hours]

**Assignment 5 due**

The effect of alcohol and drugs.

Distractions and drowsiness.

Session 8 [3.5 hours]

Adverse driving conditions.

Purchasing and insuring a car

Final Exam [1 hour]

**In person.** Proctored by in-car instructor or at CAA Approved Driving School locations. **Graded activities.**

**Total video hours in course:** 3 hours 8 minutes excluding orientation video

## Course outline [In-car portion]

Lesson 1 [1 hour]

- Instrument control
- Observation. MSB Mirror, signal and blind spot
- Brake control – Threshold braking
- Steering. Hand-over-hand, hand-to-hand, twisting.

Lesson 2 [1 hour]

- Neighborhood right turns
- Neighborhood left turns
- Neighborhood intersections

---

Tel: +1 519-673-7333 | Email: [ctse@qint.com](mailto:ctse@qint.com) | Website: [ipassdriving.ca/tse/resume.htm](http://ipassdriving.ca/tse/resume.htm)

© 2018 Harvard's Bok Center

All Rights Reserved

Page 8 of 10



- Neighborhood unmarked roadways

### Lesson 3 [1 hour]

- Lane changes
- Lighted intersections

### Lesson 4 [1 hour]

- Major intersections
- Left turns. Advanced and regular green.
- Right turns. Turning on red and green.

### Lesson 5 [1 hour]

- Mid-course review
- highway driving

### Lesson 6 [1 hour]

- Hill parking
- Road side stops
- Three-point turns

### Lesson 7-8 [2 hours]

- Parallel parking
- Head-in stall parking
- Back-in stall parking

### Lesson 9-10 [2 hours]

- Preparing for the road test
- Mock road test. **Graded Activities**

## Grading

Students are graded on the following rubrics:

**eLearning** [Total: Max 100 plus 10% bonus, Passing: 75%]

- Online. Mid-term exam 20%
- Assignments: 5 marks each, 30%
- In-person. Final exam 60%

**In-car** [Total Max 100, Passing: 75%]

- Based on mock road test results. Marking modelled after Ontario DriveTest® G1-Exit road test.

## About the instructor...

Carmel Tse

- Classroom instructor licensed by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario.
- Teaching certificate. Harvard Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning.

## References:

<sup>1</sup> Highway Traffic Act, [ONTARIO REGULATION 473/07](#).

<sup>2</sup> [LearnOnline eCampus Ontario](#)