

# MINNESOTA MOTORCYCLE SAFETY CENTER

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

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### **1. Sign-Up:** *How do I register for a motorcycle course?*

Contact the school at which you would like to take the class. See the course schedule for class locations and contact information, or call 800-407-6677 to find a class near you.

### **2. Wait Time:** *How long of a wait is it to take a motorcycle course?*

The waiting period for the basic and experienced courses is usually two to three weeks. However, courses fill up fast in April and May, so the wait can be up to two months during that time. To enroll in a course in April or May, you should register no later than the first week in February. The wait for moped courses is usually less than a week.

### **3. Cancellation Policy:** *What if I need to cancel my registration?*

Please contact the college where you registered for their policy on cancellation.

### **4. Course Structure:** *How is the Basic Rider class structured?*

The Basic Rider Course is a 14.5-hour course that combines classroom discussion and practice riding on a motorcycle. The 4.5-hour classroom discussion helps prepare you for the on-cycle portions of the course. Classroom topics include protective gear, mind and machine preparation, risk management, rider responsibility, street strategies, special riding situations, and alcohol. The 10-hour riding portion of the class covers the basics of straight-line riding, turning, shifting, and stopping, and the advanced skills of countersteering, cornering, swerving, and emergency braking.

### **5. Course Locations/Dates:** *Where and when are the motorcycle courses offered?*

Courses are offered throughout the state of Minnesota from mid-April through September. There are 21 state colleges and universities offering courses at more than 30 locations. Basic courses (14.5 hours) usually run on a one-weeknight, two-weekend-day schedule. Weekday and evening courses are available in June. Experienced courses (5 hours) run on weekends and weeknights. Moped courses (4.5 hours) usually run on weeknights. See the course schedule for more details.

**6. Course Requirements:** *Do I need a motorcycle permit before taking the course?*

**Yes**, if you are **over 18** years of age and plan to earn your motorcycle endorsement on your Minnesota driver's license.

**No**, if you are **under 18** years of age, you are required to take the Basic RiderCourse before taking the motorcycle permit and skill tests. You must have a driver's license or a driver's instruction permit to enroll in the course.

**No**, if you are **over 18** years of age and do not plan to earn your motorcycle endorsement through the course.

**No**, if you are a resident of another state with a valid driver's license or driver's permit.

**7. Course Requirements:** *How old do I have to be to take the Basic RiderCourse?*

Participants must be at least 15 years of age to take the course and have a valid driver's license or driver's instruction permit. If you are under 18 years of age, you must have your parents sign a waiver/liability form.

**8. Course Requirements:** *What do I need to bring to class?*

Participants must furnish their own protective clothing: eye protection, long sleeves, long pants, full-fingered gloves, over-the-ankle footwear, and DOT-approved helmet. Rider coaches are required to dismiss participants who do not bring and use the aforementioned protective gear.

**9. Course Requirements:** *Are there any other requirements to take this course?*

To take this course, you must be able to ride and balance a bicycle. Balancing is not taught in this course. You must be able to safely control the motorcycle during every exercise. Your rider coaches may dismiss you from the course if, at any time, they feel you are a danger to your own safety or the safety of other participants.

**10. Course Requirements:** *What if I can't attend all of the sessions?*

To successfully complete the course, 100 percent attendance is required. Participants must pass

the knowledge test and the skills test. Motorcycle Safety Foundation curriculum standards require rider coaches to dismiss participants who are late or miss any portion of the entire course.

**11. Mopeds:** *Who can ride a moped on the street?*

Anyone who holds either a driver's license or a moped permit is eligible to operate a moped.

**12. Mopeds:** *How can I get a moped permit?*

If you are 15 years of age or older and/or you do not have a driver's license, you must take a moped safety class, then take the knowledge and riding tests at a state exam station.

**13. Mopeds:** *What is the difference between a motorcycle and a moped (or a scooter?)*

Riding a motorcycle requires a motorcycle endorsement or motorcycle permit. A moped can be ridden on the street by any licensed driver, or anyone 15 years of age or older with a moped permit. A scooter is either a moped or a motorcycle, depending on its size: A moped is defined as having 50 cc or less, having less than 2 hp, and capable of no more than 30 mph. If it does not meet all three requirements, it is considered a motorcycle. "Go-Peds," small, two-wheeled vehicles with motors but none of the required equipment for motorcycle and mopeds (headlight, taillight, mirrors, etc.) are only legal to ride on private property.

**14. Motorcycle Permit:** *For how long is a motorcycle permit valid?*

A Minnesota motorcycle instruction permit is valid for one year from the date it is issued.

**15. Motorcycle Permit:** *What do I need to study for the motorcycle permit test?*

The permit test is based on the Minnesota Motorcycle/Motorized Bicycle Manual. Go to the nearest state exam station to pick up a copy of the manual, or view it online at [www.motorcyclesafety.state.mn.us](http://www.motorcyclesafety.state.mn.us).

**16. Motorcycle Permit:** *Where do I go to take the motorcycle permit test?*

Go to the nearest state exam station to take the written permit test. The fee is \$21.

**17. Motorcycle License:** *How can I earn my motorcycle endorsement?*

For adults (18 years of age or older), who have a valid Minnesota or Wisconsin driver's license, there are two ways:

1) Take the knowledge (permit) test and the riding (endorsement) test at a state exam station.

2) Take the knowledge (permit) test at a state exam station, and then take our Basic RiderCourse. If you pass, you'll qualify for your motorcycle endorsement without having to take the riding test at the state exam station.

**If you are a minor** (younger than 18 years of age), you must take our basic course first, then take the knowledge (permit) test and the riding (license) test at a state exam station.

**18. Private Instruction:** *Can my club schedule a private training session for the Experienced RiderCourse?*

Yes, please contact your local college that provides motorcycle training to inquire about private sessions for riding clubs or groups.

**19. Private Instruction:** *Is private instruction, dirt bike, or three-wheeled training available through the MMSC?*

No—the MMSC offers the Basic RiderCourse, the experienced rider course, and the moped course only. However, Comprehensive Safety Systems ([www.comprehensivesafety.org](http://www.comprehensivesafety.org) or 651-552-0682) offers basic and experienced courses as well as private instruction, dirt bike schools, and sidecar/trike education programs. You can also find dirt bike schools by calling 877-288-7093.

**20. Rain Delays:** *Will the class be cancelled if it rains?*

Courses will run regardless of the weather conditions. Be prepared for rain, snow, wind, cold, and heat. Bring rain gear and dress in layers for warmth. Class may be postponed by the instructor because of severe weather.

**21. Training Bikes:** *Are motorcycles provided?*

**Yes**, training motorcycles (125 to 250cc) are provided for the Basic RiderCourse only.

**No**, training motorcycles are not provided for the Experienced RiderCourse. Participants must provide their own motorcycle. The motorcycle must be street legal, and you must provide current proof of insurance to your instructor.

**22. Training Bikes:** *Can I ride my own motorcycle in the Basic RiderCourse?*

Yes, if it is street legal and you show current proof of insurance to your instructor.

**23. How Hard is the Class?** *Do most people pass the Basic RiderCourse?*

The Basic RiderCourse is designed for those who have never ridden a motorcycle. Many participants pass the course on their first try, but it is not uncommon for participants to take the course more than once.

**24. North Dakota Residents:** *Does the basic course count in North Dakota?*

Yes, North Dakota accepts the Minnesota basic course for motorcycle endorsements.

**25. Wisconsin Residents:** *Does the basic course count in Wisconsin?*

Yes, Wisconsin accepts our BRC course for motorcycle endorsements. Wisconsin residents **DO NOT** need a motorcycle permit to earn their endorsements like Minnesota residents do. If you are from Wisconsin, you will need to complete a special form and submit it to your instructor. Once you have successfully completed the class, an official Wisconsin waiver form will be mailed to you. If necessary, the proof of enrollment form can be mailed to you before the start of the class.

**26. Other Questions:** *Where can I find more information on motorcycle licensing, rider training, or safety information?*

Go to the Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Web site at [www.motorcyclesafety.state.mn.us](http://www.motorcyclesafety.state.mn.us).