

Thank you for inquiring about the Defensive Driver online course offered by the Alabama Traffic Safety Center and the National Safety Council. The Defensive Driver online course is offered as a 4-hour course with behind-the-wheel, hands-on training at the Alabama Traffic Safety Center located on the University of Montevallo campus. The course is devoted to improving driver skills. The behind-the-wheel portion is devoted to correct driving practices and defensive driving strategies. The range activities allow students to test their driving skills in a controlled environment. The cost of the class is \$150 per student. Classes will be conducted with a minimum of five students/maximum 12 students per class and are normally scheduled on weekdays starting at 8:30 a.m. Upon completion of the course, students receive a certificate of completion which serves as documentation of training. Contact the Alabama Traffic Safety Center to schedule a class, or visit [montevallo.edu/atsc](http://montevallo.edu/atsc) for online registration.

## Defensive driving online course with behind-the-wheel hands-on training



### Alabama Traffic Safety Center

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## Safe Driving Course

Online Driving Course  
Hands-On  
Behind-the-Wheel Training  
Lower Insurance Premiums



## Defensive Driver Course

The Defensive Driver program offered by the Alabama Traffic Safety Center is a program that incorporates an online course, simulation, driving range and skid control exercises. The online course presents a philosophy for safe driving, highlighting a number of risk factors associated with vehicle crashes. Crash avoidance and advanced defensive driving concepts are also taught. Defensive driving concepts are reinforced through the use of driving simulation units. These simulation units represent real-world driving situations in a controlled and safe setting.

The one-day format allows for hands-on simulation segments of the course, while also allowing the student maximum behind-the-wheel time on the range.

The use of skid cars is incorporated into the session. Students are instructed in proper skid correcting measures, then experience skids in the Traffic Safety Center's specially equipped vehicles. By participating in skids, students and the instructor know if the requisite skid control skills have been learned. The hands-on experience provided by this activity stays in the student's memory long after the class is completed.



## Current Issues

- Distractions
- Speeding
- Road rage
- Anti-lock brakes
- New vehicle technology
- Fatigue
- Occupant protection
- Following distance
- Rollover crashes

### Learn safe driving with:

- Online course
- Simulation
- Range exercise
- Skid control exercises

## Behind-the-Wheel Performance Exercises

The following driving exercises will be utilized to facilitate the development of proper, quick and effective evasive driving techniques:

### SERPENTINE

The purpose of the serpentine is to develop accelerating and steering skills. Coordination between hand, eye and foot are stressed. Drivers will also develop the ability to judge the vehicle's placement with respect to fixed objects.

### EVASIVE MANEUVERS

The purpose of this exercise is to teach the driver the evasive capabilities of an automobile and how to maximize the capabilities. Emphasis is placed on steering and braking as opposed to braking to a stop to avoid an obstacle. The ability to successfully execute a proper evasive maneuver in an emergency is often the difference between a simple scare and a crash.



### PRECISION COURSE

This activity acquaints drivers with the cornering ability of a vehicle. Smooth acceleration, rhythmical steering and vision are stressed.

### CONTROLLED BRAKING AND TURNING

This exercise is designed to develop the driver's ability to get the maximum braking capability from the automobile without losing the ability to steer. Correct use of anti-lock brakes and conventional brakes is taught.

### SKID CONTROL

The Alabama Traffic Safety Center is one of the only facilities in the Southeast that provides hands-on driving exercises that develop these necessary skills. Driving skills must be practiced outside of the classroom in order for a driver to develop a feel for how a vehicle will respond in an emergency evasive maneuver. This exercise acquaints drivers with how skids occur and the proper steering input to correct the skid. Each exercise is designed to develop hand, eye and foot coordination, driving skills needed to control an automobile and automatic responses to emergency driving situations.