



# Virginia's Two-Wheel Motorcycle Skills Test

## Getting Licensed to Operate a Motorcycle in Virginia

To operate a motorcycle in Virginia, you must have a motorcycle endorsement on your driver's license or a motorcycle-only driver's license.

The type of endorsement you receive depends on the type of bike you plan to operate – two-wheeled (M2), three-wheeled (M3) or both (M) – and the training or testing you've completed.

There are three ways to obtain your motorcycle endorsement in Virginia:

1. Pass the Virginia Rider Training Program course which requires no additional DMV testing, or
2. Pass the DMV motorcycle knowledge exam, hold a learner's permit for 30 days, and pass the motorcycle road skills test, or
3. Transfer in your out-of-state motorcycle endorsement when you move to Virginia

## About the... Two-Wheel Motorcycle Skills Test

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offers a skills test for motorcycle endorsement applicants. The test consists of four exercises that measure your ability to handle a motorcycle including starting, accelerating, turning, and braking and swerving.

Studies have shown that riders with less than one year of riding experience have more crashes than more experienced riders. The skills test ensures that you have the critical skills you'll need to safely operate a motorcycle on the road and to avoid crashes.

It's important to be fully prepared to take your motorcycle skills test when you visit DMV. Virginia law requires anyone who fails the DMV Motorcycle Skills Test twice to successfully complete a Virginia-licensed Motorcycle Rider Training Course before obtaining a motorcycle license.

## What to Expect... When You Arrive for Your Test

To receive a motorcycle endorsement on your license, you must pass the motorcycle knowledge test and the motorcycle skills test. Refer to the *Virginia Motorcycle Operator Manual* and the *Virginia Driver's Manual* to prepare for the knowledge test.

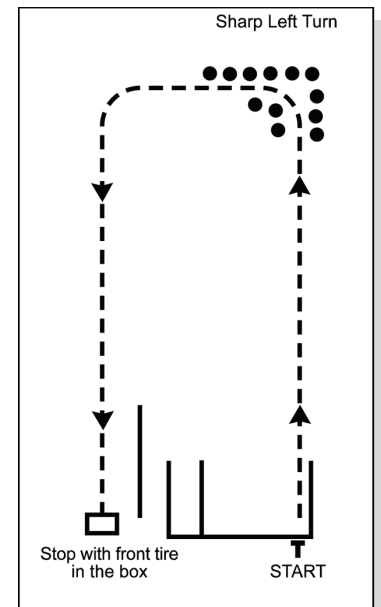
Bring your motorcycle to a DMV customer service center for the skills test. Your motorcycle must have a valid license plate, a current state inspection sticker and be in good working condition. You must wear a lawful motorcycle helmet and eye protection, and you should wear proper protective clothing, including boots or shoes that cover the ankles, a long-sleeved jacket or shirt, full-length pants and gloves.

The DMV representative will explain each test exercise and scoring criteria before you begin the test. None of the exercises are difficult or dangerous for a person with basic riding skills.

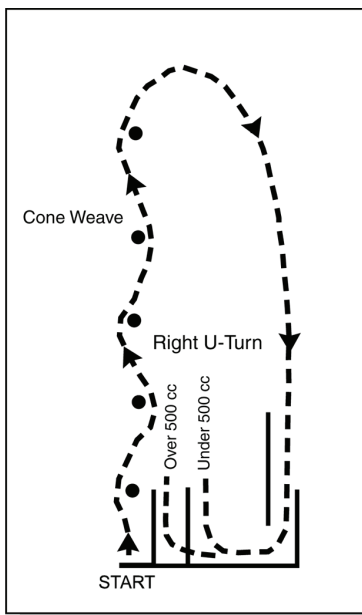
Most of the exercises involve speeds of about 15 mph or less. If you feel that an exercise is beyond your skill level, tell the DMV representative. You must successfully complete all the exercises to pass the skills test. The entire test takes about 15 minutes. Your performance is scored objectively. For example, you will receive error points for going outside the lines or putting your foot down during an exercise.



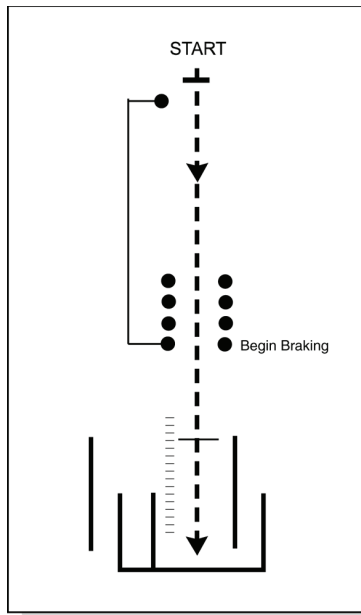
## Test Exercises and Scoring Criteria



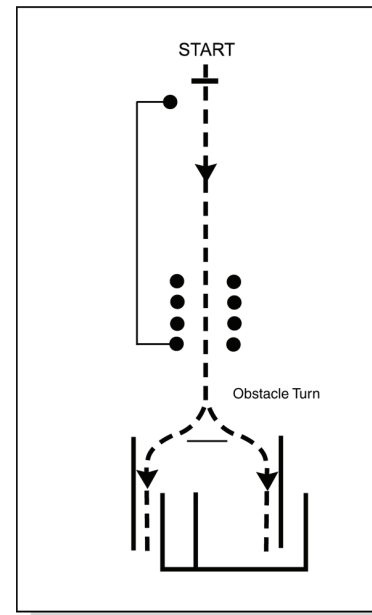
**Exercise one** tests your ability to control the motorcycle while turning and to perform a precise stop. You will be evaluated on your ability to stay within the path of the turn and stop in the painted box without skidding the motorcycle.



**Exercise two** tests your ability to control the motorcycle at low speed while weaving through cones and to make a U-turn in a designated area. You will be evaluated on your ability to stay within the path of travel without touching lines or cones and without putting your foot down.



**Exercise three** tests your ability to brake quickly and safely in the shortest possible distance. You will be evaluated on stopping distance in relation to speed of travel.



**Exercise four** tests your ability to swerve the motorcycle quickly to avoid an obstacle in your path. You will be evaluated on your ability to stay within the path of travel and swerve quickly without touching a boundary line.

## Enroll in a Training Course

Please consider enrolling in a motorcycle rider training course offered at licensed training sites across the state. Virginia law requires anyone who fails the DMV motorcycle skills test twice to successfully complete a Virginia-licensed motorcycle rider training course.

Classes are designed for either beginning or experienced riders and will provide you with the skills and knowledge required to be a safe motorcyclist.



For more information, visit [dmv.virginia.gov/safety](https://dmv.virginia.gov/safety) or scan this QR code.

