

About the Motorcycle Skill Test

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles offers a skill test for motorcycle license applicants. The test consists of four exercises that measure the applicant's ability to handle a motorcycle including starting, accelerating, turning and braking.

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

What to Expect When You Arrive for Your Test

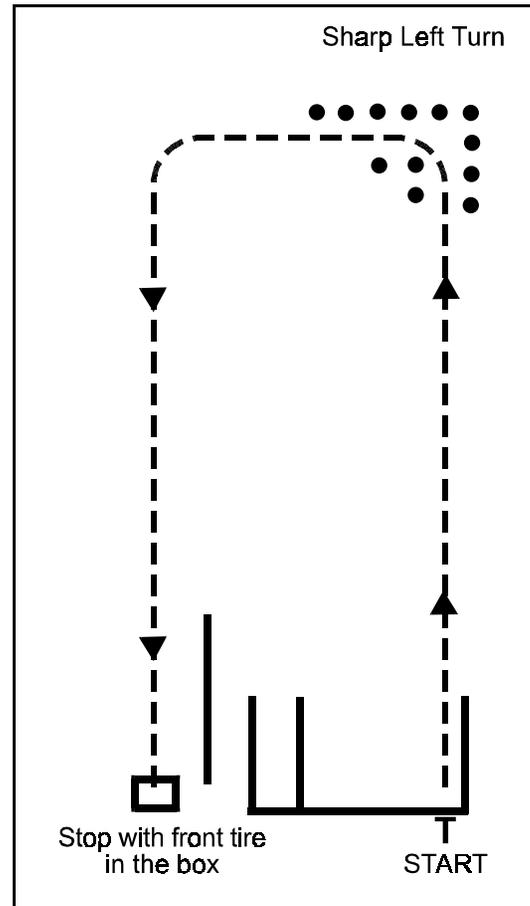
*In order to receive a motorcycle endorsement on your license, you must pass the motorcycle written test and the motorcycle skill test. Refer to the **Virginia Motorcycle Operator's Manual** to prepare for the written test.*

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

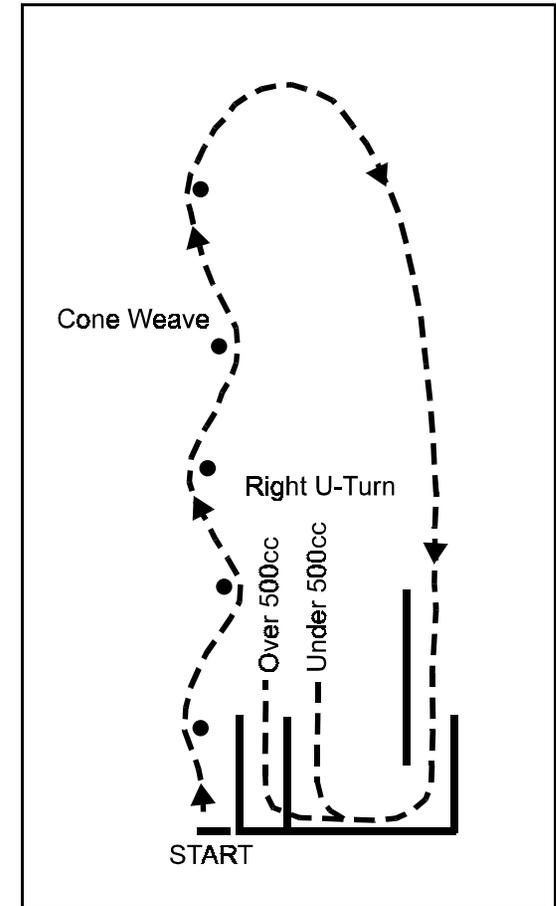
The license examiner will explain each test exercise and scoring before you begin the test. None of the exercises are difficult or dangerous for an experienced rider. Most of the exercises involve speeds of about 15 mph or less. If you feel that an exercise is beyond your skill level, tell the examiner. You must successfully complete all the exercises to pass the skill test. The entire test takes about 15 minutes.

The procedures used to score applicant performance are objective. For example, points are scored for going outside the lines or putting your foot down during an exercise.

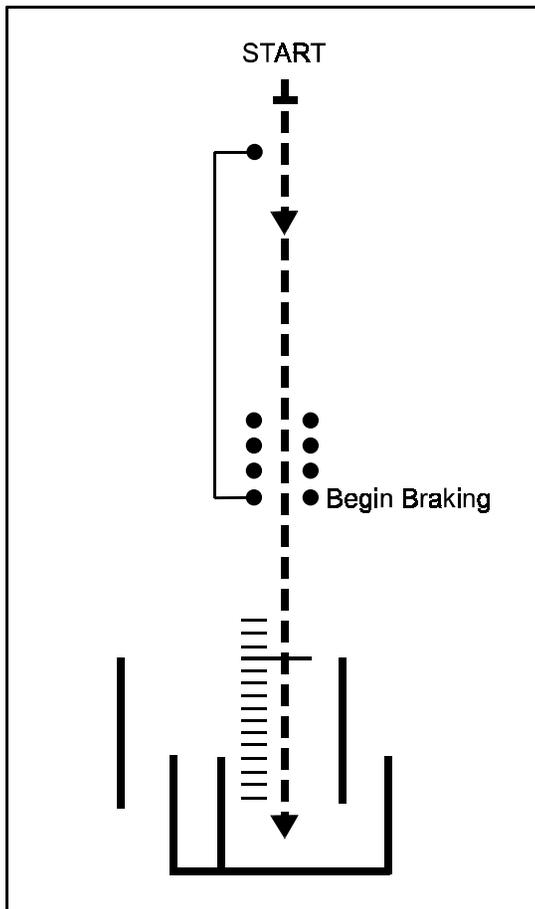
Test Exercise and Scoring Criteria



Exercise One tests your ability to control the motorcycle while turning and performing 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 putting your foot down or 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.

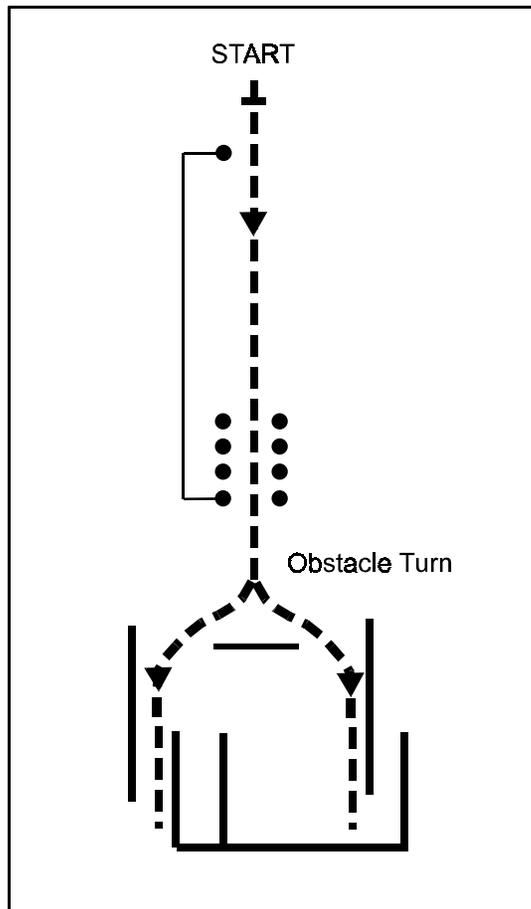


Exercise Three tests your ability to brake quickly and safely in the shortest possible distance. You will be evaluated on stopping distance in relation to speed of travel.

Enroll in a Training Course

If you don't think you have the skills to pass this test, consider enrolling in a motorcycle rider training course offered at community colleges around the state.

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



Exercise Four tests your ability to turn 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 turn quickly without touching a boundary line.

For more information about enrolling in a rider training course, call 804-367-1813.



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Alternate Motorcycle Skill Test

