

# Changes in Driver Education Teacher Endorsement Requirements

By Dr. Dale Ritzel  
President, IHSCDEA

Back in January 2007 a formal proposal to change the Driver Education Teacher Endorsement requirement began by our association. The Illinois State Board of Education approved in June 2009 the following new driver education teacher endorsement requirements.

Beginning with applications received on or after February 1, 2012, an endorsement in safety and driver education shall be issued when the applicant provides evidence of having completed 24 semester hours of college credit in the field, with at least 12 semester hours at the upper-division or graduate level, as defined by the institution offering the coursework, distributed as follows:

1. 3 semester hours in injury prevention or safety;
2. 12 semester hours in driving education that include:
  - A. driving task analysis (introduction to driver education);
  - B. teaching driver education in the classroom;
  - C. teaching the laboratory portion of the driver education course, including:
    - i. on-street teaching under the supervision of a qualified driver education teacher;
    - ii. the equivalent of at least one semester hour's preparation in and use of driving simulation;
    - iii. the equivalent of at least one semester hour's preparation in and use of multiple-car programs; and
  - D. advanced driver education and emergency evasive driving;
3. 3 semester hours in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and
4. 6 semester hours chosen in any combination from:
  - A. the use of technology in instruction;
  - B. safety issues related to alcohol and other drugs;
  - C. driver education for students with disabilities; and
  - D. any other safety-related area.

The universities in Illinois that offer courses in driver education teacher preparation will be ready to implement the new requirements over the next year or so. Some universities currently offer the courses listed above.