









Signs you must recognize

Shape and color tell you what to do before you read the text.

Sign color decoder

 Red Stop, yield, or do not enter	 Yellow Warning of hazard ahead	 Orange Work zone, construction, or detour	 Green Permitted movement or directions
 Blue Driver services, hospitals, rest areas	 Brown Recreation, parks, scenic areas	 White Regulatory — must obey the posted rule	 Yellow-green Pedestrian, school, or bike crossing

North Carolina signs you will see on the test

 Stop Full stop at line. Yield to all traffic before proceeding.	 Do not enter Wrong-way entry forbidden. Prevents head-on collisions.	 Do not pass White regulatory: no passing other vehicles for any reason.	 No-pass pennant Yellow pennant on LEFT side marks START of no-passing zone.	 Cross road Another road crosses ahead. Watch for traffic from both sides.	 Railroad crossing Round yellow: slow, look, listen, prepare to stop.
 Steep hill Steep downgrade. Use lower gear; do not ride brakes.	 Winding road Three or more curves ahead. Slow down before entering.	 Curve right Road curves right. Slow before the curve, not in it.	 Chevron left Sharp curve — road turns sharply left. Slow well ahead.	 Right lane ends Right lane drops ahead. Merge left when safe.	 Signal ahead Traffic light at intersection ahead. Be ready to stop.
 Low shoulder Shoulder drops below road edge. Stay on pavement.	 Work zone Orange = workers near road. Slow down and give space.	 Red arrow signal Turning traffic MUST STOP — not just slow. Wait for green.			

Sign shape shortcuts

- Octagon** — Always means STOP. The only 8-sided sign.
- Downward triangle** — Always means YIELD. Red and white edges.
- Diamond** — Warning of a road condition or hazard ahead.
- Vertical rectangle** — Regulatory — speed limits, turn restrictions, lane use.
- Horizontal rectangle** — Guidance — route markers, exit info, distance signs.
- Pennant** — Sideways triangle on LEFT side = START of no-passing zone.
- Round** — Yellow circle with X+R-R = railroad crossing ahead.
- Pentagon** — School zone or school crossing — children present.

Rules of the road

Right of way

- 4-way stop — first arrival** — First vehicle to arrive goes first. No exceptions.
- 4-way stop — simultaneous** — Tie? Yield to the driver on your RIGHT.
- Uncontrolled intersection** — No signs or signals? Yield to vehicle on your right.
- Left turn** — Yield to all oncoming traffic and pedestrians.
- Pedestrian in crosswalk** — Always yield — marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- Emergency vehicle** — Pull to right edge and stop. Never block intersections.

- School bus — 2-lane road** — STOP in BOTH directions until red lights stop flashing.
- School bus — divided highway** — Opposite-direction traffic may continue — do NOT stop.
- Merging onto highway** — Highway traffic has right-of-way; match their speed.
- Roundabout** — Yield to traffic already circulating before entering.

North Carolina speed limits

City or town (unless posted)	35 mph
Residential / neighborhood	35 mph
Interstate highway (unless posted)	70 mph
75 mph+ → automatic suspension	Any speed over 75 mph

55 mph+ AND 15+ mph over limit	30-day first-offense suspension
School zone (when children present)	Reduced posted speed
Basic rule	Never faster than safe for conditions

Turning, signaling and passing

- Signal distance** — Signal at least 100 feet before turning or changing lanes.
- Hand signal — left turn** — Left arm straight out the window.
- Hand signal — right turn** — Left arm bent up at the elbow.
- Hand signal — slow/stop** — Left arm bent down at the elbow.
- Right on red** — Allowed after a full stop, unless sign prohibits it.

- No-passing zone** — Never pass where pennant sign or solid yellow line is on your side.
- Passing a cyclist** — Slow down and give as much space as possible. Never honk.
- U-turn** — Only where permitted; never where view is blocked.

Following distance and emergencies

- Following distance (normal)** — Minimum 2-second gap from the vehicle ahead.
- Adverse conditions** — Increase following distance in rain, fog, night, or heavy traffic.
- Tailgater behind you** — Slow gradually or change lanes. Let them pass.
- Skid** — Steer in direction of skid; ease off gas. ABS: brake firmly + steer.

- Tire blowout** — Grip wheel, ease off gas, steer straight. Brake gently when slowed.
- Brake failure** — Downshift, pump pedal, use parking brake, aim for soft surface.
- Move-over law** — Slow and change lanes for stopped emergency or tow vehicles.

Lane markings

- Solid yellow center line** — No passing on your side of the line.
- Broken yellow center line** — Passing allowed when safe.
- Double solid yellow** — No passing in either direction.
- Solid white line** — Lane change discouraged; shoulder or edge line.

- Broken white line** — Lane change permitted when safe.
- Two-way left-turn lane** — Center lane for turning only — never use as a travel lane.

Safety, DUI, parking and test-day

North Carolina DUI quick-facts

Adult BAC limit (21+)	0.08%	Chemical test refusal — DMV adds open container	12+ months additional
Under-21 BAC limit	0.00% — any amount illegal	Impairment threshold	Never — illegal in vehicle on public road
Commercial driver BAC limit	0.04%		Even smallest amount limits concentration and judgment
Chemical test refusal — immediate	30-day revocation		

Hazardous conditions

DO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Use low beams in fog, rain, or snow — high beams reflect back + Increase following distance beyond 2 sec in rain, fog, or night + Steer into the skid; ease off gas (ABS: brake firmly, steer straight) + Turn on headlights whenever visibility is limited + Slow down well before curves — speed in a curve causes skids + Pull completely off the road if you must stop on a highway 	DON'T <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use high beams in fog — light reflects and blinds you - Brake hard on ice — front wheels lock and you lose steering - Use cruise control on wet or icy roads - Stop on the freeway shoulder except in emergency - Pass a school bus with flashing red lights on a 2-lane road - Drive while drowsy — treat it like impairment
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Parking rules

Uphill with a curb	Wheels AWAY from curb (toward traffic)	Fire hydrant	Do not park within 15 ft
Downhill with a curb	Wheels TOWARD curb	Crosswalk	Do not park within 20 ft of marked crosswalk
Hill with no curb	Wheels TOWARD road edge	Intersection	Do not park within 30 ft of stop sign at intersection

GDL — North Carolina three-tier system

Level 1 — Limited Learner Permit — Hold 9 months minimum. Supervisor age 21+ licensed 5+ years, in front passenger seat.	Level 2 — Limited Provisional — No unsupervised driving 9 p.m.–5 a.m. Passenger limits apply.
Level 1 — driving hours — First 6 months: 5 a.m.–9 p.m. only. After 6 months: any time with supervisor.	Level 2 — hold time — Hold 6 months with no moving violations before Level 3.
Level 1 — supervised hours — 60 total hours required, including 10 hours at night.	Level 3 — Full Provisional — No time/passenger restrictions (mobile phone ban remains through age 18).

North Carolina test-day cheat box

Exam length (all applicants)	25 questions	Driver education (under 18)	30 hrs classroom + 6 hrs behind-the-wheel
Passing score	80% — 20 of 25 correct	Agency	NCDMV (NC Dept of Transportation)
Fail threshold	Miss 5 = fail	Handbook	North Carolina Driver Handbook (ncdot.gov)
Permit fee (Level 1)	\$21.50		

Last-minute test-taking tips

Read every option before you pick — the NCDMV often includes a partially-correct distractor. When two options seem right, pick the more cautious one ('slow and yield' beats 'proceed' or 'honk'). The school bus divided-highway exception and the simultaneous 4-way stop rule are the two most-missed questions in the NC bank. Know both cold before you walk in.