



ANDES DRIVING SCHOOL, Inc.
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Driving Evaluations

Andes Driving School, Inc. has extensive experience of providing driving evaluations for clients in the Triangle Area.

A driving evaluation provides a comprehensive assessment of an individual's behind-the-wheel driving abilities in real day-to-day driving situations. The evaluation is designed to determine what abilities and skills the evaluated person has or lacks, and is also used to identify the areas in need of improvement.

We are certified by the Department of Motor Vehicles of the State of North Carolina to provide knowledgeable and professional assessment of driving abilities.

A standard evaluation includes but not limited to the following areas:

- Steering
- Stopping, starting and braking
- Use of right and left turns
- Use of vehicle controls
- Backing
- Parking
- Speed control
- Knowledge of DOT (department of Transportation) road signs
- Memory assessment
- Perceptual skills and decision making
- Transfer-status ability/ entering and exiting the vehicle

Andes Driving School Inc. will furnish the vehicle. The evaluator will meet the client at his/her residence, office/ place of work, or clinic. A standard evaluation lasts about one hour.

Andes Driving School Inc. offers its services in Durham, Raleigh, Cary, Chapel Hill and Wilmington, N.C.

For any location outside the mentioned cities, special arrangements could be made.

All fees are payable at the beginning of the evaluation unless other arrangements have been made in advance. Cancellations require an advanced notification of 24 hours prior to the scheduled appointment. Failure to do so will result in a \$30.00 no-show fee.

All reports will be sent to the designated physician, rehabilitation clinic, or DMV. To schedule an appointment, please contact Andes Driving School Inc.

Andes Driving School Inc. 5007 Southpark Dr., Ste 120, Durham, NC 27713
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Driving Evaluations in Durham, Raleigh, Cary, Chapel Hill & Wilmington, N.C.

Components of a Driver Evaluation

1. Review of Driving History
2. Physical Assessment
3. Visual/Perceptual Assessment
4. Cognitive Assessment
5. Adaptive Equipment Recommendations
6. Behind The Wheel Assessment

Review of Driving History

- Diagnoses, Onset, Functional limitations
- Secondary Diagnoses
- Medications –seek physicians for side effects (monitor when taken)
- Years of driving experience
- Restrictions
- Driving History
- Estimated amount of driving
- Type of vehicle

Physical Assessment

- Strength and range of motion

Many need steering and brake effort reduced in order to control vehicle.
Many need special equipment such as a small diameter steering wheel to compensate for decreased range of motion.

- Varying degrees of spasticity

If spasticity is too controlling, it may lead to inability to drive.
If spasticity is limited to the legs, or there is paralysis of the legs, may be able to drive with the hand controls.
If only one extremity is affected, other adaptive equipment many suffice (i.e. spinner knob, turn signal adapter, left foot accelerator)

- Balance

If there is poor trunk control, may need to use a chest strap to give self more ability.
If a wheelchair driver, may need lateral supports added to the wheelchair.

- Ataxia

Have to find the most stabilizing position for steering and turning.

- Transfer Status

To determine the ability of the client to get in and out of the vehicle.

Type of assistive device the person uses for mobility outside of driving such as a cane, walker, wheelchair or scooter.

To determine if the person can load or unload the equipment, get into the drivers seat and have enough strength left to drive.

- Sensory Changes

May have more muscle control than sensory but still have to use more equipment such as hand controls due to lack of sensory ability in legs even though legs can move to gas and brake.

Need to assure that decreased sensation does not lead to misuse of any controls.

Visual and Perceptual Assessment

- Eye Movement and Head Position

Need to assess for coordinated eye movement and assure that there is no double vision.

- Visual Attention

Must be able to shift visual attention to multiple stimuli and make appropriate decisions.

- Acuity

Must meet state guidelines Of 20/30 or better to avoid restrictions.

As vision becomes more impaired, restrictions are added.

If vision is not correctable to 20/100, cannot drive.

- Depth Perception

If impaired, need to increase following distance and use of cues such as pavement markings when parking.

- Statics and Dynamics Perception

May have adequate perceptual skills in static environment, but may encounter problems as speed increases, left neglect from stroke or head injury.

Cognitive Assessment

- Attention and Concentration

Needs to be able to handle unforeseen situations such as detours or construction zones.

Needs to be able to handle multiple stimuli.

- Direction Following

Especially critical when further training is provided. Client must be able to incorporate instructions.

- Judgment and Insight

Client needs to demonstrate ability to self initiate safe and proper decisions behind the wheel.

- Knowledge of the Road

New drivers need to demonstrate basic competency of road rules prior to initiation of training.

Best if client has had a classroom driver's education course.

- Recognition of Sign and Numbers

Critical for making safe decisions.

Need to be able to scan and incorporate information from signs to driving decisions.

- Memory, Planning and Organization

Need to assure client can remember routes, destinations (Dementia).

If some loss of memory on the client and some difficulty problem solving, but still enough judgment to drive, may be limited to familiar routes.

- Self-Control

Need to be able to regulate emotions when driving to be a safe driver.

Do not drive when angry, upset or overly emotional.

Adaptive Equipment Recommendations

- Adaptive Equipment Recommendations – Low Tech

Wheelchair carrier
Left foot accelerator
Hand controls
Cross over gear shift
Parking brake extension
Cross over turn signals
Steering devices

- Adaptive Equipment Recommendations – High Tech

Electronic gas and brake
Digital steering system
Touch pad controls
Voice activated controls
Joystick driving

- Seating and Positioning Behind the Wheel

Rule # 1: Order the wheelchair and vehicle carefully so that they are compatible.

Rule # 2: Insist on trying out all the equipment together.

Behind the Wheel Assessment

- Entry skills- adjust mirrors, seat and seat belts
- Operates controls
- Right and Left Turns, Backing and Parking
- Decision making and route planning
- Lane Changes
- Spacing
- Visual Scanning
- Highway/ Interstate Driving