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To get their licence, plenty of drivers will do the mandated practice hours, pass the necessary tests and call it a day not undertaking any further training for the remainder of their driving careers. Drive and Nine.com.au want to change that joining forces to raise awareness about the availability of defensive driver training courses and how beneficial they can be, particularly for young drivers. Younger drivers are the most over-represented group in road trauma, with 20 per cent of all driver fatalities in the past five years aged between 1725 years according to the Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics.Often, fatal accidents occur at freeway speeds or as a result of emergency situations scenarios where novice drivers often have the least practical experience. Thankfully, defensive driver training courses are available nationwide and are open to anyone of driving age.To find out whether better training makes you a better driver, we undertook a driver training course with Driver Dynamics in Victoria.What is defensive driving?Defensive driving involves using a combination of proactive and reactive skills to remain safe on the road."Proactive skills include things like keeping your vision high, scoping intersections before you drive through them, wearing your seatbelt, staying off your phone and managing fatigue," explains Driver Dynamics's Kevin Flynn, an advanced driving instructor with more than 30 years of experience. "Meanwhile, reactive skills are things like emergency braking, emergency multiple direction changes and vehicle dynamics."More seasoned drivers may choose to take an advanced driving course, which typically only focuses on reactive skills, "generally because the participants are there to take their vehicle skills to a higher level," Mr Flynn says. +6 PhotosHow much does a driver training course cost?"We have tried to keep our courses about the same price as a pair of sneakers," Kevin Flynn of Driver Dynamics explains.Around Australia, you'll pay between $250 and $450 for a single-day course, although the price varies on length, location and training intensity. Typically, a single-day course should last for around seven hours. +6 PhotosHow old do you need to be to do defensive driver training?You just need to be old enough to hold a learner's permit and have a handle on the fundamentals of driving a car."People often say 'how many hours should my daughter do before she comes?'," Mr Flynn explains."[The answer] really depends your daughter could be competent after 45 minutes or hopeless after 116 hours, so it's when [they feel ready]."Professional driver training can also count towards your logbook hours and then some. In New South Wales, completing a one-day certified Safer Driver Course allows L-platers to wipe 20 hours off their required logbook hours.What kinds of exercises do you do in a defensive driver training course?Expect to carry out a mixture of classroom exercises and practical exercises in a defensive driving course.In the case of Driver Dynamics's course, a lot of the exercises are conducted on wet roads at suburban speeds around 50-60km/h. You'll complete manoeuvres like emergency braking, emergency lane changes, swerve and recover exercises, and other combinations of emergency braking and steering. Meanwhile, the classroom component covers key safety issues like speeding, drink driving, drugs, and explains vehicle safety systems like anti-lock braking systems (ABS) and electronic stability control (ESC). +6 PhotosWhich defensive driving course is best?When choosing a driver training course, look for 'green flags' like years in business, scale of operations and infrastructure."I visit a lot of driving schools and the schools that have infrastructure and systematisation behind them tend to provide better outcomes for their customers," explains Mick Humphries, Director of the Australian Driver Trainers Association."They have a syllabus, they have lesson plans, and even little things like booking systems, they're very organised so kids don't get forgotten."That's not to say one-person operations aren't legitimate and valuable."Our industry is very much built on the back of one-person operations, there's nothing wrong with that," Mr Humphries says."But it comes down to networking, and the people contained in driving school models tend to have more access to professional development on an ongoing basis."If you find a smaller driving school that seems like a good fit, Mr Humphries advises asking your instructor whether they attend the state regulator meetings and are regularly updating their training."Some might say they're beyond that, but we all need it, that's how we improve," Mr Humphries says. +6 PhotosRead more on our Safer Driving Guide page Defensive driving courses are a smart investment in your safety and driving skills. At The Wiser Driver Driving School, we often get asked how long a defensive driving course takes to complete.The answer varies depending on several factors, including the type of course and your states requirements. In this post, well break down the different course options and their typical durations, helping you choose the right fit for your schedule and learning style.Types of Defensive Driving CoursesDefensive driving courses come in various formats to accommodate different learning styles and schedules. Lets explore the main types of courses available in the industry.Online Defensive Driving CoursesOnline courses have gained popularity due to their flexibility. These courses allow students to complete the material at their own pace from home. However, research suggests that there is no evidence that driver education is an effective approach to reducing crashes or injuries.Online courses typically include interactive modules, videos, and quizzes. The American Automobile Association (AAA) notes that many drivers find online courses more engaging due to multimedia elements. However, students should verify that their chosen online course has approval from their states DMV for ticket dismissal or insurance discount purposes.In-Person Classroom CoursesTraditional classroom courses provide a structured learning environment with direct interaction between students and instructors. These courses often incorporate group discussions, which can enhance the learning experience through shared experiences.The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) points out that in-person courses can benefit new drivers or those who prefer face-to-face instruction. Experienced instructors ensure that classroom sessions remain both informative and engaging.Behind-the-Wheel TrainingPractical, hands-on training forms an essential component of many defensive driving programs. This type of course allows drivers to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world situations under the guidance of a professional instructor.The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety emphasizes the importance of behind-the-wheel training, especially for inexperienced drivers. Research indicates that PC-based hazard anticipation training can increase the likelihood that younger drivers would scan for potential hazards on the open road.While online and classroom courses excel at teaching theory, behind-the-wheel training provides invaluable practical experience. Many experts strongly recommend including this component in defensive driving education for a well-rounded learning experience.Hybrid CoursesSome providers offer hybrid courses that combine elements of online learning with in-person instruction or behind-the-wheel practice. These courses (which often appeal to students who want flexibility but also value face-to-face interaction) can provide the best of both worlds.Now that weve covered the types of defensive driving courses available, lets examine the factors that influence how long these courses take to complete.What Affects Defensive Driving Course Duration?State-Specific RequirementsEach state imposes its own regulations for defensive driving courses. New York, for instance, mandates a 6-hour course, while Texas requires a 6-hour course for ticket dismissal but allows a 1-hour course for insurance discounts. Students must check their states specific requirements before they enroll in a course.Course Content and DepthThe depth and breadth of course material significantly influence duration. Basic courses that cover essential defensive driving techniques might take less time, while comprehensive programs (including advanced topics like hazard perception or eco-driving) could require more hours. Research on learning and memory suggests that spaced learning spreading lessons over time leads to better long-term retention than cramming. However, this doesnt automatically mean that longer courses are superior. The quality and relevance of the content hold equal importance.Individual Learning PaceOnline courses offer the advantage of self-paced learning. Some students complete the material quickly, while others take more time to absorb the information. The American Automobile Association offers RoadWise, a senior defensive driving program designed as an online course to positively affect driving behavior and help drivers learn about and adjust to age-related changes.For in-person courses, the instructor and the group usually set the pace. This structure benefits some learners who thrive in a structured environment but may feel restrictive for others who prefer to move at their own speed.Course FormatThe format of the course significantly impacts its duration. Online courses typically offer the most flexibility, allowing students to complete the material in multiple sessions. In-person classroom courses usually have a fixed schedule, often spanning a full day or multiple evenings.Behind-the-wheel training, an essential component of many defensive driving programs, adds additional time to the overall course duration. These practical sessions usually last between 2 to 4 hours, depending on the programs requirements and the students skill level.Now that we understand the factors affecting course duration, lets explore the typical timeframes for different types of defensive driving courses.How Long Does a Typical Defensive Driving Course Take?Defensive driving courses vary in duration based on several factors. Well break down the typical timeframes for different course formats to help you plan your schedule.Online Courses: Flexibility at Your FingertipsOnline defensive driving courses typically take between 4 to 8 hours to complete. These courses offer flexibility, allowing you to spread your learning over several days or complete it in one sitting (depending on your preference and availability).The National Safety Council offers online defensive driving courses that can be completed in 4 hours or 2 hours, depending on the specific course chosen. They also provide distracted driving courses that can be completed in 90 minutes or 45 minutes.Classroom Courses: A Day of Intensive LearningIn-person classroom courses usually run for 6 to 8 hours. Providers often structure these as full-day sessions, typically on weekends to accommodate working professionals. Some driving schools might offer evening classes spread over multiple days.The American Automobile Association (AAA) points out that classroom courses can benefit new drivers or those who prefer a more structured learning environment. These courses often include interactive elements and group discussions to enhance the learning experience.Behind-the-Wheel Training: Practical Skills in ActionBehind-the-wheel training sessions typically last between 2 to 4 hours. These hands-on sessions apply theoretical knowledge to real-world situations. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety emphasizes the importance of this practical training, especially for inexperienced drivers.Many driving schools (including The Wiser Driver Driving School) offer personalized driving lessons that fit your schedule and learning needs. Experienced instructors ensure you maximize these practical sessions.Full Programs: Comprehensive Learning ExperienceSome defensive driving programs combine multiple elements for a more comprehensive learning experience. These full programs, which may include online coursework, classroom sessions, and behind-the-wheel training, can take anywhere from 10 to 16 hours to complete.The duration of these comprehensive programs varies based on state requirements and the specific curriculum offered by the driving school. Always check with your local DMV or a reputable provider for the most accurate information regarding course durations in your area.Final ThoughtsDefensive driving courses vary in duration. Online courses take 4 to 8 hours, classroom sessions span 6 to 8 hours, and behind-the-wheel training adds 2 to 4 hours. Your choice depends on your learning style, schedule, and specific needs (including state requirements).The Wiser Driver offers comprehensive programs for drivers of all ages and skill levels. Our experienced instructors provide personalized lessons to help you gain confidence and skills for safe driving. We offer convenient scheduling options, including seven-day-a-week road testing and pick-up/drop-off services.The question How long does a defensive driving course take? has different answers. With The Wiser Driver, you can be sure that every minute spent in our programs will improve your driving skills. Take the first step towards becoming a wiser driver today. At The Wiser Driver Driving School, we often get asked, How long is a defensive driving course? Its a common question for those looking to improve their driving skills or reduce insurance premiums.The duration of these courses can vary widely, depending on factors like course format, state requirements, and individual learning pace. In this post, well break down the typical time commitments for different types of defensive driving courses and help you choose the right option for your needs.What Is Defensive Driving?Definition and Core PrinciplesDefensive driving encompasses a set of skills and techniques that extend beyond basic traffic rules. It involves a proactive approach to driving, where drivers anticipate potential hazards and make safe decisions on the road. This method of driving significantly reduces the risk of accidents and traffic violations. In fact, research shows that those who have completed a defensive driving course are 10% less likely to be involved in a crash.The Purpose of Defensive Driving CoursesThe primary objective of defensive driving courses is to create safer roads for everyone. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that human error contributes to crashes investigated in the National Motor Vehicle Crash Causation Survey. Taking a defensive driving course actively works to reduce a drivers chances of involvement in an accident.These courses also offer practical benefits. Many insurance companies provide discounts to drivers who complete approved defensive driving programs. This financial incentive makes these courses an attractive option for many drivers.Types of Defensive Driving CoursesSeveral types of defensive driving courses cater to different needs and learning styles:Online CoursesOnline defensive driving courses have gained popularity due to their flexibility. These courses allow students to learn at their own pace and on their own schedule. They typically include interactive modules, videos, and quizzes to ensure effective absorption of the material.Classroom CoursesTraditional classroom courses offer face-to-face instruction and the opportunity to interact with instructors and other students. These courses provide a more structured learning environment and may appeal to those who prefer group settings.Behind-the-Wheel TrainingSome defensive driving courses incorporate practical, hands-on training. This type of course allows students to apply the techniques theyve learned in real-world driving situations under the guidance of an experienced instructor.The variety of course types available ensures that drivers can find an option that suits their learning preferences and schedules. Whether a driver chooses an online course for convenience, a classroom setting for interactive learning, or behind-the-wheel training for practical experience, each option provides valuable knowledge and skills to enhance road safety.As we explore the duration of these different course types in the next section, youll gain a better understanding of the time commitment required for each option.How Long Are Defensive Driving Courses?Online Course DurationOnline defensive driving courses typically take 6 hours to complete. These courses offer the most flexibility, allowing students to progress at their own pace. Some states (like Texas) mandate a minimum of 6 hours for online defensive driving courses. However, the actual time spent can vary significantly based on individual learning speeds and prior knowledge.Classroom Course LengthIn-person classroom courses usually run for 6 to 8 hours, often completed in a single day or spread across multiple sessions. These courses follow a set schedule, which can be advantageous for those who prefer structured learning environments. Many driving schools offer weekend classes that can be completed in one full day, making it convenient for working professionals.Behind-the-Wheel Training TimeBehind-the-wheel defensive driving training is less common but highly effective. These practical sessions typically last 2 to 4 hours, focusing on applying defensive driving techniques in real-world scenarios. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration provides guidelines for state driver education programs, which include recommendations for supervised driving practice.Factors Influencing Course DurationSeveral factors can affect the length of a defensive driving course:State regulations play a significant role, with some states requiring specific course durations for insurance discounts or point reduction. For instance, New York mandates a minimum of 320 minutes of instruction time for its Point and Insurance Reduction Program.Course content depth also impacts duration. More comprehensive courses covering advanced topics like crash avoidance techniques or handling emergencies may take longer to complete.Courses designed for professional drivers or those with specific vehicle types (like motorcycles or commercial vehicles) often have extended durations to cover specialized content.The format of course delivery can also influence time commitment. Interactive elements in online courses, such as quizzes and simulations, may extend the overall duration but enhance learning retention. A study by the American Automobile Association found that interactive learning methods can improve knowledge retention by up to 75% compared to passive learning.When you choose a defensive driving course, consider your learning style, schedule, and specific needs. While shorter courses might seem appealing, longer, more comprehensive programs often provide more in-depth knowledge and skills. The time you invest in a quality defensive driving course can lead to long-term benefits in road safety and potential insurance savings.Now that we understand the typical durations of different defensive driving courses, lets explore the specific factors that influence these course lengths in more detail.What Affects Defensive Driving Course Duration?State-Specific RequirementsState-specific requirements for defensive driving courses can vary significantly. Depending on your state, you may have the option to take the course either online or in person. The duration and content of these courses are often determined by state regulations, which can impact the overall time commitment required.Course Content and DepthThe breadth and depth of course material directly impact duration. Basic courses covering fundamental defensive driving techniques typically take less time than comprehensive programs that cover advanced topics. A course that includes modules on handling adverse weather conditions or dealing with road rage situations may require additional hours of instruction.Learning Styles and Pacing OptionsIndividual learning speeds play a crucial role in course duration, especially for online programs. Self-paced options allow quick learners to progress faster, while those who need more time can take it. Instructor-led courses (whether online or in-person) follow a set schedule. This structured approach can benefit learners who thrive on deadlines and interactive sessions.Interactive ElementsThe National Safety Council reports that interactive learning methods can improve knowledge retention by up to 75% compared to passive learning. Many online defensive driving courses incorporate interactive elements like quizzes and simulations. While these features may slightly extend course duration, they significantly enhance the learning experience and long-term skill retention.Course FormatThe format of the course also affects its duration. Online courses often offer more flexibility in terms of time commitment, allowing students to complete sections at their own pace. In-person classroom courses typically have fixed schedules and durations. Behind-the-wheel training sessions, which provide practical experience, usually have shorter but more intensive time frames (often 2-4 hours per session).Final ThoughtsDefensive driving courses vary in duration and format. Online courses typically take 6 hours, while classroom courses run 6 to 8 hours. Behind-the-wheel training provides practical experience in 2 to 4-hour sessions. The length of a defensive driving course depends on factors such as state requirements, course content, and individual learning styles.Choosing the right course for your needs is important. Longer, more comprehensive programs often provide in-depth knowledge and skills that can significantly improve your driving abilities. The time invested in a quality defensive driving course yields long-term benefits, including enhanced road safety and potential insurance premium reductions.The Wiser Driver Driving School offers comprehensive defensive driving programs designed to meet various needs and schedules. Our courses provide professional instruction and hands-on learning experiences (including online options). Investing time in defensive driving education is a wise choice for your safety and peace of mind on the road. In the US, 89% of adults have a drivers license. Thats a lot of people and vehicles on the road.Whether youre a new or seasoned driver, the road (and other motorists) can make driving unpredictable. Every time you get into your vehicle, you expect a smooth and safe journey. However, bad weather, distracted drivers, poor road conditions, and various other scenarios can interfere with your plans for an uneventful drive.While you cant control what happens around you on the road, you can anticipate, identify, and avoid road hazards. The most effective way to overcome driving challenges is to take an online defensive driving course.While you might think that all online driver improvement courses are the same, its time to think again. In this article, well discuss what you can expect when taking an online driver safety course, as well as the features and benefits that make DriveSafe Online defensive driving courses the gold standard for online driver training and education.Online Defensive Driving Course ExpectationsOnline defensive driving courses typically cover important driving-related topics including:Recognizing traffic hazardsLearning how to spot those under the influenceLearning precautions to take and maneuvers to make in case of emergenciesUnderstanding the components of a crashLearning about safety equipment and how to properly use itUnderstanding state traffic lawsCourse LengthOnline driver safety classes can take between 1 hour and 8 hours to complete depending on the material covered. While the most popular course is the 1 hour version, some states that approve online driving courses require longer programs that provide extended content coverage.The length of course may also be determined by a court if you are required to take an online course to satisfy conditions of a traffic violation, or by your insurance provider if you want to get an insurance discount.Point ReductionMaintaining a clean driving record can save you money with lower insurance rates. However, dont panic if you receive a speeding ticket. It can happen to even the best drivers.The great news is that you may be able to keep points off your record simply by completing a DriveSafe Online defensive driving course and submitting your course completion certificate to the court or DMV authorities. Always check beforehand if an online defensive driving course is accepted. Regulations can vary from state to state and court to court.Insurance DiscountInsurance providers love safe drivers because they typically avoid accidents and submit fewer accidents claims than riskier drivers, which can save insurance companies money.Several insurance providers offer defensive driving discounts for drivers who complete a defensive driving course. Savings could reach up to 10% off annual premiums for three consecutive years. That could put hundreds of dollars back in your bank account. Ask your agent if you are eligible for a defensive driving discount.No In-Person ClassesWhen you have a busy schedule, it can be difficult to attend in-person classes. Not only do you have to spend time on the course itself, but you also have to get to and from these classes. In the end, in-class sessions can be time consuming.DriveSafe Online courses are 100% online. Theyre available 24/7 and can be accessed from your favorite computer, tablet, or smart phone. You can take the course while at home, on break at work, or even at your kids soccer practice.Were AffordableIn general, online courses will be cheaper than in-person ones. This is because theres less overhead, which means the savings are passed onto you.DriveSafe Online courses offer the best content and the most competitive pricing of any online defensive driving course!Test drive our free course demo to see the great quality you can expect when you register for a DriveSafe Online course. Then read the great reviews we get from satisfied customers.Use of TechnologyThe fact that the courses are online should mean that the doors are wide open for the use of technology. But sadly, thats not the case.The truth is that many of our competitors have seemingly low prices. But then you realize that the price only includes course content as text. If you want audio and/or video options, you have to pay extra.You wont have to worry about that with DriveSafe Online. All of our online courses have full-screen video with narration and closed captioning. In addition, we use drone video for unique perspectives, interesting animations to highlight important information, and interactive exercises to keep you engaged.You also receive access to practice quizzes and the final exam at no extra charge.And once you pass the final assessment, your course completion certificate is emailed directly to your inbox. No extra fee or waiting days for the mail to arrive.Sign up for an Online Defensive Driving Course TodayWhen you take a DriveSafe Online defensive driving course, you can expect to see the best content at an affordable price.You can also expect to deal with real people to answer your questions. Our customer support is second to none. In fact, our friendly and helpful staff is a big reason why we were named Best Online Defensive Driving Course by Investopedia.Whether you want to take a defensive driving course to satisfy court requirements for a traffic violation, or you want to earn a discount on your car insurance, you can expect the best hassle-free experience with DriveSafe Online.Expect the best and get it with DriveSafe Online.Start your journey to safer driving by selecting the course thats right for your needs.Patrick M. is Editorial Director for the always expanding DriveSafe Online library of courses. With over two decades of experience developing award-winning training, he now focuses on innovating online driver safety training. Pulling from his background in journalism, he steers the wheel behind the creation of top-tier content that promotes a better journeywhether on the digital highway of learning or the real roads we travel every day. At The Wiser Driver Driving School, we often hear the question: Is a defensive driving course worth it? Its a valid concern for many drivers looking to improve their skills and potentially save money on insurance.In this post, well explore the benefits of defensive driving courses and help you decide if investing your time in one is the right choice for you. Well cover everything from insurance discounts to improved road safety awareness, giving you a clear picture of what these courses offer.What Are Defensive Driving Courses?The Core Purpose of Defensive DrivingDefensive driving courses are specialized training programs that enhance a drivers skills and awareness on the road. These courses aim to reduce the risk of accidents and traffic violations. The National Safety Council reports that defensive driving techniques can decrease the likelihood of collisions significantly. In fact, from 2017 to 2018, there was a decline of 1 percent in total deaths from motor vehicle crashes. This statistic highlights the importance of learning these skills for both new and experienced drivers.Types of Courses AvailableDefensive driving courses come in various formats to suit different needs and schedules:Online courses: These offer flexibility, allowing students to learn at their own pace from home.In-person classes: These provide hands-on instruction and immediate feedback from experienced instructors.Specialized courses: Some focus on specific skills (e.g., winter driving or handling emergencies).Comprehensive courses: These offer a broad overview of defensive driving techniques.Who Benefits from Defensive Driving Courses?These courses benefit a wide range of drivers:New drivers: They build essential skills and confidence.Experienced drivers: They refresh their skills and learn about new traffic laws.Drivers over 55: They may qualify for additional insurance discounts (up to 10-15% in some cases).Professional drivers: Delivery personnel or rideshare operators often find these courses valuable for maintaining licenses and improving job performance.The Impact on EmployersEmployers increasingly recognize the value of defensive driving training. According to the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS), motor vehicle crashes cost employers $47.4 billion annually in medical care, legal expenses, and property damage. Companies can potentially reduce these costs and improve overall safety by encouraging employees to take defensive driving courses.Benefits Beyond Insurance DiscountsWhile many drivers take these courses for insurance benefits, the advantages extend far beyond financial savings. Participants often report:Increased confidence behind the wheelBetter understanding of traffic lawsImproved reaction times in hazardous situationsEnhanced ability to anticipate potential dangers on the roadAs we explore the specific benefits of completing a defensive driving course in the next section, youll see how these skills translate into real-world advantages for drivers of all experience levels.Why Take a Defensive Driving Course?Insurance Premium ReductionsOne of the most tangible benefits of completing a defensive driving course is the potential for lower insurance premiums. Insurance companies offer discounts typically between 5 and 20 percent off for drivers who complete an approved course. These savings can amount to hundreds of dollars annually, making the course a smart financial decision.Enhanced Road Safety and Accident PreventionThe primary objective of defensive driving courses is to create safer drivers. Research has found that certain distractions, such as dialing a phone number while driving, can significantly increase the risk of accidents, especially for teen drivers. Learning to anticipate potential hazards and react appropriately protects not only you but also other road users.Point Removal from Driving RecordsIn many states, a defensive driving course can help remove points from your driving record. For instance, Georgia allows drivers to remove up to 7 points from their license every 5 years by taking an approved defensive driving course. This benefit proves invaluable for maintaining a clean driving record and avoiding license suspension.Traffic Law UpdatesTraffic laws and regulations change, and staying informed is essential for safe driving. Defensive driving courses provide a comprehensive refresher on current traffic laws, ensuring you drive according to the latest regulations.Skill Enhancement for All DriversDefensive driving courses benefit drivers of all experience levels. New drivers can build essential skills and confidence, while experienced drivers can refresh their knowledge and learn about new traffic laws. Drivers over 55 may qualify for additional insurance discounts, and professional drivers often find these courses valuable for maintaining licenses and improving job performance.The benefits of taking a defensive driving course extend far beyond the classroom. As we explore what to expect in these courses, youll gain a clearer picture of how this investment in your driving skills can pay off in multiple ways.What Happens in a Defensive Driving Course?Course Content and StructureDefensive driving courses cover a range of essential topics to enhance your skills and safety on the road. The curriculum typically focuses on accident prevention techniques, traffic law updates, and strategies for managing road rage. Youll learn about the dangers of distracted driving, which claimed 3,308 lives in 2022. The course also includes sections on proper vehicle maintenance, the effects of alcohol and drugs on driving, and techniques for navigating adverse weather conditions.Course Duration and FormatsThe length of a defensive driving course varies, but most programs last between 4 to 8 hours. Many schools offer both online and in-person options to suit different schedules and learning preferences. Online courses allow for self-paced learning, while in-person classes provide direct interaction with instructors and fellow students. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that classroom courses can be particularly effective, with participants showing improved knowledge retention and skill application.Interactive Learning and Practical ExercisesEffective defensive driving courses incorporate interactive elements like video analysis, group discussions, and simulated driving scenarios. These engaging methods reinforce learning and make the course more enjoyable. Some programs may include behind-the-wheel practice sessions, giving you hands-on experience in applying defensive driving techniques.Assessment and CertificationMost courses conclude with an assessment to ensure youve grasped the material. This usually takes the form of a written test covering the main course topics. The pass rate for these tests is generally high, with most students successfully completing the course on their first attempt. Upon passing, youll receive a certificate of completion, which you can present to your insurance company for potential discounts or to the court if youre taking the course to satisfy a legal requirement.Choosing the Right CourseWhen selecting a defensive driving course, quality matters. Look for courses that are state-approved and taught by experienced instructors. Consider factors such as course format (online or in-person), duration, and cost. Some schools (like The Wiser Driver Driving School) offer additional benefits such as free online driver education or pick-up/drop-off services, which can enhance your learning experience.Final ThoughtsA defensive driving course proves its worth through potential insurance savings, improved skills, and increased road safety awareness. These courses refresh your knowledge of traffic laws and can remove points from your driving record. The question Is a defensive driving course worth it? often answers itself when you consider the rising costs of accidents and insurance.Your current driving habits, insurance rates, and comfort level behind the wheel should factor into your decision to take a course. New drivers, those with imperfect records, or anyone looking to enhance their skills can find significant value in these programs. The Wiser Driver offers comprehensive defensive driving courses designed for drivers of all ages and experience levels.Dont wait for an accident or traffic violation to motivate you. Take proactive steps to improve your driving skills today. The Wiser Driver can help you invest in a safer future on the road, potentially lower your insurance premiums, and give you peace of mind every time you get behind the wheel. To schedule drives you would login at log you will be using the username and password you provided to us when registering for the class. If you forgot your login info you can reset it by clicking on the forgot username/password link.To schedule a product, you will click on the green Schedule A Drive button or the Calendar link, then you will Select a Product Type to schedule. You will need to schedule 1 observation (preferably before your first or second drive) and 5 drives. If you purchased the Collision Avoidance course or a stick shift lesson please also schedule those for after you will have at least 10 hours of home driving practice. For all other products please contact the office to schedule.If you owe a balance on your account you can pay directly in Schedule Agent. After you have paid in full you can schedule your drives.View the below video for step by step instructions on how to login and schedule your drives and observation on www.ScheduleAgent.com. How Long Does the Defensive Driving Course Take?In todays fast-paced world, taking a defensive driving course can not only improve your safety on the road but also save you money on insurance premiums and fines. But one of the common questions that people have when considering a defensive driving course is, How long does it take? Well, the answer depends on the type of course you choose and the requirements of your state or organization. In this post, well explore the different types of defensive driving courses and the time commitment they involve.Basic Defensive Driving Course:The traditional defensive driving course is typically a one-time class that can last anywhere from 4 to 8 hours. These courses are often offered by local driving schools, community centers, or through online providers. The length of the course can vary based on the states requirements and the specific topics covered. In these classes, students learn about safe driving techniques, defensive driving strategies, and traffic laws. Upon completion, participants may receive a certificate that can be submitted to their insurance company for a discount on premiums or to the traffic court for ticket dismissal.Online Defensive Driving Course:With advancements in technology, many people now opt for online defensive driving courses. These courses offer the flexibility of completing the training at your own pace and convenience. Online defensive driving courses typically range from 4 to 8 hours, depending on the state requirements and the speed of the individuals learning. The advantage of online courses is that you can log in and out as needed, allowing you to complete the training in segments that fit with your schedule.Advanced Defensive Driving Course:For those looking for more in-depth training, there are advanced defensive driving courses that can last anywhere from 8 to 16 hours. These courses are often recommended for individuals who want to enhance their driving skills, as well as for commercial drivers, first responders, and fleet managers. The content of these courses goes beyond basic defensive driving practices and may cover topics such as vehicle dynamics, crash avoidance techniques, and driving in hazardous conditions.Court-Mandated Defensive Driving Course:In some cases, individuals are required by a court to take a defensive driving course due to traffic violations or other driving-related offenses. The duration of court-mandated defensive driving courses can vary based on the severity of the offense and the courts discretion. These courses are designed to educate drivers on the consequences of unsafe driving behavior and to reinstate their driving privileges. The length of these courses can range from a minimum of 4 hours to multiple sessions Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. All teen drivers must complete a driver's ed course as part of their path towards attaining that all-important license. These driving courses are designed to give them a solid understanding of the rules of the road. They're also designed to introduce them to the way a vehicle works so they can be safer behind the wheel. However, there is always room for more education in this area. and teens should consider taking a defensive driving course as well. Why is this such a good idea, and how long is such a course?Benefits of a Defensive Driving Course1. Picking up More SkillsA defensive driving course can help teenagers prepare for the unexpected by introducing them to challenging situations and requiring them to think about what they would do. They will be coached to help them avoid traffic accidents and to recognize potential hazards. Furthermore, they will also learn the difference between good technique and bad so they become a more considerate driver.2. Being a Defensive DriverTo be a first-class driver, you must be able to read the road in front of you and adapt to constantly changing surroundings. You must be aware of other vehicles, what they are doing, and how you can effectively share the road with them.Should hazards appear, it is important to be aware of reaction times and know how long it is going to take to stop the vehicle at any given speed. This is particularly important in bad weather, where fog or slippery conditions could create an even bigger challenge.3. Saving Lives on the RoadAdditional education can always be justified, as confirmed by Professor Ian Newman of the University of Nebraska Lincoln, who conducted extensive research into this matter a few years back. According to the professor, if driver education does well and reduces crashes, injuries, and death, I would assume that a higher level, such as a defensive driving course, could also have an effect. Done well, properly supervised, and with quality teachers.4. Refreshing KnowledgeMany defensive driving courses are designed to help more mature drivers refresh their knowledge and make amends for some traffic infringement. These drivers may have been told to take part in a course like this by a court and will use it as an opportunity to relearn some of the state-specific traffic laws.Even though they may not have an infringement of any kind to their name, it is also a good idea for teen drivers to take part in these kinds of driver education programs. They will undoubtedly learn more and can also refresh the information that they picked up during their original online driver's ed course.How Long Does the Course Last?As each state has its own regulations related to defensive driving courses as part of the court system, most online solutions will last as long as the state requires. Typically, this will be between four and eight hours, but you can take it at your own pace, dipping in and out as needed.Defensive Driving Is a Valuable ResourceThe more help teenagers can get as they drive in the United States, the better. Its sobering, but a car crash was the leading cause of death among the 16- to 19-year-old age group in 2016, as reported by the National Centre for Injury Prevention and Control. Driver education programs like defensive driving can help reduce those deaths and keep the roads safer. At The Wiser Driver Driving School, we often hear the question: Is a defensive driving course worth it? Its a valid concern for many drivers looking to improve their skills and potentially save money on insurance.In this post, well explore the benefits of defensive driving courses and help you decide if investing your time in one is the right choice for you. Well cover everything from insurance discounts to improved road safety awareness, giving you a clear picture of what these courses offer.What Are Defensive Driving Courses?The Core Purpose of Defensive DrivingDefensive driving courses are specialized training programs that enhance a drivers skills and awareness on the road. These courses aim to reduce the risk of accidents and traffic violations. The National Safety Council reports that defensive driving techniques can decrease the likelihood of collisions significantly. In fact, from 2017 to 2018, there was a decline of 1 percent in total deaths from motor vehicle crashes. This statistic highlights the importance of learning these skills for both new and experienced drivers.Types of Courses AvailableDefensive driving courses come in various formats to suit different needs and schedules:Online courses: These offer flexibility, allowing students to learn at their own pace from home.In-person classes: These provide hands-on instruction and immediate feedback from experienced instructors.Specialized courses: Some focus on specific skills (e.g., winter driving or handling emergencies).Comprehensive courses: These offer a broad overview of defensive driving techniques.Who Benefits from Defensive Driving Courses?These courses benefit a wide range of drivers:New drivers: They build essential skills and confidence.Experienced drivers: They refresh their skills and learn about new traffic laws.Drivers over 55: They may qualify for additional insurance discounts (up to 10-15% in some cases).Professional drivers: Delivery personnel or rideshare operators often find these courses valuable for maintaining licenses and improving job performance.The Impact on EmployersEmployers increasingly recognize the value of defensive driving training. According to the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS), motor vehicle crashes cost employers $47.4 billion annually in medical care, legal expenses, and property damage. Companies can potentially reduce these costs and improve overall safety by encouraging employees to take defensive driving courses.Benefits Beyond Insurance DiscountsWhile many drivers take these courses for insurance benefits, the advantages extend far beyond financial savings. Participants often report:Increased confidence behind the wheelBetter understanding of traffic lawsImproved reaction times in hazardous situationsEnhanced ability to anticipate potential dangers on the roadAs we explore the specific benefits of completing a defensive driving course in the next section, youll see how these skills translate into real-world advantages for drivers of all experience levels.Why Take a Defensive Driving Course?Insurance Premium ReductionsOne of the most tangible benefits of completing a defensive driving course is the potential for lower insurance premiums. Insurance companies offer discounts typically between 5 and 20 percent off for drivers who complete an approved course. These savings can amount to hundreds of dollars annually, making the course a smart financial decision.Enhanced Road Safety and Accident PreventionThe primary objective of defensive driving courses is to create safer drivers. Research has found that certain distractions, such as dialing a phone number while driving, can significantly increase the risk of accidents, especially for teen drivers. Learning to anticipate potential hazards and react appropriately protects not only you but also other road users.Point Removal from Driving RecordsIn many states, a defensive driving course can help remove points from your driving record. For instance, Georgia allows drivers to remove up to 7 points from their license every 5 years by taking an approved defensive driving course. This benefit proves invaluable for maintaining a clean driving record and avoiding license suspension.Traffic Law UpdatesTraffic laws and regulations change, and staying informed is essential for safe driving. Defensive driving courses provide a comprehensive refresher on current traffic laws, ensuring you drive according to the latest regulations.Skill Enhancement for All DriversDefensive driving courses benefit drivers of all experience levels. New drivers can build essential skills and confidence, while experienced drivers can refresh their knowledge and learn about new traffic laws. Drivers over 55 may qualify for additional insurance discounts, and professional drivers often find these courses valuable for maintaining licenses and improving job performance.The benefits of taking a defensive driving course extend far beyond the classroom. As we explore what to expect in these courses, youll gain a clearer picture of how this investment in your driving skills can pay off in multiple ways.What Happens in a Defensive Driving Course?Course Content and StructureDefensive driving courses cover a range of essential topics to enhance your skills and safety on the road. The curriculum typically focuses on accident prevention techniques, traffic law updates, and strategies for managing road rage. Youll learn about the dangers of distracted driving, which claimed 3,308 lives in 2022. The course also includes sections on proper vehicle maintenance, the effects of alcohol and drugs on driving, and techniques for navigating adverse weather conditions.Course Duration and FormatsThe length of a defensive driving course varies, but most programs last between 4 to 8 hours. Many schools offer both online and in-person options to suit different schedules and learning preferences. Online courses allow for self-paced learning, while in-person classes provide direct interaction with instructors and fellow students. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that classroom courses can be particularly effective, with participants showing improved knowledge retention and skill application.Interactive Learning and Practical ExercisesEffective defensive driving courses incorporate interactive elements like video analysis, group discussions, and simulated driving scenarios. These engaging methods reinforce learning and make the course more enjoyable. Some programs may include behind-the-wheel practice sessions, giving you hands-on experience in applying defensive driving techniques.Assessment and CertificationMost courses conclude with an assessment to ensure youve grasped the material. This usually takes the form of a written test covering the main course topics. The pass rate for these tests is generally high, with most students successfully completing the course on their first attempt. Upon passing, youll receive a certificate of completion, which you can present to your insurance company for potential discounts or to the court if youre taking the course to satisfy a legal requirement.Choosing the Right CourseWhen selecting a defensive driving course, quality matters. Look for courses that are state-approved and taught by experienced instructors. Consider factors such as course format (online or in-person), duration, and cost. Some schools (like The Wiser Driver Driving School) offer additional benefits such as free online driver education or pick-up/drop-off services, which can enhance your learning experience.Final ThoughtsA defensive driving course proves its worth through potential insurance savings, improved skills, and increased road safety awareness. These courses refresh your knowledge of traffic laws and can remove points from your driving record. The question Is a defensive driving course worth it? often answers itself when you consider the rising costs of accidents and insurance.Your current driving habits, insurance rates, and comfort level behind the wheel should factor into your decision to take a course. New drivers, those with imperfect records, or anyone looking to enhance their skills can find significant value in these programs. The Wiser Driver offers comprehensive defensive driving courses designed for drivers of all ages and experience levels.Dont wait for an accident or traffic violation to motivate you. Take proactive steps to improve your driving skills today. The Wiser Driver can help you invest in a safer future on the road, potentially lower your insurance premiums, and give you peace of mind every time you get behind the wheel. In general, certificates of completion from driver's ed do not expire. Once you've ta