



Here's an Overview of the Program

The Nussbaum Trucking Academy at Heartland Community College prepares you as an entry-level commercial driver. The Academy costs **\$4900** and includes:

- Classroom instruction to prepare for the permit test.
- Skill-building activities in areas including map reading, trip planning, logbooks, and safety.
- Essential Workplace Skills training in communications and customer service.
- Behind-the-wheel training in an automatic or manual transmission semi tractor-trailer.
- The skills and road test at the DMV.

The Class Options

- The daytime program runs from 8:00AM-4:30PM Monday through Friday for about a month.
- The evening program runs from 5:00-9:00PM Monday through Friday for about two months.
- Upcoming start dates can be found at www.heartland.edu/truck.

Check You Meet All the State Requirements

Illinois has very specific requirements for commercial truck drivers. Please confirm each of the following:

_____ I am at least 18 and understand I must be 21 or older to cross a state line with a commercial license.

_____ My Illinois license will still be valid a full year after I start the program. (Renewing early is fine.)

_____ I can read, write, and speak English fluently.

- If English is not your first language, contact Heartland's Adult Education program at **(309) 268-8433** and schedule a free 1-hour assessment. Para información en español: **(309) 268-8266**.
- Based on your results you may enroll in:
 - The truck program as planned, or
 - Free English language classes to prepare you for a *future* truck class.

_____ I have reviewed the full list of CDL (Commercial Driver's License) requirements on the [Illinois Secretary of State website](#).

YOUR GET ROLLING CHECKLIST...



It will take about a month to finish all the required steps. Make the best use of your time by finishing some steps while you are waiting for others to be completed.

_____ Download and complete the Department of Transportation Physical and Drug screen form that authorizes OSF to send the test results directly to Heartland, as required by the state.

- [OSF St. Joseph in Bloomington](#)
- [OSF St. James in Pontiac](#)
- [Carle Bloomington Occupational Medicine](#)

_____ Schedule and complete my DOT (Department of Transportation) physical and drug screen. **(This can take 3 weeks!)**

_____ Call **(309) 268-8448** four days after my DOT Physical and Drug screen to confirm HCC (Heartland Community College) has received my results.

_____ Confirm my Illinois driver's license shows my **current address** and **will be valid for 12 full months after I complete the truck driver training program.** If this is not the case, I'll go get a new one.

_____ Resolve any fines, tickets, or suspensions in Illinois, or another state.

_____ Check I have a "Proof of Legal Presence" document that's approved by the [Illinois Secretary of State](#). If not, I will order one immediately. I understand if I do not bring my Proof of Legal Presence to the DMV for my permit test, **I will not be allowed to take the exam or continue in the program.**

_____ Contact Heartland's Business office at **(309) 268-8140** to confirm I have no outstanding debts owed to the College.

_____ Call Heartland's Adult Education program at **(309) 268-8433** and complete the free 1-hour assessment if English is not my first language. Para información en español: **(309) 268-8266**.

_____ Arrange financial support (see all your options in the next section).

_____ Call **(309) 268-8448** **once everything on this checklist is done.** Then we'll get you scheduled for a 90-minute orientation and registration session.



Let's Review the Fees, Payment Plan, and Supports

Fees - The truck program is **\$4900**. In addition:

- You will pay OSF around \$115 when you go for your required Department of Transportation physical and drug screen.
- You will pay the DMV **\$50** when you take the permit exam.
- Your enrollment fee in the Academy is **non-refundable**, even if you do not complete the program. However, case-by-case decisions will be made in special circumstances that might allow you to finish your training in a future session.

Payment Plan – You can finance your program using a six-month, interest-free payment plan through Nelnet. There is a required down payment of **\$730** and a one-time Nelnet enrollment fee of **\$25**. Please note:

- No credit check is needed, but Nelnet does charge penalties for missed or late payments.
- You are responsible for the full Nelnet balance, even if you do not complete the truck program.
- You need to provide your bank account number or credit/debit card information when you come for your registration appointment in order to set up your Nelnet account. There is a small fee associated if you choose to use a credit/debit card.

Financial Supports – There are funds available that may help you pay program costs. It is important to start your application for financial support **at least one month before your desired class**.

Check each financial support you're able to tap:

_____ I am currently unemployed or am earning less than I need to meet expenses.

- Complete the training support form for your county's workforce office because you may be eligible for full or partial support:
 - McLean County - [Career Link Form](#)
 - Livingston County - [Livingston Workforce Services Form](#)
 - Logan County - [Illinois workNet Center Form](#)

_____ I am interested in finding tuition assistance from an area trucking company.

- Find out the options by reviewing the Truck Company Information in the next section.

_____ I am a veteran.

- Contact the Director of Financial Aid at HCC at **(309) 268-8051** about the Illinois Veterans Grant.

GET ROLLING...



If

you don't qualify for any of the supports above, consider:

- Applying for a Heartland [truck scholarship](#) that covers program costs. Call **(309) 268-8134** if you have questions.
- Getting a student loan through [Sallie Mae](#) or a bank.

[Here Are the Employment Realities](#)

Each trucking company has its own unique requirements and policies. Some even offer tuition assistance! Be sure to review the **Truck Company Information** provided very carefully before enrolling.

While demand for drivers is strong, consider possible challenges to future employment if you:

- Have had a drug, alcohol, or violent crime conviction in the past five to seven years.
- More than one D.U.I. or major moving violations on your driving record.
- Do not have a high school diploma or GED.
 - Heartland Community College offers free GED prep classes. Please call **(309) 268-8180** or email adult.education@heartland.edu to learn about your options.
 - Para información en español: **(309) 268-8266**.

NOTE: The Nussbaum Trucking Academy at Heartland Community College does not guarantee job placement in the transportation industry.

[Living Up to the Academy Expectations](#)

Be sure you understand and are willing to follow all the following, non-negotiable student expectations. You must:

- Behave professionally and respectfully to your instructors and classmates.
- Follow the safety and conduct expectations your instructor will cover with you the first day of class.
- Recognize failure to follow the expectations can result in dismissal without a refund.