



Here's an Overview of the Program

The Nussbaum Trucking Academy at Heartland Community College (NTA@HCC) prepares students for entry-level commercial driving careers. Cost: **\$4,900**. Includes:

Table 1 Overview of Program Cost

- Secretary of State *CDL Study Guide*
- Permit test classroom prep
- Skills training (map reading, trip planning, logbooks, safety)
- Workplace skills (communication & customer service)
- Behind-the-wheel training (automatic or manual semi tractor-trailer)
- DMV skills and road testing

The Class Options

- Day: 8:00 AM–4:30 PM, M–F (≈ 1 month)
- Evening: 5:00–9:00 PM, M–F (≈ 2 months)
- Start dates: [Website Link for NTA@HCC](#)

Truck Driver Training: Fees, Payment Plan & Financial Supports

Program Fees

The total cost of the Truck Driver Training program is **\$4,900**.

Additional required costs include:

- **\$115 (approx.)** to OSF for your DOT physical and drug screen
- **\$50** to the DMV for your permit exam
- Make-up Fee for absences:
 - In Class **\$30/hr.**
 - Behind the wheel **\$120/hr.**

Your Academy enrollment fee is **non-refundable**, even if you do not complete the program. In special circumstances, case-by-case decisions may allow you to finish training in a future session.

Nelnet Payment Plan Option

You may finance your tuition through a **six-month, interest-free payment plan with Nelnet**.

- **\$730 down payment** payable by cash, check, or credit/debit card due at Orientation
- **\$30 one-time Nelnet enrollment fee**
- No credit check required
- Late or missed payments will result in penalties
- You are responsible for the full Nelnet balance, even if you do not complete the program

To enroll in Nelnet, bring your **bank account or credit/debit card information** to your Orientation appointment (credit/debit card payments include a small processing fee).

Financial Support Options

Financial assistance may be available. Apply **at least one month before** your desired start date.



You may qualify if you are unemployed or underemployed. Contact your local workforce office:

- McLean County – [Career Link](#)
- Livingston County – [Livingston Workforce Services](#)
- Logan County – [Illinois workNet Center](#)

Additional options:

- Tuition assistance through local trucking companies
- [Heartland truck scholarship](#) or call (309)-268-8020
- [Workforce Empowerment Initiative](#)
- Private student loan ([Sallie Mae](#) or local bank)

Enrollment Requirements:

To enroll, you must:

- Be **18 years or older** at the start of class (**Note:** *If you turn 21 within one year of receiving your CLP, it will expire with your license (3 months after your 21st birthday); renewal of both will be required.*)
- Hold a valid **Illinois driver's license** with your current address (valid at least one year after program completion)
- Provide **proof of legal presence**
- Resolve any **finances, suspensions, or major violations** in any state
- Clear any outstanding balance with Heartland Community College

DOT Requirements

- Pass a **DOT physical** and **drug screen** prior to finalizing enrollment (completed during the registration process as directed by NTA@HCC staff)
- Failure to pass a drug screen results in a **one-year suspension**

Additional requirements:

- Financial support must be arranged prior to enrollment
- Some students may be required to complete an Adult Education literacy assessment (determined during the application process)
- Attend a required **1-hour orientation** after all steps are complete

Additional Supports

- Free GED preparation classes are available through Heartland Community College. Call (309) 268-8180 or email adult.education@heartland.edu
- Para información en español: (309) 268-8266
- Career Center Open to the public and students Career.center@heartland.edu (309) 268-8034
- Tutoring services for enrolled students

Please note: Completion of this program does not guarantee job placement in the transportation industry.

Your road to a new career starts here. When you're ready, apply online through our website and take the first step toward joining our trucking program. We're excited to help you get behind the wheel and on the road to success!