Who’s eligible to apply for an Alabama driver’s license?
Anyone in a valid nonimmigrant status (F, J, H, TN, and their dependents), a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident can apply for an Alabama driver’s license. Alabama law requires that the applicant must have a U.S. social security number or proof from Social Security that they are not eligible for a Social Security Number (Denial letter).

Do you need a social security number to obtain an Alabama driver’s license?
Yes. BUT, for those individuals who do not have or are not eligible to obtain a U.S. social security number, you should go to the Social Security Administration building and request a proof of denial of the Social Security Number. This letter should state that you are not eligible for a Social Security Number and should be presented along with your immigration documents to the Driver’s License Office. F-1 and J-1 students without a job would have to get a Social Security denial letter in order to get the Driver’s License or State ID. The Social Security Administration building is located at the Federal Building, STE 111, 1118 Greensboro Avenue, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401.
Note: The student number you received from Shelton State for admission purposes or an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) should not be presented to the Driver’s license office as a social security number.

Who’s not eligible to apply for an Alabama driver’s license?
Anyone visiting the U.S. with a B-1/WB or B-2/WT status is not eligible to apply for an Alabama driver’s license. Also, those coming for less than 160 calendar days are ineligible. If these individuals have a need to drive while in the U.S., they should obtain an International Driver’s License in their home country. An International Driver’s License is usually valid for a short period of time (i.e., 30-60 days).

What is an Alabama identification card?
This document is used solely for identification. This card is not valid for driving purposes. The cost of this document is $23.25 in cash or a check payable on an Alabama bank account. The Alabama identification card is issued at the same locations as the driver’s license.

Where do you go to apply for an Alabama driver’s license?
There are several places in Tuscaloosa where most people can apply for an Alabama driver’s license, but due to the complicated nature of immigration documentation Foreign Nationals must go to the following address:

Alabama Department of Transportation
423 Skyland Blvd
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
Tel: 205.247.5419
What are the hours of business for the driver’s license office?
The written and road exams are offered Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

What should you bring when applying for the Alabama driver’s license?
1. Valid Foreign Passport
2. I-94 card
3. Bring one of the following items: DS-2019, I-20, H approval, O approval, or TN/TD approval.
4. Birth certificate (not required but helpful if you have it with you)
5. If dependent of F or H, bring a denial letter from the Social Security office to prove you are not eligible for a number. F-1 or J-1 students without a job also need a Denial Letter. Otherwise you need to bring your Social Security Card.
6. If you are an F-1 or J-1 student, you would need to submit a Letter of Good Standing from the international office.
7. People in Adjustment of Status to Permanent Resident must have an Employment Authorization Document (work permit) to be eligible. The expiration date on the license will be based upon the work authorization.

What is required to obtain an Alabama driver’s license?
You will be required to take a written exam and a road exam.

Should you study for the written exam?
Yes. Driving License manuals are available on the Alabama Department of Public Safety website. Manuals can be read online or printed out at www.dps.state.al.us

What is the cost for an Alabama driver’s license?
The fee for the Alabama driver’s license is $23.25 in cash or a check payable on an Alabama bank.

Getting to the Driver’s License Office
If you do not have an International Driver’s License, you must have a licensed driver take you to one of the driver’s license locations. This licensed driver must be willing to let you use his or her car for the road test. The officer will inspect the car. The car must be fully functional (i.e., working turn signals, horn, etc.) before the officer will let you take the road exam.