

Top 10 Things to Know Before Becoming a Truck Driver

1. High Demand & Strong Earning Potential

Truck driving is in high demand, with Texas jobs projected to grow by 22% by 2030. Median wages in some regions exceed \$22/hour, and experienced, safety-focused drivers are especially valued.

2. CDL Opens the Door

Earning a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) is a major milestone and the first step toward a rewarding career with long-term growth opportunities.

3. Diverse Career Paths

From long-haul to local routes and specialized freight, trucking offers a range of options to match your lifestyle and career goals.

4. Flexible but Demanding Schedules

Early roles may include nights, weekends, or extended travel, but gaining experience leads to greater flexibility and preferred assignments.

5. Professionalism on the Road

Drivers are the face of their companies; courtesy, communication, and a strong work ethic go a long way in building a successful career.

6. Safety is the Top Priority

Daily inspections, alert driving, and adherence to FMCSA regulations keep drivers and the public safe and help avoid costly violations.

7. Technology Enhances the Job

Tools like GPS, electronic logging devices (ELDs), and dispatch apps are standard in modern trucking and boost efficiency and compliance.

8. Time Management is Key

Planning routes, meeting delivery times, and following Hours of Service (HOS) rules require strong organizational skills and discipline.

9. Health and Wellness Matter

Staying active, eating well, and prioritizing sleep help drivers stay sharp and maintain long-term well-being in a demanding role.

10. A Career with Responsibility

Operating a commercial vehicle involves more than driving it's about safety, accountability, and making informed decisions every mile.

Marketable Skills for Resume Building

Hard Skills	Soft Skills
Vehicle inspection	Time management
Vehicle maintenance	Attention to detail
Route planning	Problem solving
Familiar with GPS systems and maps	Patience
Compliance record keeping	Stress management
Electronic logging devices	Communication
Cargo loading and unloading	Adaptable
Defensive driving	Self-motivated
Troubleshooting mechanical problems	Customer service
Familiar with DOT regulations	Physical stamina
Backing and maneuvering in tight spaces	Situational awareness
Tarping and securing loads	
Use of dispatch systems	

Additional Certifications to Consider

- HAZMAT Endorsement: Required for transporting hazardous materials.
- Tanker Endorsement: For operating vehicles that transport liquid cargo.
- Double/Triple Trailer Endorsement: For pulling multiple trailers.
- Passenger Endorsement (*if applicable*): For transporting passengers.
- TWIC Card (*Transportation Worker Identification Credential*): Required for port access.
- First Aid/CPR Certification: Beneficial for emergency situations.
- Forklift Certification (*if loading/unloading is required*): Safe equipment operation.

Employers within 50-mile radius of Victoria, Texas

- [Alamo Concrete](#) (Class A&B)
- [Allan's Wrecker Service](#) (Class A&B)
- [City of Victoria](#) (Class B)
- [Clark Construction](#) (Class A&B)
- [Clegg Industries](#) (Class A&B)
- [ConocoPhillips](#) (Class A&B)
- [Countryside Electric LLC](#) (Class B)
- [Del Papa Distributing Company](#) (Class A)
- [Devon Energy](#) (Class A)
- [DOW Chemical](#) (Class A&B)
- [East End Lumber Co.](#) (Class A)
- [El Clavo Lumber](#) (Class A)
- [Express Employment Professionals](#) (Class A&B)
- [Food Bank of the Golden Crescent](#) (Class B)
- [Formosa Plastics](#) (Class A & B)
- [Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission](#) (Class B)
- [Halliburton](#) (Class A)
- [HEB](#) (Class A & B)
- [Holt Cat](#) (Class A & B)
- [Home Depot](#) (Class A & B)
- [Home Outlet](#) (Class B)
- [Klean Corp International](#) (Class B)
- [Linde Welding Gas & Equipment](#) (Class B)
- [Lowe's Home Improvement](#) (Class A&B)
- [LyondellBasell](#) (Class A&B)
- [Marrs Lumber](#) (Class A)
- [Melton Truck Lines](#) (Class A)
- [Performance Food Group](#) (Class A&B)
- [Regional Steel](#) (Class A&B)
- [Rexel](#) (Class A)
- [Sam's Club](#) (Class A&B)
- [Schneider](#) (Class A&B)
- [Seadrift Coke](#) (Class A&B)
- [Service Supply](#) (Class A&B)
- [Simplot](#) (Class A&B)
- [Southern Tire Mart](#) (Class A&B)
- [South Texas Electric Co-op](#)
- [South Tech Supply](#) (Class A)
- [Texas Department of Transportation](#) (Class A&B)
- [Victoria Builder Supply](#) (Class A&B)
- [Victoria Electric Cooperative](#) (Class A&B)
- [Victoria Freightliner](#) (Class A&B)

- [Horizontal Wireline Services](#) (Class A)
- [Ineos – Green Lake](#) (Class A&B)
- [Inteplast](#) (Class A&B)
- [INVISTA](#) (Class A&B)
- [Kinder Morgan](#) (Class A)
- [Victoria Independent School District](#) (Class B)
- [Waste Management](#) (Class A&B)
- [Werner](#) (Class A)
- [White Trash Services](#) (Class B)
- [Zarsky Lumber](#) (Class A&B)

Employers outside 50-mile radius of Victoria, Texas

- [BASF](#)
- [Bumper to Bumper](#)
- [Calpine](#)
- [Celanese](#)
- [City of Austin – Water](#)
- [Cheniere](#)
- [Chevron](#)
- [Citgo](#)
- [Encana](#)
- [Enterprise Products Partners L.P.](#)
- [EOG Resources](#)
- [ExxonMobil](#)
- [Flint Hills Resources](#)
- [Gulf Coast Growth Ventures](#)
- [Huntsman Corporation](#)
- [Marathon Oil](#)
- [NRG](#)
- [OxyChem](#)
- [Phillips 66](#)
- [Shell](#)
- [Texas Instruments](#)
- [Valero](#)

Job Titles to Look For (Class A CDL)

- Over-the-Road (OTR) Truck Driver
- Regional Truck Driver
- Local Delivery Driver
- Flatbed Truck Driver
- Tanker Truck Driver
- Hazmat Truck Driver
- Refrigerated Truck Driver
- Yard Jockey
- Logging Truck Driver
- Fuel Tanker Driver
- Dispatcher
- Logistics Coordinator
- Small Business Owner
- Livestock Hauler
- Dump Truck Driver
- Cement Mixer Driver
- Container/Port Driver
- Line Haul Driver
- Auto Hauler
- Dedicated Route Hauler
- Oil Field Truck Driver
- Heavy Equipment Hauler
- Moving Company Driver
- Fleet Manager
- CDL Instructor

Job Titles to Look For (Class B CDL)

- Delivery Truck Driver
- School Bus Driver
- Public Transit Driver
- Cement Mixer Driver
- Garbage Truck Driver
- Tow Truck Operator
- Box Truck Driver
- Utility Truck Driver
- Septic Truck Driver
- Water Truck Driver
- Armored Truck Driver
- Maintenance Vehicle Driver
- Mail Truck Delivery Driver
- Propane Delivery driver
- Refrigerated Box Truck Driver
- CDL Instructor

Career Readiness Projects within the Program

- Employer Classroom Visits
- Spring: Career Fair

Sample Resume

- [Resume Sample Template](#)

Additional Helpful Links

- Join Victoria College Career Services on LinkedIn
- [WorkInTexas.com](#)
- [Victoria College Career Services Webpage](#)