

Academy of Motorcycle Operation

Today's Training for Tomorrow's Ride



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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COURSE INFO

Why should I take an AMO riding course?

AMO uses multiple courses designed to give you knowledge, skills, techniques, and strategies for riding safely; more riding enjoyment; and a desire to become a lifelong learner. These courses help you to learn and improve your riding and mental skills while keeping a good perspective (self-awareness) of yourself as a rider.

BASICS¹: The California Motorcyclist Safety Program Motorcyclist Training Course (MTC) is designed for the novice rider with no (or limited) street-riding experience. This course includes both classroom and on-cycle instruction. You will learn fundamental skills required to operate the motorcycle and progress to street riding skills and strategies. This course offers a DL 389 certificate waiving the DMV bike test.

BEYOND THE BASICS: More Riding (4 hrs. more MTC practice on our bikes), Rider Clinic (builds on and refines your skills while helping you to learn about your bike's capabilities and limitations), Intermediate Rider Clinic &/or MSF Advanced RiderCourse (more advanced skills on your bike) and Can-Am Spyder (learning how to ride a Spyder on the roadways).

So, from this list, you can see at AMO we surely do not believe the MTC is a "one-time" training shot for your safe riding. Neither does the CHP when you consider the training and continuous training they get.²

What are the minimum requirements for taking an AMO riding course?

MTC: A person should be able to balance/ride a bicycle.

More Riding: Completion of a basic riding course, rider returning after long period of not riding, rider who has never taken a basic course.

Other Courses: An M1 license, own motorcycle, and insurance.

Can-Am Spyder: Ability to handle the vehicle. While CA law permits road usage of a Spyder with a regular Class C driver's license, licensing is NOT a requirement to take this course.

¹ **While the CA DMV accepts the MTC for licensing, AMO strongly recommends that you regularly take additional courses to build more skill and to practice under professional coaching to improve your riding safety.**

² <http://lawofficer.com/archive/traditions-of-the-chp-motorcycle-officer/>

When are courses offered?

We offer classes on the weekend and select weekdays. Our website (AMOSOCAL.COM) will direct you to the schedule and enrollment pages.

MTC: Choose either a 2-day or 3-day schedule. It's the SAME course of about 15 hours training - - 6 hours classroom instruction on motorcycle safety and 9 hours riding exercises and skills development. You must stay in the order the course sessions are scheduled. You cannot swap weekends or "cross schedules."

Other Courses: Schedules vary but are usually done in one day, 4-8 hrs. depending on the course.

How much is the course?

You register and pay online for all AMO courses. Once on the schedule, select your class, self-enroll, then your seat is reserved only with payment (credit card or debit card). An emailed confirmation is sent moments after payment. If you don't have online access or use a credit or debit card, contact us at info@amosocal.com.

MTC: The course fees are \$258 for persons 21 years of age, and \$180 for those under 21 years old.

Other Courses: Fees vary depending on the course and length of professional coaching offered in the course.

Why can't I get a refund?

The NO REFUND policy is to ensure that scheduled classes can occur as planned for all riders' benefit. Resources, facilities, Instructors, and other services must be in place for each class and require weeks ahead in planning, reservations and prior expenditures.

You must ensure you are able to attend the full set of dates and times when you register for a class. Don't enroll until you can.

What do I need to enroll in an AMO riding course?

Any individual, 15.5 years of age or older, who wishes to participate in a course must have a valid **Government-issued photo ID**. Any state, federal or other country's ID is acceptable (DMVs, state schools, Passports etc.). Any person younger than 18 years must also have the written permission of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian (email AMO for a form to obtain a notarized affidavit—info@amosocal.com).

If I'm under 21 years old, do I have to take the MTC course?

Yes. CA law requires any person under 21 must complete the MTC before receiving a motorcycle instruction permit. The DMV then requires that person to hold the permit for six months or to their 21st birthday (whichever comes first), before being issued an M1 motorcycle license endorsement. To learn more, click on this link to the DMV "[How to apply for a motorcycle or moped driver license if you are under 18.](#)"

If I am over 21, do I need a permit to take any AMO riding course?

No. You can take the MTC, More Riding, and Can-Am Spyder with a valid Government-issued photo ID. Other AMO courses require a license. To learn more, click on this link to the ["How to apply for a motorcycle or moped driver license if you are over 18."](#)

Why should I read the Student Agreement (terms and conditions) and applicable Course Waiver and Indemnification Form before enrolling?

The Student Agreement (terms and conditions) and applicable Course Waiver and Indemnification Form have important information you must know before enrolling.

After reading our information for you, if you have any questions, please contact us at info@amosocal.com, and we will be glad to help you out.

Why don't you list a phone number to call before we enroll?

AMO receives over 800 inquiries monthly and has found the FAQs get answers to riders faster and more reliable than playing phone tag. Riders can also refer back to the FAQs since there is much to know before during and after enrollment. If riders read the material and still have unanswered questions, we are available via our email (which is quick and more efficient than playing phone tag) at info@amosocal.com.

COURSE DAY

Can I reschedule a class?

NO RESCHEDULING WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS OF CLASS

Rescheduling is not permitted within five (5) days of your class start date. If you are unable to make the class as scheduled for which you enrolled, you will forfeit your seat and fee.

You must ensure you are able to attend the full set of dates and times when you register for a class. Don't enroll until you can.

RESCHEDULING POLICY BEYOND FIVE (5) DAYS OF THE CLASS

Up to five (5) days before your class start date you may request to be rescheduled to an available seat on another class start date currently scheduled by the AMO. The reschedule fee is \$25 and must be paid prior to receiving confirmation to the new date.

You must ensure you are able to attend the full set of dates and times when you register for a class. Don't enroll until you can.

When can I make-up sessions and finish the course?

If for any reason you are late, fail to show, do not attend, or do not complete a session, you will forfeit your seat and fee for the entire course.

You must ensure you are able to attend the full set of dates and times when you register for a class. Don't enroll until you can.

Where do I go for the classroom and riding lessons?

Only the MTC, Intermediate Rider Clinic, MSF Advanced RiderCourse and Can-Am Spyder courses begin in the classroom at the [Pasadena Business Park](#). All riding lessons are at one of AMO's riding ranges, either Altadena Elementary School, John Muir High School, or Glendale Civic Auditorium. AMO locations can be found on our website [LOCATIONS](#) page.

What motorcycles do you use, and what if I want to ride a scooter?

MTC: AMO uses small training bikes (Kawasaki Eliminator 125) to help riders focus more easily on learning techniques when riding. The course is designed for motorcyclists, and AMO provides the best conditions to learn to use the friction zone (throttle/clutch coordination). If one never intends to ride a motorcycle, AMO may offer a scooter at selected sites, provided the rider requests it at the time of enrollment. If a rider wants to use their own scooter, they must contact us (info@amsocal.com) at the time of enrollment to ensure their scooter meets the CHP guidelines: one must ride their scooter and not tow or truck it in, one must have an appropriate permit to ride, one must provide a copy of adequate insurance to ensure proper coverage during the riding exercises and to assume responsibility for incidents, and complete a pre-ride inspection (TCLOCS).

More Riding & Can-Am Spyder: AMO provides the vehicle in these courses.

Rider Clinic, Intermediate Rider Clinic & MSF Advanced RiderCourse: Course requires your own street legal (no modified exhaust) motorcycle.

Do I need a helmet?

Full-faced helmets with eye protection are required for all AMO courses. AMO does provide helmets in normal sizes. If you have an exceptional sizing need (greater than 3x), you should use your own DOT approved full-faced helmet. Personal helmets are subject to inspection for compliance and serviceability.

Do I need gloves?

Yes. We provide full leathered gloves if you do not have them.

Do I need boots?

Yes, and they MUST BE sturdy boots that cover the ankle bone with heels not higher than 2"1. Boots can be hiking, working, military, or motorcycle styled. NOTE: fabric or other lighter material do not provide support and are NOT acceptable.

What attire do I wear?

You must wear long pants (no holes, cutouts, sweats, or tights), and a long-sleeved shirt or jacket.

What if it rains?

We conduct training during wet conditions, so riders are encouraged to wear proper riding rain gear. AMO may offer ponchos for a small price if you need one.

What do I need to do to prepare for the classroom sessions?

READ the CMSP Motorcyclist Training Course Student Handbook. We are finding that riders who do not read the material significantly increase their chances of failing the written test. Excellent content is there to help you learn what you do not want to learn the hard way, by experiencing these issues while riding.

What does it mean to be counseled out?

If you pose a safety hazard to yourself and/or others, you will be counseled out. All courses quickly become more challenging and require your having a good grasp of the early techniques to help ensure your safety when riding the more challenging exercises. If one demonstrates they may harm themselves or others, we counsel such riders out for everyone's benefit and safety. We discuss your challenges and may give you some "homework" if you desire to return—we do not reschedule you but permit you to return on standby (space available) basis.

What if I am not comfortable with continuing in the course?

At any time, if you are not comfortable with your progress or feel unsafe or uneasy with your skills, you can opt to return on another day at no charge. We discuss your challenges and may give you some "homework" before you return—we do not reschedule you but permit you to return on standby (space available) basis.

What if I just can't seem to learn how to ride?

If it comes out that riding is not for you, we hope that you appreciate the value of learning this about yourself while being in a safe and professional environment rather than learning by trial and error on the roads and highways.

COURSE COMPLETION & TESTING

Do You guarantee completion or passage of a course?

MTC: We do not guarantee completion or passage of the MTC. The CHP & DMV require you to pass a knowledge and skills evaluation to complete the course. You may retake either test twice, but not on the same day. A \$25 retesting fee may be charged to your card of enrollment to reserve a seat for either retest. If you fail either test twice, you failed the course and CHP requires you to retake the whole course, including paying the fee, before a certificate of completion can be given.

Other Courses: Non-MTC courses are not "pass or fail." They are intended to develop your riding skills each time you take the same or progressive course. We are confident that you will learn new techniques, refine your current skills, learn more about your bike and you as one, and other beneficial results with each course you take.

What if I don't pass a test?

MTC: Under the new CHP MTC course, the passing rate is about 80% that was once over 95% under the previous course. The MTC is more challenging and requires more skill to progress. This should transfer to safer riding that you will appreciate should you decide to ride on the road. If you do not complete it the first time, we will discuss your challenges and options before returning.

But I thought you were supposed to teach us how to ride!

MTC: The MTC is a safety course. It is intended to help potential riders learn how to ride safely *on the road*, which includes learning that maybe one needs more time to learn to ride before venturing out on the road. Motorcycling is very challenging and requires satisfactory progression in riding skills. For course progress, you must demonstrate physical coordination, balance, stamina, mental alertness, and the ability to understand and follow directions clearly, and all at the same time. All of these are absolute requirements for your safety on a motorcycle, whether in training or on the roadways. Consequently, if you do not finish or pass the course, we surely hope that you come to appreciate the value of learning this about yourself while being in a safe and professional environment rather than by trial and error on the roads and highway. If you still decide you want to ride, contact us at the info@amosocal.com so we can discuss your decision and next steps.

Is there a time limit on finishing the course?

The CHP requires that you retest within 60 days of the original failed test date. Knowledge and riding skills can erode, AMO gives you six months from the date of your first attendance to complete the course, some delays may require that you retake some of the classroom and/or riding portions you already completed.

What do I get if I pass?

MTC: You will receive (via mail within 10 days) a CA DMV Form DL-389, *Certificate of Completion of Motorcycle Training*, which waives the on-motorcycle test at the DMV.

All Courses: You will also receive a course Completion Card, which may 1) provide discounts on insurance, 2) 10%-15% discounts from some aftermarket retail businesses for motorcycle gear, parts and accessories, and other motorcycle related purchases; and 3) may provide other incentives from some motorcycle manufacturers through the dealer network. We also have special arrangements with local dealers to offer you cash-back offers or discounts if you purchase a motorcycle within 30 days of completing the course. So be sure to check out [AMO's Special Resources](#).

NEXT STEPS

When do I get my Certificate of Completion of Motorcycle Training (DL 389)?

MTC: The certificates are mailed out to arrive within 10 days after you successfully complete the training. It is important that you address your envelope in class correctly, so the U S Postal Service can deliver your envelope holding the DL 389 and prevent delays in its arrival. The DL 389 is valid for one year of course completion before it expires. Do not mail the certificate to the DMV.

Other Courses: Most of the other courses offer a completion card that may be used to obtain insurance discounts on your premiums depending on the company.

Do you help me prepare for the DMV written test?

AMO provides a DMV Motorcycle Handbook in the confirmation email to help prepare you ([California Motorcycle Handbook](#)). Sample tests may be available on the internet. We also suggest you prepare for partial written tests for any other endorsements you hold by the CA DMV.

Is it true that insurance companies discount premiums for completing an AMO course?

Many insurance companies offer premium discounts to basic course graduates, with some companies offering progressive discounts for multiple courses. These can range from 5% to as much as 20%, depending on the insurance company. In some cases, the savings can be as much as course tuition itself. When you couple this with some of the other reimbursements mentioned above, it may be possible for riders to not only take an AMO course at (essentially) no cost, but to put a few dollars back in their pockets as well.

We recommend exploring [Reviews.com](#) that reviews many companies and provides a list for you to consider.

Talk about Instructors' qualifications to train riders?

- All AMO Instructors are certified by Total Control Training, Inc. owned and operated by Lee Parks.
- AMO's Mentor Instructors are also certified by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.
- Many AMO Instructors also hold advanced riding course certifications.
- All AMO Instructors have successfully completed a 60-hour intensive training program, and an additional 24 hours of professional training on advanced motorcycle instructor techniques.
- All AMO Instructors attend yearly professional development and riding courses.
- All AMO Instructors are CPR and Basic First Aid certified.
- All AMO Instructors currently ride and have many years/miles of riding experience.
- All AMO Instructors truly enjoy coaching and want to see riders learn to be safer, more skilled motorcyclists.

How do I keep my skills sharp or learn more about riding?

AMO is committed to helping you learn more and stay sharp on the road. We offer:

- *More practice* courses (as the MTC you use our equipment),
- [Total Control Intermediate Clinic](#) to take your skills to the next level.
- The [MSF Advanced RiderCourse](#) (ARC) (civilian version that has saved many lives among military riders worldwide) that provides special skills on cornering, braking, and more on traction management while cornering.
- We hope to soon offer the Lee Parks courses (DoD Tier 3 courses) sometime

around the summer—just in time for the ride! Contact us at <mailto:INFO@AMOSOCAL.COM>.

What's the best way to contact someone at AMO?

We wish we could answer every phone call, but AMO receives over 800 inquiries monthly. So first use this FAQ page and its linked resources. If you don't find your answer, contact us at <mailto:INFO@AMOSOCAL.COM>.