



AORSI Instructor Guide

Course Title: Core Off-Road Driving Skills (DRV)

Duration: 10 Hours (field intensive)

Audience: Off-road operators, new drivers, and instructors

Course Overview

A skill-building course covering core driving techniques in varied terrain and conditions, from throttle control to navigating obstacles. This course emphasizes hands-on practice, enabling participants to build confidence and competence in real-world off-road scenarios.

Learning Objectives (Instructor Notes)

- Apply safe driving techniques on slopes, rocks, mud, and water. (Tip: Demonstrate on training field).
- Manage momentum, braking, and throttle inputs effectively. (Tip: Use cone courses and braking drills).
- Engage and disengage differential locks and traction aids. (Tip: Provide live demonstrations).
- Demonstrate vehicle control in low-visibility and night operations. (Tip: Conduct night practice drills).

Module 1: Core Driving Principles (Throttle, Braking, Steering) (2.5 hours)

- Teach throttle, braking, steering fundamentals, gear ranges.
- Course Design Suggestion: Practice with cones/obstacles for precision steering.
- Exercise: Braking test on gravel vs dirt.
- Reflection: Why is smooth throttle better than aggressive acceleration?

Module 2: Terrain-Specific Techniques (Sand, Mud, Rocks, Snow, Water) (2.5 hours)

- Teach strategies for sand, mud, rocks, snow, and water crossings.
- Course Design Suggestion: Terrain rotation stations supervised by instructors.
- Exercise: Create terrain comparison chart with techniques.
- Reflection: Why adjust tire pressure for certain terrains?

Module 3: Using Vehicle Features: 4WD, Lockers, Hill Assist (2.5 hours)

- Teach use of 4WD, lockers, traction control, hill assist.
- Course Design Suggestion: Workshop engaging/disengaging features safely.
- Exercise: List 3 scenarios where lockers are essential vs risky.
- Reflection: How does proper use of aids reduce strain and improve safety?

Module 4: Advanced Challenges & Practice Drills (2.5 hours)

- Simulate real-world challenges combining multiple skills.
- Course Design Suggestion: Obstacle course requiring spotting, throttle control, communication.
- Exercise: Develop progressive practice plan with increasing difficulty.
- Reflection: Why is progressive training effective for skill growth?

Final Assessment

Task: Complete skills evaluation on an off-road course demonstrating throttle/brake control, terrain-specific techniques, use of vehicle features, and advanced drills. Complete written test:

- Why is smooth throttle control critical in off-road driving?
- What are two strategies for safely crossing deep mud?
- When should differential lockers be engaged vs avoided?
- How can drivers adapt techniques for night conditions?
- Why is progressive skill training important in off-road practice?

Instructor Preparation Checklist

- Set up training field with cones, obstacles, and terrain stations.
- Provide vehicles equipped with 4WD, lockers, and hill assist.
- Prepare recovery gear for mud/water scenarios.
- Plan a night driving drill for low-visibility practice.

Suggested Timing

- Introduction – 15 min
- Module 1 – 150 min
- Module 2 – 150 min
- Module 3 – 150 min
- Module 4 – 150 min
- Final Assessment – 45 min
- Wrap-up & Questions – 20 min