Living with a disability might mean you approach everyday tasks differently, but it doesn’t need to limit your mobility. At Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital, part of Northwestern Medicine, the Driver Rehabilitation Program offers comprehensive evaluation and training to help people with disabilities learn (or relearn) how to drive.

The Marianjoy Driver Rehabilitation Program includes a highly specialized low-vision option for both new and experienced drivers. Marianjoy Driver Rehabilitation staff are all occupational therapists and certified driver rehabilitation specialists who are also driving instructors certified by the state of Illinois. Working with specialists in low vision, we evaluate and train individuals who cannot meet Illinois state driving requirements while using conventional corrective lenses. The program’s goal is to prepare people to be safe and functional drivers. (Participation in the program does not guarantee licensure.)

To participate in the program, you must:

- Be at least 15 years old
- Have a low-vision examination by a low-vision specialist (an optometrist or physician)
- Have a referral from a vision specialist (optometrist or physician)
- Have a learner’s permit for behind-the-wheel training (not required for evaluation)
- If applicable, have authorization from a third-party payer (the school system, Department of Rehabilitation Services, or workers compensation insurance provider).

Education and training include such areas as:

- Driver education for new drivers
- Defensive driving skills
- Use of visual aids, including a bioptic telescope
- Compensatory strategies
- Preparation for state environmental screening and the road test

continued
Illinois driving vision requirements:

**Acuity (in at least one eye):**
- Full driving privileges: 20/40
- Daylight-only driving: 20/70
- Driving with a bioptic telescope: 20/100

**Peripheral vision:**
- Monocular: 105 degrees
- Binocular: 140 degrees

You might be eligible to receive funding assistance through the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Rehabilitation Services. To inquire about eligibility and determine which office serves your area, visit dhs.state.il.us or call 877.581.3690.

To participate in this program, you need a physician’s order for OT Driving Evaluation and Treatment.

To schedule an appointment, please call 630.909.6080, Option 4 (TTY: 711).