Ohio State’s Rehabilitation Services -
Driving Evaluation Program

We know that the barriers to independence created by a disabling injury or illness can affect an individual’s quality of life. For many people, young and old, driving is one of the most important aspects of daily living. Ohio State’s Driving Evaluation and Rehabilitation Program, with its customized approach to driving has restored mobility to many individuals with neurological, orthopaedic or developmental conditions, or for those who have experienced age-related changes in function.

Our program can evaluate a client’s driving ability or driving potential, and in some cases enable the person to return to safe, independent driving following a significant medical life event.

Our goal is to help people with disabilities identify their strengths and deficits in regard to the safe operation of a motor vehicle, and to provide compensatory or remedative suggestions and strategies to maximize the client’s potential for a return to driving.

Rehabilitation Evaluation Process
A clinical assessment is administered by a licensed occupational therapist, who gathers information related to the client’s current physical status (mobility and strength), cognitive skills (memory, problem solving and reaction time) and vision (color and depth perception).

An on-the-road assessment is administered by a certified driving specialist, who will evaluate skills in safely and effectively operating a motor vehicle.

The final decision to permit or disallow driving is ultimately made by the referring physician. Our program specialists only provide professional recommendations based on the skills tested during the clinical and on-the-road assessments.

Program Qualifications and Staff Expertise
- Licensed by the State of Ohio as a commercial drivers’ training school
- Certification in Driving Instruction for Commercial Driving School
- National Certification in Driving rehabilitation specialist
- Licensed and registered occupational therapist

Specialized Services
- Adapted Car—equipped with hand controls, left foot accelerator pedal, spinner knob and turn signal.
- High tech evaluation and training van—equipped with no-effort steering system, electronic gas and brake system, touch pad static secondary control and voice scan in-motion control.

Types of Referrals
Referrals include but are not limited to:
- Clinical and on-the-road evaluations for cerebral vascular accident, traumatic and non-traumatic brain injury, intellectual and developmental disability, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy and other conditions.
- Older drivers with early onset dementia, Alzheimer’s disease or Parkinson’s disease.
- Vehicle consultation for transport or vans.
- Driving instruction for use of hand controls and adaptive equipment.
- Advanced driving instruction for use of high-tech equipment.
- Functional driving evaluation, which is behind-the-wheel only.

For questions or consultation, please contact:

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