

Identification While in the United States

Section 264(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 USC 1304(e)], a provision that has been “on the books” for decades, requires every alien 18 years of age and over to “at all times carry with him and have in his personal possession” the “certificate of alien registration or alien registration receipt card” issued to him or her by DHS. The registration document is usually Form I-94 for nonimmigrants, or Form I-551 “greencard” for lawful permanent residents.

You may decide that carrying a photocopy of your documents on a regular basis or photos of your documents available on your phone is more practical. In addition, you may find it helpful to have a Maryland State Identification Card to verify your identity and that you were federally compliant at the time of the issuance of the identification card. Maryland State Identification Cards are issued by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration.

What should I do before going to the Motor Vehicle Administration?

To begin the processes for an Identification Card, you will need to submit an electronic SAVE Verification Request Form online. The S.A.V.E. Verification Request Form can be found at <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/save.htm>. Once you have submitted the form, a MVA representative will contact you with the verification results and information to continue the process. If you experience any difficulties with the form, or do not receive a response within five (5) business days, please send an e-mail to sdecal@marylandmva.com. Since it can take a few days to process this form, please do this plenty in advance of your MVA trip.

In addition to completing the SAVE Verification process, you will need to bring documents that prove your age/identity and also your residency in the state of Maryland.

What documents are acceptable to prove my age/identity?

Age and identity (all)

- Unexpired Foreign Passport, and
- Current Form I-20, and
- Print out of the electronic I-94.

Proof of Social Security Number choices (one)

- Original Social Security Card
- W-2 statement with Social Security Number issued within a year
- Denial letter from the Social Security Administration (Please see the attachment on obtaining an SSN if you have not yet applied and been denied).

What documents are acceptable to prove my residency?

Proof of residency (two, but you should bring as many as you have)

- Utility, telephone, or cable/satellite TV bill.
- Checking or savings account statement, showing transactions. (A print out of an online statement seems to be acceptable.)
- First class or priority mail from a federal, state or local government agency to include the contents and envelope, excluding mail from the MVA. [The mailing from the Social Security Administration with your Social Security card, a fulfilled order for stamps through the U.S. Post Office, letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), etc.]
- Copy of federal or MD income tax filing not more than 18 months old, with proof of filing. (You will need to contact the IRS or Comptroller's Office of the State of Maryland for a copy of your filing mailed to you.)
- Residential rental contract (For those living off-campus, an apartment lease or housing contract with address; not available to those living on campus.)
- Major credit card and/or department store/retail credit card bills. (Target, Sears, Lowe's Exxon, etc.)
- For additional items, you can visit the MVA web site.

In addition, you should request a letter from the Office of Residential Life confirming that you live on campus. (This is sometimes required as you are indicating that you live at a business.)

Where do I go?

You may go to an MVA Express Location. The closest one to campus is at:

North Plaza Shopping Center
8966 Waltham Woods Road
Parkville, Maryland 21234

When are they open?

Their hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday.

How long does it take?

Go into the line on the right to check in; you will not be able to use the kiosk. For estimated wait times, visit <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/locations/location.htm?id=loch-raven-parkville>.

