

Citizenship and FAFSA



When you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, you'll be asked "Are you a U.S. citizen?"

Your response affects your eligibility for aid, so be sure to answer accurately.

SELECT "U.S. Citizen" if you were born in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands.

U.S. citizens are eligible for federal student aid.

SELECT "Eligible Noncitizen" if you are one of the following:

- A U.S. permanent resident, with a Permanent Resident Card (I-551), or a conditional permanent resident with a Conditional Green Card (I-551C)
- Other eligible noncitizen with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the Department of Homeland Security showing any one of the following designations: "Refugee," "Asylum Granted," "Parolee" (I-94 confirms that you were paroled for a minimum of one year and status has not expired), T-Visa holder (T-1, T-2, T-3, etc.), or "Cuban-Haitian Entrant"
- The holder of a valid certification or eligibility letter from the Department of Health and Human Services showing a designation of "Victim of human trafficking"
- A resident of the Republic of Palau (PW), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (MH), or the Federated States of Micronesia (FM)
- A Canadian-born Native American under terms of the Jay Treaty

Eligible noncitizens can receive federal student aid. Make sure to include your eight- or nine-digit Alien Registration Number (ARN) on the FAFSA.

SELECT "Neither Citizen nor Eligible Noncitizen" if you are in the U.S. and have:

- Been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
- A F1 or F2 student visa, J1 or J2 exchange visitor visa, or a G series visa

If you are neither a citizen nor an eligible noncitizen, you are not eligible for federal student aid. If you have a Social Security Number but are not a citizen or an eligible noncitizen, including if you have been granted DACA, **you should still complete the FAFSA because you may be eligible for state or college aid.** You should check with your college's financial aid office to see what kind of financial aid you may be eligible to receive.

Source, as of February 2018: fafsa.ed.gov/fotw1718/help/fotw14a.htm

Visit www.FAFSAfirst.org for more information

