Eligibility for Federal Student Aid

Most students are eligible to receive financial aid from the federal government to help pay for college or career school. Your age, race, or field of study won’t affect your eligibility for federal student aid. While your income is taken into consideration, it doesn’t automatically prevent you from getting federal student aid.

To receive federal student aid, you’ll need to...

1. Qualify

   To pursue a college or career school education, either by having a high school diploma or equivalent, or by completing a high school education in a home-schooled setting approved under state law.

2. Be enrolled

   or accepted for enrollment as a regular student in an eligible degree or certificate program.

3. Have a valid Social Security number

   unless you are from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau.

   In addition, you must...

   Be a U.S. CITIZEN or U.S. NATIONAL

   You’re a U.S. citizen if you were born in the United States or certain U.S. territories, if you were born abroad to parents who are U.S. citizens, or if you have obtained citizenship status through naturalization. If you were born in American Samoa or Guam, then you’re a U.S. national.

   OR

   Have a GREEN CARD

   You’re eligible if you have a Form I-551, I-151, or I-551C, also known as a green card, issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

   OR

   Have an ARRIVAL-DEPARTURE RECORD

   Your Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services must show one of the following:

   • Refugee
   • Asylum Granted
   • Cuban-Haitian Entrant (Status Pending)
   • Conditional Entrant (valid only if issued before April 1, 1980)
   • Parolee

   OR

   Have BATTERED IMMIGRANT STATUS

   You’re designated as a “battered immigrant-qualified alien” if you are a victim of abuse by your citizen or permanent resident spouse, or you’re the child of a person designated as such under the Violence Against Women Act.

   OR

   Have a T-VISA

   You’re eligible if you have a T visa or a parent with a T-1 visa.

4. Sign

   certifying statements on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form stating that

   • you’re not in default on a federal student loan and do not owe a refund on a federal grant.
   • you will use federal student aid only for educational purposes.

5. Maintain

   satisfactory academic progress in college or career school.

Start filling out the FAFSA® form at fafsa.gov.

The U.S. Department of Education authorizes Federal Student Aid programs, including loans, grants, and work-study. To learn more about Federal Student Aid, visit StudentAid.gov. September 2021