

# Eligibility for Federal Student Aid

Most students are eligible to receive financial aid from the federal government to help pay for college, career school, or trade school. While your income is taken into consideration, it isn't the only thing your school considers when offering federal student aid.

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



## 1. Qualify

to obtain a college, career school, or trade school education, either by having a high school diploma or equivalent, by completing a high school education in a homeschool setting approved under state law, or by meeting the criteria for an **ability-to-benefit** alternative.

## 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 are 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 Swains Island, then you are a U.S. national.

OR



### Have a GREEN CARD

You are eligible if you have a Form I-551 or I-151, also known as a "green card," showing you are a lawful permanent resident of the U.S.

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
- Asylee
- Conditional Resident Alien
- Cuban-Haitian Entrant
- Conditional Entrant (valid only if issued before April 1, 1980)
- Parolee (modified requirements for Ukrainian and Afghan citizens and nationals)

OR



### Have BATTERED IMMIGRANT STATUS

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

OR



### Have a T-VISA

You are eligible if you have a T-visa or a parent with a T-1 visa.

OR



### Be a CITIZEN of the FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES

If you are a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau, you may be eligible for only certain types of federal student aid.

*Note: Certain Native American students born in Canada with a status under the Jay Treaty of 1794 may also be eligible for federal student aid.*

## 4. Provide consent and approval

to have your federal tax information transferred directly into your *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form.



## 5. Sign

the certification statement on the FAFSA form stating that you

- are not in default on a federal student loan and do not owe a refund on a federal grant,
- will use federal student aid only for educational purposes, and
- are qualified to obtain a college, career school, or trade school education.

## 6. Maintain

satisfactory academic progress in school.



Start filling out the FAFSA® form at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov).