

CHAPTER 1



Naturalization: Benefits and Eligibility

What is Naturalization?

Naturalization (na-cheh-reh-leh-zay-shen) is the process for immigrants to become citizens. It is like a path.

Your path begins in the past. You came to the U.S. Now you want to become a citizen.

Your path may take you to naturalization as a U.S. citizen.

This course will help you prepare for naturalization as a U.S. citizen.

Together, we will take steps on the path to naturalization.

Benefits of U.S. Citizenship



The right to vote



A U.S. passport and freedom to travel



Bring family to the U.S.



Job opportunities with the U.S. government

What is Eligibility?

Eligibility (eh-leh-jeh-bi-leh-tee) means meeting the requirements (ree-kwi-r-mehnts) for naturalization. Requirements are like rules. For citizenship, they are also like laws.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Time as a Permanent Resident
2. Continuous Residence
3. Physical Presence in the U.S.
4. Time in District or State
5. Good Moral Character
6. English and Civics Knowledge
7. Attachment to the Constitution

Most people must meet all the eligibility requirements. For some people the requirements are different.



1. Time as a Permanent Resident

This status is granted by the U.S. government under immigration laws. You probably have a Permanent Resident card if you have permanent resident status. It is also called the “Alien Registration Card” and the “Green Card.”

Different requirement periods apply to certain permanent residents. See the requirement periods on pages 22 – 25.

Generally, you must be a Permanent Resident for five years. But if you are married to a U.S. citizen for at least three years during the requirement period, you only have to be a permanent resident for three years.



Meet Babita.

She wants to apply for naturalization as a U.S. citizen. She does not know if she is eligible. Together, you and Babita will learn if you are eligible.

Babita immigrated to the U.S with her parents on March 21, 1995 when she was 16 years old. She was given a Permanent Resident Card at that time.

When she was 18 years old, she enlisted in the U.S. military. Babita received an honorable discharge on July 1, 2001. She served four years in the military.

The requirement for people who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces for 1 year or more is different. If you are in the armed forces or honorably discharged less than 6 months ago, then the requirement is 1 year.

Babita did not apply when she was in the armed forces or within 6 months of her honorable discharge.

She must be a permanent resident at least 5 years.



Help Babita calculate.

current year

– 1995

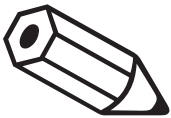
the year of Babita’s Permanent Resident Card

number of years as a permanent resident (subtract 1995 from current year)

Babita _____ the requirement of 5 years as a permanent resident.

- a. meets
- b. does not meet

Hurray! Babita meets the 5-year requirement.



How about you?

Do you meet the requirement for permanent residency?

How many years must you be a permanent resident to be eligible?
(See pages 22 - 25.)

In what year did you receive your Permanent Resident Card?

How many years have you had your Permanent Resident Card?



Check the correct sentence.

I meet the requirement for the number of years as a permanent resident.

I do not meet the requirement for the number of years as a permanent resident.
I must wait to apply for naturalization.

2. Continuous Residence

Immigration law requires that most people remain in the U.S. during most of the time required as a permanent resident. This is called “continuous residence.”

As a permanent resident, you must be continually present in the U.S. If you leave the U.S. and don't come back for 6 months and 1 day or more, the Immigration Office will think that you have abandoned (left) your permanent residency. Your continuous residence is disrupted.

You can avoid disruption of continuous residence if you can show that you never abandoned your residency in the U.S. You must show your ties with the U.S. such as owning a house, a permanent job, family who were left in the U.S., etc.

If you leave the U.S. for 1 year or longer, you break your continuous residence. You must re-start counting years as a permanent resident. In this situation, you do not get to explain why your trip lasted so long. Your time in the U.S. before the trip will not count.

For members of the military, time outside the U.S. does not break continuous residence. For some groups, an approved Form N-470 will prevent breaking the continuous residence requirement.



Back to Babita.

Babita studied one semester at a university in Canada after the military. She was in Canada from August 10, 2001 through December 15, 2001.

Babita must have continuous residence of 5 years. When is Babita eligible for naturalization?

She was out of the U.S. for 4 months and 5 days. Trips of less than 6 months do not break her continuous residence.



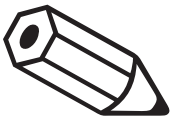
Help Babita calculate.

On March 21, 1995 Babita immigrated to the U.S. She currently has _____ years of continuous residence.

Babita _____ the requirement of 5 years of continuous residence.

- a. meets b. does not meet

That is correct! Babita meets the requirement for continuous residence.



How about you?

Do you meet the requirement for continuous residence?

Have you been out of the U.S. for longer than 6 months on a trip? _____

If you have **NOT** been out of the U.S on a trip of 6 months or more...

When did your residence in the U.S. begin?

(Check your visa or Permanent Resident Card for a date.)

How many years of continuous residence do you have?

How many years of continuous residence are required for you to apply for naturalization?

Have you met the requirement for continuous residency?

When are you eligible to apply for naturalization?

OR, if you have been out of the U.S. on a trip of **6 months to less than 1 year...**

When did you return to the U.S.?

How many years of continuous residence do you have since you returned?

How many years of continuous residence are required to apply for naturalization?

Have you met the requirement for continuous residency?

When are you eligible to apply for naturalization?

(Note: You must be prepared to explain why your trip outside the U.S. lasted longer than 6 months and less than 1 year. You have to show that you had an intent to come back to the U.S. before 6 months, and that you kept your house, jobs, and family in the U.S.)

OR, if you have been out of the U.S. on a trip of **1 year or more...**

When did you return to the U.S.?

How many years of continuous residence do you have since you returned?

How many years of continuous residence are required to apply for naturalization?

Have you maintained continuous residency of at least four years and one day since your returned?

Have you met the requirement for continuous residency?

When are you eligible to apply for naturalization?



Check the correct sentence.

_____ I meet the requirement for the number of years in continuous residence.

_____ I do not meet the requirement for the number of years in continuous residence.
I must wait to apply for naturalization.

3. Physical Presence

This is the total time that you must be physically in the U.S. during your continuous residence. Time on short trips out of the U.S. must be added.

Generally, if your continuous residence requirement is 5 years, you have to be physically present in the U.S. for half of your required period (30 months of 5 years). For a 3-year requirement, you have to be present for 18 months of the 3 years.

Time in military service outside the U.S. counts as physically present in the U.S. This time outside the U.S. does not break the physical presence requirement.

You must meet the Physical Presence **and** Continuous Residence requirements.



Babita likes to travel outside the U.S.

She was in Germany with the military for the last 12 months of her service.

The 12 months in Germany do not break her continuous residence because she was in the U.S. military at the time.

Babita visits her grandparents in Nepal two times every year. Every time she visits her grandparents, she is outside the U.S. 7 whole days.

She also visits friends in Mexico in July. When she visits her friends in Acapulco, she is outside the U.S. for 5 whole days.

Babita must count all whole days outside the U.S. during her permanent residency requirement.



Help Babita calculate.

7 days X 2 trips every year X 5 years = _____ days in Nepal during the 5 years.

5 days X 1 trip every year X 5 years = _____ days in Mexico during the 5 years.

Babita spent a total of _____ days out of the U.S. during the 5 years.

- a. 19
- b. 55
- c. 95

Yes, 70 days in Nepal and 25 days in Mexico total 95 days outside the U.S.

Babita is required to be in the U.S. 30 months of the 5 years. How many months was Babita in the U.S. during the 5 years? _____

- a. a little more than 13
- b. exactly 28
- c. a little less than 57

So, Babita _____ the requirement of 30 months of physical presence in the U.S.

- a. meets
- b. does not meet

You are correct again! Babita meets the requirement of physical presence in the U.S.



How about you?

Do you meet this requirement?

What is the total number of whole days you spent outside the U.S. during your continuous residence?

How many months were you out of the U.S. during that period?

What is your requirement for physical presence?



Check the correct sentence.

_____ I meet the requirement for physical residence in the U.S.

_____ I do not meet the requirement for physical residence in the U.S.
I must wait to apply for naturalization.

4. Time in District or State

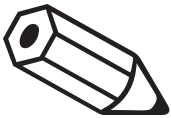
Districts are geographical areas where you find a USCIS District Office. Most people must live in the state or district where they apply for naturalization. USCIS requires that those people live in that district or state at least 90 days before they apply.



Babita lives in Portland, Oregon.

USCIS has a District Office in Portland where Babita will apply for naturalization.

After studying in Canada one semester in 2001, she transferred to the University of Portland. She graduated from the University of Portland in May 2006. Babita plans to remain in Portland after graduation.



Does Babita meet the 90 day residency requirement?

Babita _____ the requirement of time in district or state to apply to the Portland District Office.

- a. meets b. does not meet

***That's correct! We will assume that Babita remained in Portland.
So, she meets the requirement for time in the district or state.***



How about you?

Do you meet the requirement of 90 days residency in the district or state? _____

At which District Office will you apply for naturalization? _____

When did you move to this district? _____



Check the correct sentence.

_____ I meet the requirement for time in district or state.

_____ I do not meet the requirement for time in district or state.
I must wait to apply for naturalization.

5. Good Moral Character

Another requirement for naturalization is good moral character. USCIS bases good moral character on U.S. laws. The “Application for Naturalization” (Form N-400) asks questions about crimes you may have committed. It is very important to include all crimes, even crimes before your 18th birthday. Even traffic tickets must be included.

If you think you committed a crime and/or if you spent time in jail or on probation, consult with an immigration specialist before you apply for naturalization. Some crimes may make you deportable.

You do not meet this requirement if you committed an aggravated felony (on or after November 29, 1990) or murder.

Your application may be denied if you lie to USCIS for any reason. Lying on the application or in the interview is not good moral character. If you receive naturalization and USCIS later learns that you lied, your citizenship may be revoked.

USCIS Examples of a Lack of Good Moral Character

- Any crime against a person with a desire or purpose to harm
- Any crime against property or the government that involves “fraud” or evil intent (deception or misrepresentation)
- Two or more crimes for which the total sentence was 5 years or more
- Breaking any controlled substance law of the United States, any state, or any foreign country
- Regular drunkenness or drunk driving
- Illegal gambling
- Prostitution
- Polygamy (marriage to more than one person at the same time)
- Lying to gain immigration benefits
- Failing to pay court-ordered child support or alimony payments
- Time in jail, prison, or similar place when the total time was 180 days or more during the past 5 years (or 3 years if you apply based on marriage to a U.S. citizen)
- Failing to complete any probation, parole, or suspended sentence before you apply for naturalization
- If you are in removal or deportation proceedings, you may not apply for citizenship until the proceedings are complete and you have been allowed to remain in the country as a Permanent Resident
- Terrorist acts
- Persecution of anyone because of race, religion, national origin, political opinion, or social group
- Failing to file income tax returns at the federal, state, and local levels, if required by law
- Failing to pay taxes. Cash income may be taxable income--you can send modified/changed income tax returns and add cash income as self-employment income
- Failing to register for the Selective Services System. All men between 18 and 26 years who are Permanent residents OR undocumented aliens must apply.



Babita believes that she has good moral character.



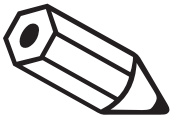
She has had three speeding tickets in 10 years. Babita broke no other laws and she was convicted of no crimes.

She is honest and would not lie to a USCIS officer.

Babita _____ the requirement of good moral character.

- a. meets
- b. does not meet

Yes!! This is the type of good moral character that USCIS officers hope to find when they interview applicants.



How about you?

Do you meet the requirement for good moral character? _____

Have you been convicted of any crimes listed by USCIS? (See page 12.)

Will you be able to complete the “Application for Naturalization” (Form N-400) with complete honesty?

Will you be able to complete an interview with a USCIS officer with complete honesty?



Check the correct sentence.

I meet the requirement for good moral character.

I meet some of the requirements for good moral character. I should seek the advice of an immigration specialist.

I do not meet the requirement for good moral character. I may not be eligible to apply for naturalization. I must seek the advice of an immigration specialist.

6. English and Civics

In your interview with a USCIS officer, you will be tested on English, U.S. history, and government.

U.S. law requires:

“an understanding of the English language, including an ability to read, write, and speak...simple words and phrases...in ordinary usage in the English language...”

“a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of the history, and of the principles and form of government, of the United States...”

If you have problems with English, you must ask for help. Adult literacy programs can help you with speaking, reading, and writing English. This course may help you with vocabulary needed for your interview. This course will also help you to learn about U.S. history and government.

In your interview, the USCIS officer will ask questions about U.S. history and government. Appendix I of this book gives you the list of 100 questions asked in citizenship interviews. In Chapters 3 – 8 of this book, you will learn what you must know about U.S. history and government.

Some people will have different English and civics requirements because of their age or a disability. If you have a physical or developmental disability or a mental impairment, you can ask for an exception to the English and civics requirement. You and a licensed doctor or psychologist must complete the “Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions” (Form N-648).

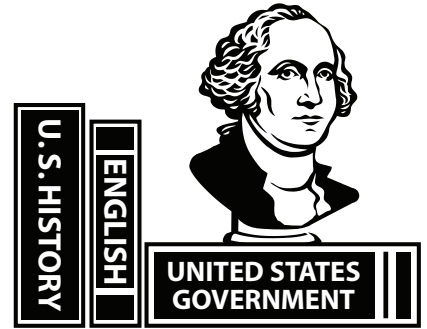
If you are older than _____	AND have lived in the U.S. as a Permanent Resident for a total of at least _____,	you _____ have to take the English test.	AND
50	20 years	do not	You can choose the language in which you will take the civics test.
55	15 years	do not	You can choose the language in which you will take the civics test.
65	20 years	do not	You can choose the language in which you will take a simpler version of the civics test.



Babita did not like history in school.

She did not like civics class either. Last month, she started to study U.S. history and government. She wants to be prepared for her interview.

Babita's first languages are Nepali and Tamang. When she came to the U.S. she learned English. Babita learned English in school and in the military.



I think that Babita _____ the requirement of English and civics knowledge.

- a. will meet
- b. will not meet

We agree! Babita knows English and will study to learn U.S. history and government.



How about you?

Can you meet the requirement for English and civics knowledge? _____

You have almost completed Chapter 1 of this book. You are reading English now. Can you write and speak English?



Check the correct sentence.

_____ I currently meet the requirement for English and civics knowledge.

_____ I will meet the requirement for English and civics knowledge.

_____ I will not meet the requirement for English and civics knowledge.
I may be eligible for an exception.

7. Attachment to the Constitution

You must be willing to support and defend the U.S. and our Constitution. If your application is approved, you must take an oath of allegiance. This is like a promise.

The oath includes three requirements.

1. You renounce foreign allegiances. (You give up allegiances to any other country.)
2. You will support the Constitution and the laws of the U.S.
3. You will serve the U.S. when required by law. This means fighting in the U.S. military, noncombat service in the military, or civilian service. Religious beliefs against fighting or serving in the military must be explained in a letter with your application.

For men, USCIS will ask if you registered with the Selective Service if you lived in the U.S. between your 18th and 26th birthdays. You must provide your Selective Service number. If you are between 18 and 26 years, apply for the Selective Service before you apply for naturalization. If you were in the U.S. but did not register for the Selective Service, you must wait until age 31 to apply for naturalization. You must show good moral character for the previous five years. Be prepared to provide your selective service number OR explain why you did not register for the Selective Service.

You may not be eligible for naturalization if you received an exemption or discharge from the military because you are an alien.

You are not eligible for naturalization if you were ever convicted of desertion from the U.S. military.

The Oath of Allegiance

I hereby declare, an oath,

**That I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure
All allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
Prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which
I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;**

**That I will support and defend the Constitution and
Laws of the United States of America
Against all enemies, foreign and domestic;**

That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;

**That I will bear arms on behalf of the United States
When required by the law;**

**That I will perform noncombatant service in the
Armed Forces of the United States
When required by the law;**

**That I will perform work of National Importance
Under civilian direction when required by the law;**

**And that I take this obligation freely,
Without any mental reservation or
Purpose of evasion;**

So help me God.



Babita is proud of the four years she served in the U.S. military.

She is willing to take the Oath of Allegiance.

She is willing to do what she promises in the Oath.

I think that Babita _____ the requirement of attachment to the Constitution.

- a. will meet b. will not meet

Correct again!! Babita must be willing to take the Oath of Allegiance.



How about you?

Are you willing to show your “attachment” to the U.S. and the Constitution by taking the Oath of Allegiance? This is a very personal, private decision. _____



Check the correct sentence.

_____ I currently meet the requirement of attachment to the Constitution.

_____ I will meet the requirement of attachment to the Constitution.

_____ I will not meet the requirement of attachment to the Constitution.



Eligibility for Children

Generally, children are U.S. citizens if _____

- a. they are born in the U.S.
- b. they are adopted and permanently live in the U.S.
- c. the parents are naturalized citizens
- d. all of the above

Eligibility for children is complex, however “d” is the correct answer. Ask an immigration specialist about your child’s eligibility. USCIS offers information on adult and child eligibility. Ask at your Local Office or search the USCIS website.

<http://uscis.gov/graphics/lawsregs/handbook/hnmanual.htm>

Where to go for help

There are many ways to find help. Ask friends, neighbors, and co-workers who have been naturalized. How did they find help? Did they find an organization that helps immigrants? The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) keeps a list of organizations and accredited representatives who provide low-cost legal assistance or advice.

Find this list on the USCIS website: <http://uscis.gov/graphics/lawsregs/advice.htm>

Your public library has resources that will help. Reference librarians are trained to help you find answers to your questions.

For general information, go to <http://uscis.gov>

For forms, go to <http://uscis.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/> or call the USCIS National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283.

InfoPass Online Appointment Scheduler

Do you still have questions about eligibility? USCIS officers can help to answer your questions.

If you seek help from the USCIS, you have two choices.

_____ Go to a USCIS Local Office. Stand in line and wait for a USCIS officer to answer your questions. You may wait a long time.

_____ Make an appointment to meet with a USCIS officer at a Local Office. You will meet with the officer at the time of your appointment—no waiting.

The easiest way to make an appointment is to use InfoPass. It will schedule your appointment quickly and easily. Use the internet to find <http://infopass.uscis.gov> InfoPass will help you with other types of immigration information as well. If you do not have a computer or internet access, use a computer and the internet at your public library.

Follow these steps to schedule your appointment with a USCIS officer using <http://infopass.uscis.gov>

1. Click on the language you prefer.
2. Click “OK” if the computer asks about security.
3. Click the first button that reads “Click Here” to make your appointment with InfoPass.
4. Type your zip code or country (if you are not in the U.S.).
5. Click “Continue”.
6. The computer will select the USCIS Local Office closest to your zip code. To choose a different USCIS Local Office, click the button before the city you choose.
7. Click “Continue”.
8. Read the different types of appointments. Click a button on the left of the screen to choose the appointment you need. If you have questions about your eligibility, you will click “You wish to speak to an immigration officer.”
9. Click “Continue”.
10. Type your personal information.
11. Click “Continue”.
12. Review your personal information.
13. Click “Continue” if your information is correct. Click “Back” if your information is not correct.
14. Click on the date you would like your appointment. To move to the next month, click the arrow at the top of the screen.
15. Click “Continue”.
16. Click on the time you would like your appointment.
17. Click “Continue”.
18. Click a “Change” button to change the information you have selected.
19. Click “Continue”.
20. Click “Click here to print this screen”.
21. Click to select a printer. Click “OK” to print.

The appointment letter or paper is very important. Follow all of the directions on the paper. Take it with you for your appointment.

PR

Time as
Permanent
Resident



Continuous Residence

REQUIREMENTS

TYPE OF APPLICANT

<p>If you:</p> <p>Have been a Permanent Resident for the past 5 years and have no special circumstances</p> <p><i>Note: Over 90% of applicants fall into this category.</i></p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer</p>
<p>If you:</p> <p>Are currently married to and living with a U.S. citizen AND Have been married to and living with that same U.S. citizen for the past 3 years AND Your spouse has been a U.S. citizen for the past 3 years</p>	<p>3 years</p>	<p>3 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer</p>
<p>If you:</p> <p>Are in the U.S. Armed Forces (or will be filing your application within 6 months of an honorable discharge) AND Have served for at least 1 year</p>	<p>You must be a Permanent Resident on the day of your interview.</p>	<p>Not Required</p>
<p>If you:</p> <p>Were in the U.S. Armed Forces for less than 1 year</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>If you:</p> <p>Were in the U.S. Armed Forces for 1 year or more, but you were discharged more than 6 months ago</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer</p> <p><i>Note: If you were out of the country as part of your service, this time out of the country does not break your "continuous residence." It is treated just like time spent in the United States.</i></p>
<p>If you:</p> <p>Performed active duty military service during:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World War I (November 11, 1916-April 6, 1917); • World War II (September 1, 1939-December 31, 1946); • Korea (June 25, 1950-July 1, 1955); • Vietnam (February 28, 1961-October 15, 1978); • Persian Gulf (August 2, 1990-April 11, 1991); or • On or after September 11, 2001. 	<p>You are not required to be a Permanent Resident. <i>Note: If you did not enlist or reenlist in the United States or its outlying possessions, you must be a Permanent Resident on the day you file your application.</i></p>	<p>Not Required</p>
<p>If you:</p> <p>Were married to a U.S. citizen who died during a period of honorable active duty service in the U.S. Armed Forces</p> <p><i>Note: You must have been married to and living with your U.S. citizen spouse at the time of his/her death.</i></p>	<p>You must be a Permanent Resident on the day of your interview.</p>	<p>Not Required</p>
<p>If you:</p> <p>Are a U.S. national (a non-citizen who owes permanent allegiance to the United States) AND Have become a resident of any State AND Are otherwise qualified for naturalization</p>	<p>You are not required to be a Permanent Resident.</p>	<p>The same requirements as any other applicant for naturalization, depending on your qualifications. <i>Note: Any time you resided in American Samoa or Swains Island counts the same as the time you resided within a State of the United States.</i></p>



Physical Presence in the United States

Time in District or State

Good Moral Character

English & Civics Knowledge

Attachment to the Constitution

	30 months	3 months	Required	Required	Required
	18 months	3 months	Required	Required	Required
	Not Required	Not Required	Required	Required	Required
	30 months <i>Note: Time in the U.S. Armed Forces counts as time "physically present" in the United States no matter where you were.</i>	3 months	Required	Required	Required
	Not Required	Not Required	Required	Required	Required
	Not Required	Not Required	Required	Required	Required
	Not Required	Not Required	Required	Required	Required
	The same requirements as any other applicant for naturalization, depending on your qualifications. <i>Note: Any time you resided in American Samoa or Swains Island counts the same as the time you resided within a State of the United States.</i>	3 months or not required, depending on your qualifications.	Required	Required	Required

REQUIREMENTS



Time as a Permanent Resident



Continuous Residence

TYPE OF APPLICANT

<p>If you: Served on a vessel operated by the United States OR If you: Served on a vessel registered in the United States and owned by U.S. citizens or a U.S. corporation.</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer</p> <p><i>Note: If you were out of the country while serving on a vessel, this time out of the country does not break your "continuous residence." It is treated just like time spent in the United States.</i></p>
<p>If you: Are an employee or an individual under contract to the U.S. Government</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer</p> <p><i>Note: An absence from the United States for 1 year or more will break your "continuous residence." You may keep your "continuous residence" if you have had at least 1 year of unbroken "continuous residence" since becoming a Permanent Resident and you get an approved N-470 before you have been out of the United States for 1 year.</i></p>
<p>If you: Are a person who performs ministerial or priestly functions for a religious denomination or an interdenominational organization with a valid presence in the United States</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer</p> <p><i>Note: An absence from the United States for 1 year or more will break your "continuous residence." You may keep your "continuous residence" if you have had at least 1 year of unbroken "continuous residence" since becoming a Permanent Resident and you get an approved N-470 at any time before applying for naturalization.</i></p>
<p>If you: Are employed by one of the following: • An American institution of research recognized by the Attorney General; • An American-owned firm or corporation engaged in the development of foreign trade and commerce for the United States; or • A public international organization of which the United States is a member by law or treaty (if the employment began after you became a Permanent Resident)</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>5 years as a Permanent Resident without leaving the United States for trips of 6 months or longer</p> <p><i>Note: An absence from the United States for 1 year or more will break your "continuous residence." You may keep your "continuous residence" if you have had at least 1 year of unbroken "continuous residence" since becoming a Permanent Resident and you get an approved N-470 before you have been out of the United States for 1 year.</i></p>
<p>If you: Have been employed for 5 years or more by a U.S. nonprofit organization that principally promotes the interests of the United States abroad through the communications media</p>	<p>5 years</p>	<p>Not Required</p>
<p>If you: Are the spouse of a U.S. citizen who is one of the following: • A member of the U.S. Armed Forces; • An employee or an individual under contract to the U.S. Government; • An employee of an American institution of research recognized by the Attorney General; • An employee of an American-owned firm or corporation engaged in the development of foreign trade and commerce for the United States; • An employee of a public international organization of which the United States is a member by law or treaty; or • A person who performs ministerial or priestly functions for a religious denomination or an interdenominational organization with a valid presence in the United States AND Your citizen spouse is working abroad under an employment contract with the qualifying employer for at least 1 year and will continue to be so employed at the time you are naturalized.</p>	<p>You must be a Permanent Resident at the time of your CIS interview</p>	<p>Not Required</p>



Physical Presence in the United States

Time in District or State

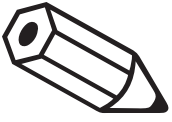
Good Moral Character

English & Civics Knowledge

Attachment to the Constitution

30 months <i>Note: Time served on the vessel counts as time "physically present" in the United States no matter where you were.</i>	3 months	Required	Required	Required
30 months <i>Note: Time spent in this type of employment counts as time "physically present" in the United States no matter where you are as long as you get an approved N-470 before you have been out of the United States for 1 year.</i>	3 months	Required	Required	Required
30 months <i>Note: Time spent in this type of employment counts as time "physically present" in the United States no matter where you are as long as you get an approved N-470 before you apply for naturalization.</i>	3 months	Required	Required	Required
30 months	3 months	Required	Required	Required
Not required	Not Required	Required	Required	Required
Not Required	Not Required	Required	Required	Required

Review Activities



Find the meaning

Draw a line to connect the word and its meaning.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. naturalization | meeting the requirements for naturalization |
| 2. eligibility | government document needed for travel abroad |
| 3. benefits | a promise |
| 4. passport | advantages |
| 5. right | something that you can legally claim |
| 6. oath | the process of becoming a citizen |



Yes or No?

Circle the correct answer.

- | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|---|
| Yes | No | 1. | I can be naturalized if I meet the requirements. |
| Yes | No | 2. | Children born in the U.S. are generally citizens. |
| Yes | No | 3. | U.S. citizens have the right to vote. |
| Yes | No | 4. | You may keep allegiances to other governments when you become a U.S. citizen. |
| Yes | No | 5. | Most people must live in the U.S. as permanent residents before they are eligible for naturalization. |
| Yes | No | 6. | Military service outside the U.S. will break continuous residence. |
| Yes | No | 7. | For physical presence you must count all whole days outside the U.S. |
| Yes | No | 8. | An oath is like a promise. |
| Yes | No | 9. | You must hire a lawyer to help you. |
| Yes | No | 10. | The USCIS and other organizations will answer your questions. |



Match — Benefits of citizenship


1. Find the words that go with the pictures.
2. Write the words that describe each picture on the lines under the pictures.


the right to vote


a U.S. passport and freedom to travel


bring family to the U.S.

job opportunities with the U.S. government

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 



Understanding eligibility

Choose the correct answer.

1. You are married to and living with a U.S. citizen. You have been married and living with your spouse for more than 3 years. Your spouse has been a U.S. citizen for more than 3 years. How long must you be a permanent resident before applying for naturalization?
 - a. Not Required
 - b. 3 years
 - c. 5 years

2. If you have been a permanent resident for the past 5 years and have no special circumstances, you are allowed to take trips out of the U.S. for no more than
 - a. 6 months
 - b. 12 months
 - c. 2 years

3. Physical presence in the U.S. means that
 - a. you must count the days you were in the U.S. during your permanent residency
 - b. you must remain in the U.S. for the time stated without leaving the country
 - c. you can apply for naturalization after being in the U.S. for the time stated

4. Which shows a lack of good moral character according to USCIS?
 - a. You are divorced.
 - b. You were arrested four times for DUI.
 - c. You do not participate in any church or religious activities.



Complete the sentences

Use the words in the box to complete the sentences.

permanent	naturalization	time	civics
continuous	good	USCIS	English
physical	attachment	citizen	eligibility

1. _____ means history and government.
2. Many people must live in the district or state for a _____.
3. _____ is the process to become a citizen.
4. The USCIS wants to naturalize immigrants with _____ moral character.
5. The _____ resident requirement for most people is 5 years in the U.S.
6. The USCIS requires that you speak some _____.
7. The _____ residence requirement is broken if you take trips out of the U.S. for more than 6 months.
8. You must demonstrate _____ to the U.S. Constitution.
9. You must apply to the _____ for naturalization as a U.S. citizen.
10. Calculate _____ presence by adding all of the days you were in the U.S. during your period of continuous residence.



Listening practice

You must understand, speak, read, and write English to pass the citizenship interview and exam. In each chapter of this book, we will practice these skills.

1. Listen to track number 1 of the CD that comes with your book.
2. Listen to the speaker two times.
3. Choose the sentence or question that you hear.

1. _____ a. Please sit down.
_____ b. Please put your coat on that chair.
_____ c. Please come this way.
2. _____ a. What is your name?
_____ b. What is your address?
_____ c. What is your date of birth?
3. _____ a. How are you?
_____ b. How old are you?
_____ c. Who are you?
4. _____ a. How many children do you have?
_____ b. How many years have you worked?
_____ c. How old are you?
5. _____ a. When did you come to the United States?
_____ b. When is your birthday?
_____ c. When did you move to Chicago?
6. _____ a. Where do you live?
_____ b. Where were you born?
_____ c. Where do you work now?
7. _____ a. What is your current address?
_____ b. What was your last address?
_____ c. What is your work address?



Writing practice

1. Listen to track number 2 of the CD that comes with your book.
2. Listen to a sentence two times.
3. Write the sentence.
4. Listen to the sentence one more time.
5. Read the sentence you wrote.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Your Eligibility Requirements

