

## What is the Process for achieving US Citizenship?

### Eligibility Criteria:

To apply for U.S. citizenship, all of the following must apply

1. You have lived in the United States as a lawful permanent resident for at least five years (with exceptions for refugees, people who get their green card through political asylum, spouses of U.S. citizens, and U.S. military personnel)
2. You have been physically present in the United States for at least half of the last five years
3. You have lived in the district or state where you are filing your application for at least three months
4. You have not spent more than a year outside the United States
5. You have not made your primary home in another country
6. You are at least 18 years old
7. You have good moral character
8. You are able to speak, read, and write in English
9. You are able to pass a test covering U.S. history and government, and
10. You are willing to swear that you believe in the principles of the U.S. Constitution and will be loyal to the United States.

### Process:

1. Complete a US Citizenship application.
2. Get two passport photos taken of yourself.
3. Gather all necessary documents (see [USCIS site](#)).

4. Send it with a copy of your green card, required photos, and the appropriate fee to the address listed in the site below. That site also includes information on fees.

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=480ccac09aa5d010VgnVCM10000048f3d6a1RCRD&vgnnextchannel=db029c7755cb9010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD>

5. Receive an appointment letter.
6. Go to the Finger Printing location provided in the appointment letter to have your fingerprints taken.
7. Wait for an interview to be scheduled.
8. Citizenship and Naturalization Interview
  - a. Go to the office location on the date and time specified
  - b. Bring identification and any additional documents requested
  - c. Answer questions about your application and background
  - d. Pass test on English and US history and government (in writing? Oral test?)
  - e. Receive a decision

### Taking the Oath:

1. Receive a ceremony date from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly known as the INS).
2. Check in at the ceremony.
3. Return your permanent resident card.
4. Answer questions about what you have done since your interview.
5. Take the naturalization oath.
6. Receive your Certificate of Naturalization.

This entire process can take anywhere from 5 months to more than 5 years.

## **What is the US Citizenship Test?**

Detailed information can be found at these links. There are also many resources at the second link and some of the resources are in Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=2de5bece24e7b110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=2de5bece24e7b110VgnVCM100004718190aRCRD>

This is a required step in the naturalization process, and all applicants, with some exceptions, must pass the citizenship test before taking the Oath of Allegiance and officially becoming United States citizens.

### English Test

An officer of USCIS will ask you to:

- Respond to questions about your application and your background in English. These questions will be taken from the N400 application form.  
<http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/N-400.pdf>
- Read up to three sentences in English; the applicant must read 1 out of the 3 sentences correctly. The content focuses on civics and history topics.
- A list of the vocabulary for all of the possible sentences can be found at: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/M-685.pdf>
- Write up to 3 dictated sentences in English. The applicant must write at least one of the sentences correctly. The content focuses on civics and history. A list of the vocabulary for all of the possible sentences can be found at the same link above.

### Civics Test

- Applicants will be asked 10 questions from a list of 100 possible questions. The applicant must get 6/10 responses correct.
- The 100 questions can be found at: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/M-685.pdf>

### **Resources**

This is the site map to the USCIS (United States Customs and Immigration Services) website. It has many good links, which are also included below.

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.4d9824b1a05c975ef143c6a7543f6d1a/>

### **Eligibility requirements:**

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=12e596981298d010VgnVCM10000048f3d6a1RCRD>

<http://www.uscis.gov/naturalization>

Brochure on eligibility requirements and application process.

<http://www.uscis.gov/files/article/B3eng.pdf> (brochure that can be printed)

The following resources can be accessed from this website:

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnnextoid=2de5bece24e7b110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=2de5bece24e7b110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD>

- [Redesigned \(New\) Naturalization Test: Vocabulary List for the English Reading Test](#) (165KB PDF)
- [Redesigned \(New\) Naturalization Test: Vocabulary List for the English Writing Test](#) (167KB PDF)
- [Redesigned \(New\) Naturalization Test: Civics \(History and Government\) Questions](#) (336KB PDF)
- [Redesigned \(New\) Naturalization Test: Civics \(History and Government\) Questions \(Spanish Version\)](#) (332KB PDF)
- [Redesigned \(New\) Naturalization Test: Civics \(History and Government\) Questions \(Chinese Version\)](#) (363KB PDF)
- [Redesigned \(New\) Naturalization Test: Civics \(History and Government\) Questions \(Tagalog Version\)](#) (289KB PDF)
- [Redesigned \(New\) Naturalization Test: Civics \(History and Government\) Questions \(Vietnamese Version\)](#) (278KB PDF)
- [Civics Flash Cards for the New Naturalization Test](#) (7523KB PDF)  
A useful study tool for teachers and students.
- [Civics Flash Cards for the New Naturalization Test \(reversed colors\)](#) (7084KB PDF)
- [Learn About the United States: Quick Civics Lessons for the New Naturalization Test](#) (1532KB PDF)
- [Redesigned \(New\) Naturalization Test Informational Brochure](#) (493KB PDF)
- [Scoring Guidelines for the English Portion of the Naturalization Test](#) (40KB PDF)
- [Naturalization Test Redesign Project: Civics Item Selection Analysis](#) (5664KB PDF)
- [New Naturalization Test Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) (62KB PDF)
- [New Naturalization Test Fact Sheet](#) (56KB PDF)

#### **Other Citizenship Test Preparation Sites:**

CITIZENSHIP COURSE – free, online, requires enrollment

<http://www.mssu.edu/missouri/citizenship.htm>