

	<h2 style="color: #0070C0;">Pathway: How Do I Become a US Citizen?</h2>
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Eligibility	<p><i>The process of applying for U.S. citizenship is known as naturalization.</i> In order to be eligible for naturalization, you must first meet certain requirements required by the U.S. immigration law. Generally, to be eligible for naturalization you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be age 18 or older; and • Be a permanent resident for a certain amount of time (usually 5 years or 3 years, depending on how you obtained status); and • Be a person of good moral character; and • Have a basic knowledge of U.S. government (this, too, can be excepted due to permanent physical or mental impairment); and • Have a period of continuous residence and physical presence in the United States; and • Be able to read, write, and speak basic English. There are exceptions to this rule for someone who at the time of filing (there are some exceptions).
Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To apply for naturalization, file Form N-400, Application for Naturalization. Here are the steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Determine if you are already a U.S. citizen. ○ Determine your eligibility to become a U.S. citizen. ○ Prepare Form N-400, Application for Naturalization. ○ Submit Form N-400, Application for Naturalization. ○ Go to the biometrics (fingerprinting) appointment, if applicable. ○ Complete the interview. ○ Receive a decision from USCIS on your Form N-400, Application for Naturalization. ○ Receive a notice to take the Oath of Allegiance. ○ Take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States. • Send your completed application to the USCIS Dallas Lockbox Facility at the following address: USCIS, P.O. Box 660060, Dallas, TX 75266 • If you are in the military and are interested in becoming a U.S. citizen, please see the brochure, M-599, Naturalization Information for Military Personnel.
Other Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Customer Service Center (NCSC): 1-800-375-5283. Click here for more info. • Click here for the main US Citizenship site.
Other Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For more information on the naturalization process, please see the manual, M-476, A Guide to Naturalization. • Most naturalization applicants are required to take a test on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ English ○ Civics (U.S. history and government) ○ For more information, visit the Naturalization Test page. Get study materials from the Citizenship Resource Center. • The filing fee is \$595 in 2013 (add \$85 biometric fee for a total of \$680, where applicable). See form instructions for payment details. Fees are accepted in the form of money order, personal check or cashier's check only. • The overall process can last many months.