

Paying for College: Who is Eligible to Submit the FAFSA?

Citizenship terminology for FAFSA applicants

- **U.S. Citizens:** This category includes naturalized citizens and those born as citizens. Students who are U.S. Citizens are eligible for federal aid through the FAFSA.
- **Eligible Non-Citizens:** These are students with documentation that Federal Student Aid considers 'eligible' for aid. Examples include lawful permanent residents (green card holders), refugees, and asylum grantees.
- **Non-U.S. Citizens or Ineligible Non-Citizens:** These are students with documentation that Federal Student Aid considers 'ineligible' for aid or students without documentation. Examples include students without a Social Security Number, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients, and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) recipients.
- **International Students:** Foreign students attending or planning to attend college in the United States are ineligible for federal aid.

FAFSA Frequently Asked Questions—FAQs

FAFSA eligibility for students with parents without SSNs

- Q:** Can a student complete the FAFSA if they are a U.S. Citizen or an eligible non-citizen, but their parent does not have a Social Security Number?
- A:** Yes. To qualify for any aid, the student's parent(s) or adoptive parent(s) must create an FSA ID and provide consent on the student's FAFSA.
- A:** If parents are hesitant about sharing personal information, FAFSA data is protected (encrypted) by federal law and prohibits any use of FAFSA data except to calculate federal and state financial aid.

Funding options for students who are ineligible U.S. Citizens or eligible non-citizens

- Q:** If a student is ineligible for federal student aid such as grants, work-study, and student loans, what options do they have to pay for college?
- A:** Private scholarships are always an option. If a student needs to complete the FAFSA to qualify for a scholarship, they should work with their college financial aid office or Dream Center (the U of U and SLCC have these services).
- A:** In-state tuition may be an option. Inquire with the college or university if the student qualifies under House Bill 144.

FAFSA eligibility for students considered an eligible non-citizen

- Q:** How can we determine if a student is considered an 'eligible non-citizen'?
- Q:** Can an 'eligible non-citizen' complete the FAFSA?
- A:** Yes. Eligible non-citizens should complete the FAFSA, they are required to provide their "Alien Registration Number" and Social Security Number on the form.
- Examples of eligible categories include lawful permanent residents (green card holders), refugees, or asylum grantees.
- A:** Please review what documentation is considered 'eligible' by Federal Student Aid on their website:
- <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements/non-us-citizens>

FAFSA eligibility for international students

- Q:** Can an international student file the FAFSA?
- A:** Most foreign citizens are not eligible for federal aid and will need a student visa to study in the U.S.
- A:** For more information, contact the college international student services office.

Resources

House Bill 144 (HB 144)

Utah law allows students to pay in-state tuition if the student:

- Attended a Utah high school for at least three years
 - Has a Utah high school diploma or Utah GED (Students submit a high school transcript with the graduation date listed)
- Signs and submits an HB 144 affidavit

House Bill 118 (HB 118)

- For students who are foreign nationals or legally admitted into the United States with F-1, H-4, or J-1 Visas

House Bill 102 (HB 102)

- Provides earlier access to in-state tuition depending on the student's immigration status

Scholarship resources for refugee and asylee students

- One Refugee – onerefugee.org
- Immigrants Rising – immigrantsrising.org/resource/overview/
- University Alliance for Refugees and At-Risk Migrants (UARRM) – uarrm.org/toolkit
- thedream.us

Scholarship resources for students who are ineligible U.S. Citizens nor eligible non-citizens

- University of Utah Dream Center: dream.utah.edu