

# 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/](http://immigrantsrising.org/resource/overview/)
- University Alliance for Refugees and At-Risk Migrants (UARRM) – [uarrm.org/toolkit](http://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](http://dream.utah.edu)
- Salt Lake Community College Dream Center: [slcc.edu/dreamcenter/](http://slcc.edu/dreamcenter/)