
Becoming A U.S. Citizen Through Naturalization

To qualify for naturalization, you must:

1. Be at least 18 years old;
2. Be a lawful permanent resident (LPR or green card holder) for five years (three years if you are married to a U.S. citizen);
3. Have continuous residence in the U.S. as an LPR for the past five years (three years if you are married to a U.S. citizen);
4. Have been physically present in the U.S. for at least half of the five years (or half of the three years if married to a U.S. citizen) before applying for naturalization;
5. Have lived in the USCIS district or state in which you are applying for at least three months;
6. Pass a test on speaking, reading, and writing basic English;*
7. Pass a test on U.S. history and government;**
8. Have good moral character; and
9. Understand and accept the oath of allegiance to the U.S.

To learn more about becoming a citizen, visit www.cliniclegal.org/citizenship.

* Some people do not have to take the English test. If you are in one of the categories below you can complete your interview, and the U.S. history and government test, in your own language:

- Age 50 or older and have lived in the U.S. as an LPR for at least 20 years;
- Age 55 or older and have lived in the U.S. as an LPR for at least 15 years.
- If you cannot meet the English requirement because you have a medical disability, you may be excused from taking the English test.

**Some people may be allowed to take an easier U.S. history and government test:

- Age 65 or older and have lived in the U.S. as an LPR for at least 20 years at time of filing;

Some people are not required to take the U.S. history or government test at all:

- If you cannot meet the U.S history or government requirement because of a medical disability, you may be excused from taking the test.