

Who Can Receive Federal and State Financial Aid?

Citizen / Eligible Noncitizen—a student must be one of the following to receive federal student aid:

- U. S. citizen
- U. S. national (includes natives of American Samoa or Swain’s Island)
- U. S. permanent resident who has an I-151, I-551, or I-551C (Alien Registration Receipt Card)

If a student is not in one of these categories, he or she must have an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) showing one of the following designations:

- “Refugee”
- “Asylum Granted”
- “Indefinite Parole and/or Humanitarian Parole”
- “Cuban-Haitian Entrant, Status Pending”
- “Conditional Entrant” (valid only if issued before April 1, 1980)
- Other eligible noncitizen with a Temporary Resident Card (I-688)

Or a student can be eligible on the basis of the Family Unity Status category with an approved I-797 (Voluntary Departure and Immigrant Petition).

If a student has only a Notice of Approval to Apply for Permanent Residence (I-171 or I-464), he or she is not eligible for federal student aid.

If a student is in the United States on an F1 or F2 student visa, or on a J1 or J2 exchange-visitor visa only, he or she can’t get federal student aid. Also, persons with G series visas (pertaining to international organizations) are not eligible for federal student aid.

Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau are eligible for Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, or Federal Work-Study only. These applicants should check with their schools’ financial aid administrators for more information.

***Note: If you are NOT eligible to receive financial aid you may still be able to receive some scholarships. Contact the financial aid office at the college you would like to attend.