

How to Become a US Citizen

Most people become citizens through a process called naturalization. Here's how it works:

Qualify

You must have a green card (be a permanent resident) for several years — usually 5 years, or 3 years if married to a U.S. citizen. Or you need to live in the U.S. for most of that time and be at least 18 years old.

Apply

Fill out the form (N-400), pay the fee, and send it in.

Get fingerprinted.

The government checks your background and takes your fingerprints.

Interview & Test

You meet with an immigration officer, answer questions, and take tests on English and U.S. civics/history.

Decision

If approved, you're invited to a ceremony.

Oath of Allegiance

You promise loyalty to the U.S., and after the ceremony, you're officially a U.S. citizen.

