



# Citizenship and the Federal Pell Grant

**A student must be a citizen of the United States (US) or an eligible non-citizen with documentation to receive Federal Student Aid (FSA) (Pell Grant).**

Eligible statuses are:

- A US citizen or national;
- A US permanent resident;
- Citizens of the Freely Associated States: the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republics of Palau and the Marshall Islands;
- Other eligible non-citizens

*The general requirement for eligible non-citizens is that they be in the US for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a citizen or lawful permanent resident, as evidenced by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).*

All applications for FSA are automatically matched with the Social Security records to verify name, date of birth, US citizenship status, and social security number. Applications that have an Alien Registration Number are matched against the Department of Homeland Security. If there is a complete match the student is determined to be a citizen. Applications may be rejected for insufficient or incomplete information or for other reasons in which citizenship cannot be confirmed.

**The Social Security Administration or the Department of Homeland Security did not confirm that you are a US citizen or eligible non-citizen.**

Acceptable documents to prove your status as a citizen or national may include:

- A birth certificate showing that you were born in the United States, which may include Puerto Rico, Guam, the US Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Swain's Island, or the Northern Mariana Islands;
- A US passport, current or expired, *except for limited passports*;
- A State Department document verifying birth abroad;
- A Certificate of Citizenship;
- A Certificate of Naturalization

Acceptable documents to prove your status as an eligible non-citizen may include:

- A Permanent Resident Card or Resident Alien Card (Form 1-551 *(or 1-151 issued prior to 1978)*);
- An Arrival/Departure Record (Form 1-94) or Departure Record (Form 1-94A)

**You must provide acceptable documentation of your citizenship status to the Financial Aid Office at Bridgerland Technical College before your eligibility to receive FSA (Pell Grant) can be determined. Documentation for confirmation of status in addition to what is listed may be required.**

*The information on this sheet is current at the time of publication but is subject to error and change without notice.  
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