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| CLATSOP COMMUNITY COLLEGE |
| *The Naturalization Process: the path to US citizenship* |
| **A Guidebook** |
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| Outreach Literacy |
| **7/21/2014** |



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| The following pages will provide the reader with a basic outline of the how to apply for US citizenship. |

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 First, determine if you are eligible to apply.

* Have **Permanent Residency** (“green card”) status for **at least 5 years**, or **for 3 years**, if **married to a US** citizen.
* Meet the **Residency Requirements** (number of continuous days in the US): no more than 6 months at one time outside the US in the last 5 years. See the link for below for specific residency requirements.

[**http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=399faf4c0adb4210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=399faf4c0adb4210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD**](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=399faf4c0adb4210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=399faf4c0adb4210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD)

* Have a **Military Exemption**: *If you have a green card and are willing to enlist in the US military for active duty, the residency requirements can be expedited and the fees can be waived.*
* Look at this site below for a **brochure to determine other aspects of eligibility**:

[**http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/G-1151.pdf**](http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/G-1151.pdf)

 How much does the application cost?

* Application fee = **$595.00**
* Biometrics (fingerprinting) fee = **$85.00**
* Total fee = **$680.00**
* Exceptions in which the applicant is not required to pay the entire $680:

Applicants 75 years of age or older are not charged a biometric fee, the total fee is $595.

No fee is required for military applicants filing under Section 328 and 329 of the INA

**Are there fee waivers available if I cannot afford to pay?**

* See the fee waiver form (the I-912) at [**www.uscis.gov/i-912**](http://www.uscis.gov/i-912)
* See the instructions for the fee waiver at[**www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/i-912instr.pdf**](http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/i-912instr.pdf)
* **Keep in mind that you cannot e-file an N-400 if you are applying for a fee waiver. You must submit a paper application.**

 How long does USCIS take to process your application?

* (In **Oregon**, varies in other locations**) 4-6 months** after you submit your application, you will receive an **appointment** for the interview and test in **Portland**.
* You will receive an **appointment to be fingerprinted** in **Portland** within a **month or so of filing** your application and fees. You will have to be fingerprinted even if you have done so in the past.
* Be **prepared to pass your tests** within this time period.

 What is the N-400?

* It is the **application** for naturalization.

[**http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/n-400.pdf**](http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/n-400.pdf)

* Use the **instructions** to fill out the N-400.

[**http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/n-400instr.pdf**](http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/n-400instr.pdf)

* You will need to provide other documents with the N-400. Look at the **Document Checklist** to learn what these forms are.

[**http://www.uscis.gov/files/article/attachments.pdf**](http://www.uscis.gov/files/article/attachments.pdf)

 Where do I send my application?

**All Applicants** *(Current or former members of the military, spouses of current members of the military and close relatives of deceased members of the military should check at the site below for a different mailing address.*

[**http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=480ccac09aa5d010VgnVCM10000048f3d6a1RCRD&vgnextchannel=db029c7755cb9010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD**](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=480ccac09aa5d010VgnVCM10000048f3d6a1RCRD&vgnextchannel=db029c7755cb9010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD)

If you reside in **Oregon**, send your application to the USCIS Phoenix Lockbox Facility at the following address:

**USCIS
P.O. Box 21251
Phoenix, AZ 85036**

For **Express Mail or courier deliveries**, use the following address*:*

**USCIS
Attn: N-400
1820 E. Skyharbor Circle S, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85034**

 The English Test and Civics Exam

* **The English test has 4 parts**.
1. During the **interview**, the immigration officer will do an oral **review of the N-400 application** with you; this is **considered part of the English test**. **Do you** **understand the** **questions and can you respond** to them?
2. The **civics and history exam is conducted in English**. There are **100** questions and you will be asked **10** of them. You must answer **6** correctly to pass. **The questions and answers are available for study.**
3. There is a small **reading component**. You will be asked to read a sentence or two in English. **All the words that will be asked to read are available for study**.
4. There is a small **writing component**. You will be asked to **write a sentence** in English. **All the words that will be asked are available for study.**

***If you fail the tests, you will have one more chance in the near future to retake the interview and exam. If you fail a second time, you must reapply and pay the $680.00 fee again.***

Are there exemptions to the testing process?

* If you are **age 50 or older** at the time of filing for naturalization and **have lived as a permanent resident** (green card holder) in the United States for **20 years** (commonly referred to as the “50/20” exception).
* **Age 55 or older** at the time of filing for naturalization and **have lived as a permanent resident in the United States for 15 years** (commonly referred to as the “55/15” exception).

*Even if you qualify for the* ***“50/20” or “55/15”*** *English language exceptions listed above, you* ***must still take the civics test.***

* You **may be permitted to take the civics test in your native language**, but only if your understanding of spoken English is insufficient to conduct a valid examination in English.
* **If you take the test in your native language, you must bring an interpreter** with you to your interview.

*Your interpreter must be fluent in both English and your native language.*

* If you are **age 65 or older** and **have been a permanent resident for at least 20 years** at the time of filing for naturalization, **you will be given special consideration** regarding the civics requirement. See the link below to see the abbreviated civics exam.

[**http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/65-20q.pdf**](http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/65-20q.pdf)

[***http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/65-20q\_Spanish.pdf***](http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/65-20q_Spanish.pdf)

 **Medical Disability Exceptions to the English and Civics Exams**

You may be eligible for an exception to the English and civics naturalization requirements if you are unable to comply with these requirements because of a **physical or developmental disability or** **a mental** **impairment.** To request this exception, submit [**Form N-648, Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions**](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=6c388875d714d010VgnVCM10000048f3d6a1RCRD&vgnextchannel=db029c7755cb9010VgnVCM10000045f3d6a1RCRD)**.** This **form must be completed by a licensed medical or osteopathic doctor, or licensed clinical psychologist.**

 Where can I find materials to study for the tests?

**ENGLISH**

* **For the 100 Civics and History Questions and Answers, see**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/100q.pdf**](http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/100q.pdf)

* **For the English reading vocabulary, see**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/reading\_vocab.pdf**](http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/reading_vocab.pdf)

* **For the English writing vocabulary, see**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/M-715\_writing.pdf**](http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/M-715_writing.pdf)

**See page 4 of the above document for the complete list.**

* **For the video**, [***A Promise of Freedom***](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.acfc8bb2d633f506e34f4a10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=807c7f64aef2b210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=c242df6bdd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD)*:* ***An Introduction to U.S. History and Civics for Immigran*ts, see**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.acfc8bb2d633f506e34f4a10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=807c7f64aef2b210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=c242df6bdd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD**](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.acfc8bb2d633f506e34f4a10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=807c7f64aef2b210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=c242df6bdd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD)

**This video is available with subtitles in English, Spanish, and Chinese.**

* **Watch a sample interview and test administration at:**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.acfc8bb2d633f506e34f4a10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=64f22cac1551b210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=5efcebb7d4ff8210VgnVCM10000025e6a00aRCRD**](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.acfc8bb2d633f506e34f4a10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=64f22cac1551b210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=5efcebb7d4ff8210VgnVCM10000025e6a00aRCRD)

* **For other practice materials, including audio and self-testing materials, see**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.749cabd81f5ffc8fba713d10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=b51777f48e73a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=4982df6bdd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD**](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.749cabd81f5ffc8fba713d10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=b51777f48e73a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=4982df6bdd42a210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD)

 **SPANISH LANGUAGE MATERIALS**

* **For 100 Civics and History Questions and Answers in Spanish**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/100q\_Spanish.pdf**](http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/100q_Spanish.pdf)

* **Listen to the question and answers in Spanish (MP3 version) @**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis-es/menuitem.88b9a0d53f10bd18d52fae1074a191a0/?vgnextoid=d6f6eafd674ce210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=cab116685e1e6210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD**](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis-es/menuitem.88b9a0d53f10bd18d52fae1074a191a0/?vgnextoid=d6f6eafd674ce210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=cab116685e1e6210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD)

* ***A Promise of Freedom: An Introduction to U.S. History and Civics for Immigrants* Video (Spanish captions)**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.acfc8bb2d633f506e34f4a10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=1a9bd63b1a43b210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=3f40d63b1a43b210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD**](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.acfc8bb2d633f506e34f4a10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=1a9bd63b1a43b210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=3f40d63b1a43b210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD)

* **The USCIS Naturalization Sample Interview and Test Video (Spanish captions)**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.acfc8bb2d633f506e34f4a10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=aab2d63b1a43b210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=3f40d63b1a43b210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD**](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.acfc8bb2d633f506e34f4a10526e0aa0/?vgnextoid=aab2d63b1a43b210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=3f40d63b1a43b210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD)

 **TEST MATERIALS in OTHER LANGUAGES**

**ARABIC**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/files/100q\_Arabic.pdf**](http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/files/100q_Arabic.pdf)

**CHINESE**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/100q\_Chinese.pdf**](http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/100q_Chinese.pdf)

**KOREAN**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/files/100q\_Korean.pdf**](http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/files/100q_Korean.pdf)

**TAGALOG**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/100q\_Tagalog.pdf**](http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/100q_Tagalog.pdf)

**VIETNAMESE**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/100q\_Vietnamese.pdf**](http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/PDFs/100q_Vietnamese.pdf)

 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

The USCIS Website has much more information.

**Home Page**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis**](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis)

**Citizenship Resource Center**

[**http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=9f2e9ddf801b3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=9f2e9ddf801b3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD**](http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=9f2e9ddf801b3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD&vgnextchannel=9f2e9ddf801b3210VgnVCM100000b92ca60aRCRD)

**To Purchase Study Materials from the Government Printing Office**

[**http://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/027-002-00575-9?ctid=146**](http://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/027-002-00575-9?ctid=146)

***Most of the materials available for purchase are accessible for free on the USCIS Citizenship Resource Center webpage.***

***Have more questions?***

***Need help learning English?***

***Want to practice for the tests?***

***The Clatsop Community College Outreach Literacy Program can help!***

**503-338-2557**

**epurcell@clatsopcc.edu**