Resolving Citizen and Eligible Noncitizen Issues

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Aaron Washington
U.S. Department of Education
Overview

• Legal authorities
• General overview
• Filling out the FAFSA
• U.S. citizens or nationals
• Eligible noncitizens
• Social Security Administration (SSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Matches
• G-845 paper secondary confirmation process
• Some things to remember
• Special cases
Legal Authorities
§ 484(a)(5): Citizenship Requirement

• U.S. citizen
• U.S. national
• Permanent resident
• Provide evidence from DHS-USCIS that they are in the United States for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming a citizen or permanent resident
General Overview
General Eligibility Requirements

• Gaining eligibility
• Checking citizenship status once a year
• PLUS loans for parents of a dependent undergraduate student
Filling out the FAFSA®
Filling out the FAFSA

• Q14: Are you a U.S. citizen? Mark only one.
  • Yes I am a U.S. citizen (U.S. national)¹.
  • No, but I am an eligible noncitizen².
  • No, I am not a citizen or eligible noncitizen³.

• Q15: Alien Registration Number
  • A_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
### FAFSA Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No, but I am an eligible noncitizen.</td>
<td><strong>Fill in question 15.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No, I am not a citizen or eligible noncitizen. <strong>Skip to question 16.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 15. Allen Registration Number                                           | **A**                                   |                        |


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>17. Month and year you were married,</th>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
U.S. Citizens or Nationals
U.S. Citizens or Nationals

- All U.S. citizens are U.S. nationals, but not all nationals are citizens
- Individual who was
  - Born in the United States or its territories
  - Parent is a U.S. citizen
- Citizenship through naturalization
- Persons born in American Samoa, CNMI, Swain’s Island, United States Minor Outlying Islands (U.S. nationals)
U.S. Citizens Documentation

• Copy of birth certificate showing student was born in the United States or its territories
• U.S. passport (book or card)
• Consular Report of Birth Abroad
• Certificate of Citizenship
• Certificate of Naturalization
Eligible Noncitizens
Categories of Eligible Noncitizens

- Lawful permanent residents
- Conditional residents
- Refugees
- Asylees
- Parolees (at least 1 year)

- Cuban-Haitian Entrants
- T-visa
- Battered immigrants-qualified aliens (VAWA)
Eligible Noncitizens Documentation

- Varies by category
  - I-94, I-797, I-551, Travel Document
- Look in FSAHB Volume 1, Chapter 2 to determine what documents are acceptable
- Unexpired documentation
SSA Citizenship Match
Citizenship Match with SSA

• **All** students go through match with Social Security Administration (SSA) to verify U.S. citizenship status

• Match flags on CPS
  • Successful match
  • Data doesn’t match
  • Citizenship not confirmed
## Citizenship Match with SSA (cont’d)

### Social Security Administration Citizenship Status Match

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAR C Code/Reject</th>
<th>Match Flag</th>
<th>Comment Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong> = U.S. citizen</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>No comment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blank = Domestic born (U.S. citizen) if SSN Match Flag equals 4 (SSN, name, and date of birth match)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>No comment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>or</em> Blank = No match conducted if SSN Match Flag equals 8 (Record not sent to SSA)</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Comment 059 displays when the SSN Match Flag equals 8 regardless of the citizenship match.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C code</strong></td>
<td><strong>B</strong> = Legal alien, eligible to work</td>
<td><strong>146</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong> = Legal alien, not eligible to work</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D</strong> = Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong> = Alien, student restricted, work authorized</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>F</strong> = Conditionally legalized alien</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*** = Foreign**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### SSA Citizenship Match Flag on ISIR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Judgment</th>
<th>XXXXXXX</th>
<th>Dependency Override</th>
<th>XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX X</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transaction Receipt Date</td>
<td>MM/DD/CCYY</td>
<td>ETI</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reprocessing Code</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>Correction # Applied To</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processed Record Type</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Application Receipt Date</td>
<td>MM/DD/CCYY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Intermediate Values

- **X**: Pell Elig Flag
- **X**: High School Flag
- **XX**: Student IRS Req Flag
- **XX**: Parent IRS Req Flag

#### EFC Values

- **XX**: Secondary EFC
- **X**: Student IRS Display Flag
- **X**: Parent IRS Display Flag
- **X**: Verification Selection Flag
- **X**: Special Circumstance Flag

#### Match Flags:

- **XX**: SSN 9
- **XX**: SSA
- **XX**: DHS
- **XX**: SS N
- **XX**: NSLDS 9
- **XX**: VA
- **XX**: DHS Sec. Conf.
- **XX**: Parent 1 SSN 9
- **XX**: US Verification
- **XX**: SS Registration Flag
- **XX**: Parent 2 SSN 9

#### Comments:

```
+-- assumesition h=highlight flag #=corrected this trans @=corrected previous trans
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Student Fails SSA Citizenship Match

• A student fails SSA Citizenship Match (comment code 146)
• Ask student for proof of U.S. citizenship status
  • Must provide evidence of U.S. citizenship
• If not a citizen, they must make corrections to FAFSA and indicate appropriate box in Q14 and if eligible noncitizen answer Q15
DHS Matches:
Primary Verification &
Secondary Confirmation
Citizenship Match with DHS

- All noncitizens are provided with an alien registration number (A-Number)
- Matched with both SSA and DHS
- Match flags on CPS
  - Successful match
  - Record was not sent to DHS
  - DHS has not yet confirmed the student’s noncitizen status. DHS will continue to check its records
DHS Primary Verification

• Primary verification match
  • $Y$ = Citizenship confirmed
  • $N$ = Citizenship not confirmed
DHS Secondary Confirmation

- Secondary confirmation match flags
  - **P** = Pending results of secondary confirmation
  - **Y** = Citizenship status confirmed by DHS
  - **C** = DHS has not yet confirmed eligible noncitizen status
  - **N** = DHS did not confirm eligible noncitizen status
  - **X** = DHS did not have enough information to confirm eligible noncitizen status
DHS Match Flags on ISIR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Judgment</th>
<th>XXXXXX</th>
<th>Dependency Override</th>
<th>XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</th>
</tr>
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<td>Application Receipt Date</td>
<td>MM/DD/CCYY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interim Values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pell Elig Flag</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Secondary EFC</th>
<th>999999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 1 999999</td>
<td>Mon 7 999999</td>
<td>Mon 7 999999</td>
<td>Mon 7 999999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 2 999999</td>
<td>Mon 8 999999</td>
<td>Mon 8 999999</td>
<td>Mon 8 999999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 3 999999</td>
<td>Mon 10 999999</td>
<td>Mon 10 999999</td>
<td>Mon 10 999999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 4 999999</td>
<td>Mon 11 999999</td>
<td>Mon 11 999999</td>
<td>Mon 11 999999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 5 999999</td>
<td>Mon 12 999999</td>
<td>Mon 12 999999</td>
<td>Mon 12 999999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 6 999999</td>
<td>Mon 6 999999</td>
<td>Mon 6 999999</td>
<td>Mon 6 999999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School Flag</th>
<th>X</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student IRS Req Flag</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>Student IRS Display Flag</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent IRS Req Flag</td>
<td>XX</td>
<td>Parent IRS Display Flag</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Zero EFC Flag</td>
<td>XXX</td>
<td>Rejected Status Change Flag</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFC Change Flag</td>
<td>XXXX</td>
<td>Verification Selection Flag</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Circumstance Flag</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>SAR C Change Flag</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Match Flags: SSN 9 | SSA | DHS | SS | NSLDS 9 | VAI | DHS Sec. Conf. X | Parent 1 SSN 9 |
DHS Verification #999999 | 99999999 | SS Registration Flag | Parent 2 SSN 9 |
NSLDS Transaction Number | 9 | NSLDS Database Results Flag | 9 | DOD X |

Comments: 999,999,999,999,999,999

+-assumption h-highlight flag #-corrected this trans 0-corrected previous trans

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G-845 Paper Secondary Confirmation Process
G-845 Paper Secondary Confirmation

• The Department provides a list of eligible noncitizens and documentation
  – If the student provides documentation for an ineligible category, do NOT initiate G-845

• Fill out the G-845, Part 1

• Use the *FSA Handbook* to interpret the DHS-USCIS response
Filling out the G-845

- Schools are required to fill out Part 1, basic information about the student
- “Case Verification Number” (field #3 in G-845): The 15-digit DHS verification number is printed in the match flag section of the SAR and ISIR
- Photocopy front and back side of student’s immigration document and attach to G-845
- Depending on the institution’s state send to:
  - 10 Fountain Plaza, 3rd Floor Buffalo, NY 14202
  - 300 N. Los Angeles Street, B120 Los Angeles, CA 90012
Interpreting the G-845 Response

• How to interpret status verifier offices response
  • Part 2 of the G-845
  • Part 3 of the G-845
• No response from DHS-USCIS after 15 days
• Questions on interpretations can be sent to FSA, Washington, D.C.
  • Rene Tiongquico & Aaron Washington
Interpreting a G-845
Some Things to Remember
Ineligible Statuses

- Persons with nonimmigrant visas
- Family unity status
- Temporary residents
- Illegal aliens under the legalization program (amnesty)
- Temporary protected status
- DACA
- Withholding of removal order
- U-visas
Unnecessarily going through G-845

• See March 9, 2015 Electronic Announcement
  • Procedures to follow when adding or changing ARNs
• Schools must follow procedures when adding or correcting an ARN
• Schools must also use SAR Comment Code and Text Guide to interpret comment codes
Documenting Immigration Status in Later Award Years

• When documentation is required for each award year
  – Students in certain eligible categories may have been redesignated

• When documentation is not required for each award year
  – If the document associated with the G-845 has not expired
Keeping Copies of Documentation

- **Required records**
- **Institutions must keep copies of all documentation related to the student’s citizenship or immigration status in the student’s financial aid file**
Special Cases
Battered Immigrant-Qualified Aliens

• Also known as Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
• Guidance in GEN-10-07
• I-797 form indicating that the case is:
  • Approved
  • Establishment of a “Prima Facie” case
  • Suspension of deportation
  • Cancellation of removal
• If school is still unclear, can opt to go through G-845 with special notation in notes box: “VAWA Verification”
Cuban-Haitian Entrants

- All Cuban-Haitian Entrants eligible for Title IV aid
- Can be Cuban or Haitian national
- Cuban-Haitian Entrant is a public benefits designation, not an immigration status
- Several subcategories of Cuban-Haitian Entrants
Freely Associated States

• Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, and Palau
  • Eligible for limited FSA funds
• Pseudo-SSNs
  • For the purposes of calculating Pell Grant lifetime eligibility
• Documentation of citizenship is not required if information is consistent
DACA Students

- Are undocumented students eligible for Title IV aid?
  - No, undocumented students are ineligible for Title IV aid.
- Can an undocumented student complete the FAFSA?
  - Yes, if the student has a valid Social Security number. More importantly, students should also talk with a school financial aid official.
U-Visas

- U-visas are victims of crime (different from T-visa and VAWA)
- These students are not eligible for Title IV aid
- Three year continuous presence after the date of admission: may be eligible to convert to lawful permanent resident status
  - Lawful permanent resident: eligible noncitizen category
  - Once converted to LPR may be eligible for Title IV aid
- Documentation usually consists of I-797
Unable to Appear at Institution

- Dear Colleague Letter, GEN-15-08
- Verification of U.S. citizenship or immigration status when student is unable to appear at institution
- Confirmation of eligible noncitizen status
- Confirmation of U.S. citizenship
- Accepting photocopies or other images
- Additional steps
Unable to Appear at Institution (cont’d)

**CERTIFICATION OF TRUE, EXACT, AND COMPLETE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS**

This form is for the collection of DHS or other U.S. citizenship/nationality documents from students unable to present their documents in person.

I certify that I,  
(Print student’s full name)  
signing this statement, and I am providing a copy of my documents along with a copy of a valid government-issued photo identification card bearing my portrait (or likeness).

I certify that the attached documents and government issued photo identification are the true, exact, and complete copies of the originals issued to me.

List of document(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF VALID PHOTO ID</th>
<th>EXPIRATION DATE OF VALID PHOTO ID</th>
<th>ISSUING AUTHORITY OF VALID PHOTO ID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF CITIZENSHIP AND/OR IMMIGRATION DOCUMENT(S)</th>
<th>EXPIRATION DATE (IF ANY) OF CITIZENSHIP AND/OR IMMIGRATION DOCUMENT(S)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Sign in the presence of a notary public*

Page 2

I understand that providing false or misleading information or documents is punishable by fine or imprisonment and may make me liable for repayment of any funds received on the basis of the information and documents I have provided.

Student’s Signature                                      Student’s ID Number

Date

*Sign in the presence of a notary public*
Resources

• *Federal Student Aid Handbook*, Volume 1, Chapter 2
• SAR Comment Codes and Text & ISIR Guide
• GEN-06-09 (T-visa); GEN-10-07 (VAWA)
• 34 CFR 668.32(d); 668.33; subpart I of Part 668
• [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)
• [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)
• ED Office of Inspector General
  • 1-800-MIS-USED
Points of Contact

General Student Eligibility Issues:
• Rene Tiongquico, FSA
  – Rene.Tiongquico@ed.gov; 202-377-4270
• Aaron Washington, OPE
  – Aaron.Washington@ed.gov; 202-502-7478

G-845 Processing Issues:
• DHS Case Resolution Team
  – 1-877-469-2563