

**QUESTION:** What are the requirements for Naturalization?

**ANSWER:** If you are a permanent resident, you can become a U.S. citizen through the process called naturalization, if you meet all the following requirements:

1. You have resided in the United States as a permanent resident continuously for five years. (You can also qualify after only three years of permanent residence if you are married to, and living with your U.S. Citizen spouse during those three years.)
2. You have been physically present in the United States for half of the five years (or three, if you are married to and living with your U.S. Citizen spouse.)
3. You are a person of good moral character.
4. You have a basic knowledge of U.S. government and history.
5. You are able to read, write, and speak simple English (with exceptions for some older, long-time or disabled permanent residents.)
6. You are at least 18 years of age and legally competent to take an oath of allegiance to the United States.
7. You express your allegiance to the United States.

LEGAL NOTICE: Information on this page was provided by **Allan Wernick**, lawyer and Chairman of the City of New York's Citizenship and Immigration Project. He is also the author of "U.S. Immigration and Citizenship – Your Complete Guide, Revised 4<sup>th</sup> Edition."

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