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Hospitalized or Incarcerated Men



You are exempt from Selective Service registration if you can prove you were continuously institutionalized or confined from 30 days before you turned 18 through age 25. If you were released for any period longer than 30 days during this window, you were required to register with the Selective Service System.

For Selective Service to determine this exemption, the following supporting documentation is needed when you mail your status information letter request form:

- Proof that your dates of confinement or institutionalization are accurate
- Proof that you were continuously incarcerated, or never released for any period of 30 days or longer.

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Men Born Before 1960

Men born from March 29, 1957 through December 31, 1959, were not required to register with the Selective Service System because the registration program was suspended when they would have reached age 18. The requirement to register with Selective Service was reinstated in 1980, but only for men born January 1, 1960, or later.

Status Information Letter Not Required



Men born before 1960 are **not** required to be registered with Selective Service to be eligible for federal student loans or grant programs (includes Pell Grants, College Work Study, Guaranteed Student/Plus Loans, and National Direct Student Loans), federal job training (WIA), and federal jobs, including the U.S. Postal Service. Thus, they should **not** be asked to provide a status information letter from Selective Service.

NOTE: Immigrants born before 1960 who are seeking U.S. citizenship may be asked by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to provide a status information letter. However, for applicants over 31 years of age, the applicant is eligible for naturalization even if the applicant knowingly and willfully failed to register because the applicant's failure to register would be outside of the statutory period (See USCIS Policy Manual - Volume 12 - Part D - Chapter 7 (/Portals/0/PDFs/PrinterFriendly/USCIS%20Naturalization%20_%20SSS%20registration%20policy.pdf)).

Message for Financial Aid Officers and Registrars

FAFSA applicants born before 1960:

Students applying for student financial aid who were born before 1960 are NOT required to obtain a status information letter from the Selective Service System. Under federal law [34 CFR 668.37(a)(2)(i)], a male student does not have to register with Selective Service to be eligible to receive title IV, HEA program funds if he was born before January 1, 1960. Therefore, a letter from Selective Service is NOT required for students born before 1960 because federal law clearly exempts them from the registration requirement.

In addition, note that the Student Financial Aid Handbook, Volume 1, Chapter 5, states, "Unless you can document that the student meets one of the allowable exemptions regarding registration ..., the student must write Selective Service to get a status information letter addressing his failure to register." For the student born before 1960, the required documentation is provided in 34 CFR 668.37(a)(2)(i), and in the Student Financial Aid Handbook. Both the Code of Federal Regulations and the Handbook document the fact that students born before 1960 are exempted from the registration requirement. Hence, no additional documentation from Selective Service is needed.

The Student Financial Aid Handbook states, "...non-citizens who first enter the U.S. after the age of 26 aren't required to register. Only those immigrant men who enter and live in the U.S. at ages 18 through 25 are required to be registered. If a male immigrant can show proof that he first entered the U.S. when he was past registration age, he is clearly not required to be registered, and no status information letter is needed. The student's entry documentation is enough to show whether he was required to register."

Refer to your Student Financial Aid Handbook, Volume 1, Chapter 5, on Selective Service:

FEDERAL JOB TRAINING

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (formerly known as the Workforce Investment Act), offers programs that can train young men for jobs in auto mechanics and other skills. This program is only open to those men who register with Selective Service. Only men born after December 31, 1959, are required to show proof of registration.

FEDERAL JOBS

A man must be registered to be eligible for jobs in the Executive Branch of the Federal government and the U.S. Postal Service. Proof of registration is required only for men born after December 31, 1959.

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Who Must Register - Chart

Does every young man have to register when he turns 18? Just about!

Almost all male U.S. citizens regardless of where they live, and documented or undocumented immigrant men residing in the U.S., are required to be registered with Selective Service if they are at least 18 years old but are not yet 26 years old. Men who are 26 years old and older are too old to register. Some requirements are shown below:

Category	Yes	No
All male U.S. citizens born after December 31, 1959, who are 18 but not yet 26 years old, except as noted below:	X	
Military Related		
Members of the Armed Forces on active duty (active duty for training does not constitute "active duty" for registration purposes)		X*
Cadets and Midshipmen at Service Academies or Coast Guard Academy		X*
Cadets at the Merchant Marine Academy	X	
Students in Officer Procurement Programs at the Citadel, North Georgia College and State University, Norwich University, Virginia Military Institute, Texas A&M University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University		X*
ROTC Students	X	
National Guardsmen and Reservists not on active duty	X	
Delayed Entry Program enlistees	X	
Separatees from Active Military Service, separated for any reason before age 26	X*	
Men rejected for enlistment for any reason before age 26	X	
Civil Air Patrol members	X	
Immigrants**		
Lawful non-immigrants on current non-immigrant visas. A complete list of acceptable documentation for exemption may be found here (/Portals/0/PDFs/DocumentationList.pdf).		X
Permanent resident immigrants (USCIS Form I-551)	X	
Seasonal agriculture workers (H-2A Visa)		X

Refugee, parolee, and asylee immigrants	X
Undocumented immigrants	X
Dual national U.S. citizens	X

Confined

Incarcerated, or hospitalized or institutionalized for medical reasons	X*
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Handicapped physically or mentally

Able to function in public with or without assistance	X
Continually confined to a residence, hospital, or institution	X

Transgender People

U.S. citizens or immigrants who are born male and have changed their gender to female	X
Individuals who are born female and have changed their gender to male	X

*Must register within 30 days of release unless already age 26.

NOTE: To be fully exempt you must have been on active duty or confined continuously from age 18 to 26.

**Residents of Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, and Northern Mariana Islands are U.S. citizens. Citizens of American Samoa are nationals and must register when they are habitual residents in the United States or reside in the U.S. for at least one year. Habitual residence is presumed and registration is required whenever a national or a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or Palau, resides in the United States for more than one year in any status, except when the individual resides in the U.S. as an employee of the government of his homeland; or as a student who entered the U.S. for the purpose of full-time studies, as long as such person maintains that status.

NOTE: Immigrants who did not enter the United States or maintained their lawful non-immigrant status by continually remaining on a valid visa until after they were 26 years old, were never required to register. Also, immigrants born before 1960, who did not enter the United States or maintained their lawful non-immigrant status by continually remaining on a valid visa until after March 29, 1975, were never required to register.

NOTE: Transgender students are welcome to contact Selective Service regarding their registration requirements if they are unclear about how they should answer Question 21 or Question 22 on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), or need a status information letter from Selective Service that clarifies whether or not they are exempt from the

registration requirement. This can be done by calling our Registration Information Office on 1-888-655-1825. Individuals who have changed their gender to male will be asked to complete a request form for a status information letter and provide a copy of their birth certificate. One exemption letter may be used in multiple school financial aid processes.

This WHO MUST REGISTER Chart is also available for Print as a pdf: [CHART \(/portals/0/PDFs/WhoMustRegisterChart.pdf\)](/portals/0/PDFs/WhoMustRegisterChart.pdf).

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