

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

From permanent residence to citizenship: requirements that a card cannot prove

Does holding a Green Card for several years automatically qualify me for citizenship?

A Green Card documents residence status, but naturalization examines additional requirements. USCIS separately evaluates continuous residence, actual physical presence, good moral character, applicable English and civics requirements, and the oath stage. The applicable category determines the full legal framework.

Check the boxes on screen or by hand. Use the notes area for records to find and questions to ask.

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Identify the applicable naturalization category before using a general timeline.
- ☐ Reconstruct actual travel and residence history separately.
- ☐ Review character, examination and any exception questions under their own sources.
- ☐ Distinguish N-400 approval from completing the oath.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

Sources checked October 25, 2026. Follow current instructions at the linked institution.

USCIS: Continuous residence: naturalization policy

<https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-12-part-d-chapter-3>

USCIS: Physical presence: naturalization policy

<https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-12-part-d-chapter-4>

USCIS: Good moral character adjudication

<https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-12-part-f-chapter-2>

From permanent residence to citizenship: requirements that a card cannot prove

Source links (continued)

USCIS: Naturalization interview and test

<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship/the-naturalization-interview-and-test>

USCIS: Naturalization ceremonies

<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship/naturalization-ceremonies>

USCIS: N-400: Naturalization

<https://www.uscis.gov/n-400>

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

<https://immigrantinsider.com/editorial-policy/>

Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/lpr/resident-naturalization/>

General information

This free organizer is not a government form and does not submit an application, establish eligibility, preserve a deadline or replace individual legal advice. Government filing fees and professional services are separate.