

Attention U.S. Permanent Residents

U.S. CITIZENSHIP

Ventura Adult & Continuing Education
5200 Valentine Road, Ventura
(805) 289-7925

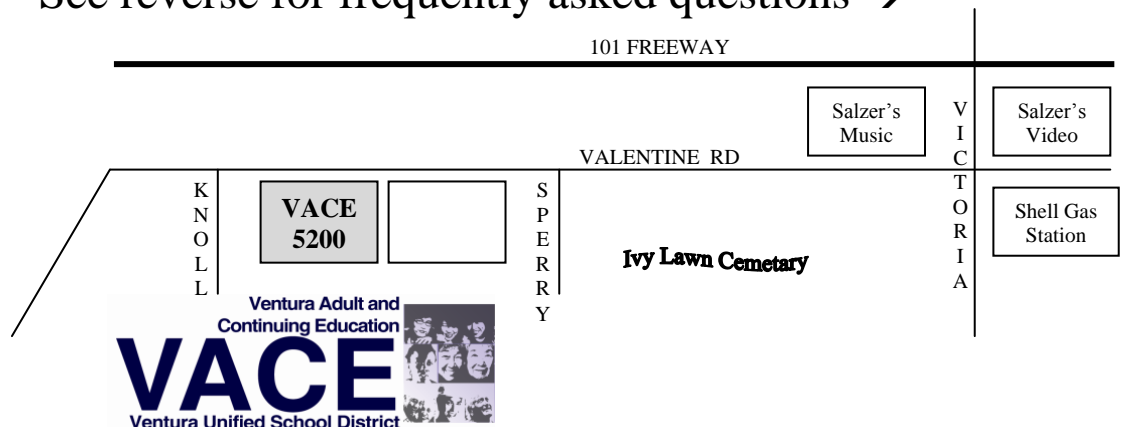
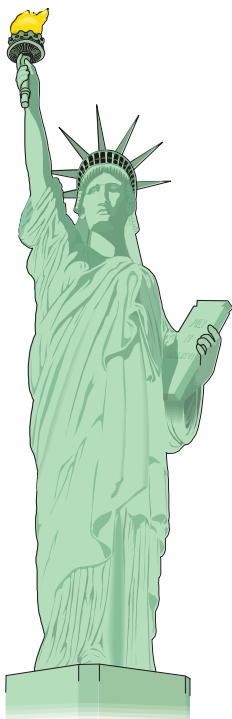
10-Week Preparation Class Only \$10

Feb 21 to May 1, 2012
Every Tuesday
6:30 – 8:30 pm
(next session will be in September)

To Register:
Pay \$10 at the school office before the first day of class. Office is open Tues-Thurs 8 am – 6 pm, Fri 8 am – 4 pm

- ✓ Learn about U.S. History and Government
- ✓ Fill out the N-400 Application
- ✓ Rehearse for the Interview with the USCIS
- ✓ Practice the Reading and Writing Test
- ✓ Study Answers to the 100 Civics Questions

See reverse for frequently asked questions →



Frequently Asked Questions about Applying for U.S. Citizenship

What are the requirements for becoming a U.S.

Citizen? You must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be a legal U.S. permanent resident for at least 5 years (3 years if married to a U.S. citizen or 2 years if serving in the U.S. military)
- Have lived continuously in the U.S. for 30 months (short vacations outside are ok)
- Have lived in the same area for
- Be of good moral character
- Be able to understand, speak, read and write basic English
- Know basic U.S. government and history
- Agree to follow the U.S. Constitution

When can I apply for citizenship?

The earliest you can send your N-400 application is 90 days before you meet the time requirements.

Is it necessary to have a lawyer or notary public to fill out my application?

Usually no. A lawyer is necessary if there is something unusual about your situation. A notary public can help you fill out the application, but can't give advice or help you if there is a problem later.

How much does it cost?

To apply for citizenship it costs \$680 (\$595 application fee + \$85 biometrics/fingerprint processing). Note: you don't need to pay this money for the class; only when you are ready to send your N-400 application.

How long does it take?

It takes about 4 months from the day you send your N-400 application to the day you have your interview and test. It is your decision when to send your application, it is not necessary for the class.

How much English do I need to know?

One year of English class is enough for most people. The instructor can evaluate your English and give you a recommendation.

Is it difficult to be approved for citizenship?

The USCIS says that 94% of applicants pass.

What happens if I don't pass?

It is rare that people are denied. If you are "continued" because you couldn't pass the English or civics test or you didn't bring the correct documents, you will have another interview later for no extra charge.

Can I take the test in my language?

Usually no. You can bring an interpreter if you notify the USCIS in advance and if:

- you are more than 50 years old **AND** have been a U.S. permanent resident for at least 20 years
- OR
- you are more than 55 years old **AND** have been a U.S. permanent resident for at least 15 years

When can I take the class at VACE?

Any time. Some people take the class before they send the application; other people take it after they send the application. You can also take the class more than one time.

Is there a preparation class in Spanish?

There is no class, but there are many study materials available for free at the USCIS website (see below).

VACE is not connected to the USCIS. Visit the website for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services for complete information:

ENGLISH:

www.uscis.gov

ESPAÑOL:

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis-es>

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