

Registering for Selective Service

A draft is the mandatory service of individuals in the army, however the United States military has been volunteer based since 1973

Even though we do not currently have a draft, almost all men ages 18-25 who are U.S. citizens or are immigrants living in the U.S. are required to register with Selective Service. This is just in case a crisis situation required a draft- you will not be called upon to serve after registering while there is no draft. Citizens must register within 30 days after turning 18, and immigrants must register within 30 days of arriving in the U.S.

Who is Exempt from Registration:

- Men in the U.S. on student, visitor, or diplomatic visas (lawful non-immigrants or current non-immigrant visas)
- Seasonal agricultural workers (H-2A Visa)
- Individuals who are incarcerated, or hospitalized, or institutionalized for medical reasons
- Men who are handicapped, physically or mentally, who are continually confined to a residence, hospital, or institution.
- It is noted that if the individual is able to function in public with or without assistance, they are still required to enroll. Exemptions to register for those who are handicapped is solely for those who are “confined” to a particular place.
- Individuals who are born female and have changed their gender to male
- A complete list of who is required and who is exempt can be found on this pdf: <https://www.sss.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/WhoMustRegisterChart.pdf>

How to Register:

1) Register online or with a printed registration form.

- To register online, use this link: <https://www.sss.gov/register/>
- To register with a printed form (instructions on where to send it are on the form), you can find the form at your local post office or download and print it here: <https://www.sss.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Form-1-Registration-Fillable.pdf>

2) Within 90 days of registering, you will receive a letter in the mail with your Selective Service registration card.

- Both the letter and the card are your Selective Service proof of registration. Proof of registration can be used for applying to state-based aid in 31 states, federal jobs, security clearances, and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity programs.
- Keep your acknowledgement card in your permanent files for future reference as proof of registration.
- If you do not receive the letter and card within 90 days, call 1-847-688-6888 and choose the option for receiving your own Selective Service number.

3) You are required to keep your registration information up to date until you turn 26. Contact the Selective Service System if:

- There is an error on your registration card
- If you move or change your name

4) If you have lost your registration card, use the letter that came with it to show proof of registration. You can get a copy of the letter by completing this form:

<https://www.sss.gov/verify/>

What Happens After You Register:

- Because there is no draft currently, nothing will happen.
- If Congress and the President authorize a draft, the Selective Service System will start calling registered men ages 18- 25 for duty. The men will be called in a sequence determined by a random lottery number and year of birth.
- The men will be examined for mental, physical, and moral fitness for military service.
- They'll either be deferred or exempted from military service, or they will be inducted into the armed forces.

If You Do Not Register for Selective Service:

- If you are required to register and do not, you will not be eligible for state-based student aid in many states (MA included), federal job training, or a federal job. You may also be prosecuted and face a fine of up to 250,000 and jail time of up to 5 years. If you are an immigrant to the U.S., you will not be eligible for citizenship.
- If you unintentionally never registered and are being denied federal or state benefits, you may still be able to get them by providing evidence that you did not purposefully avoid registering.

All of this info and more can be found using this link: <https://www.usa.gov/selective-service>