

How to Determine if You Already Have an ITIN

ITINs are a powerful tool that can open doors for undocumented individuals who are not eligible for a SSN.

An Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) is a tax-processing number issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to enable individuals who do not have Social Security Numbers (SSN) to file and pay taxes. While ITINs are for tax reporting, you can also use your ITIN for opening a bank account, obtaining a home mortgage, securing a driver's license (in some states), and for career opportunities as an independent contractor, freelancer, or business owner.

As an undocumented student, you may already have an ITIN and not know it! If your parents have filed income taxes and claimed you as a dependent, it's likely that you have an ITIN.

To determine if you already have an ITIN, follow these steps:

1. Ask your parents if they have filed taxes in the past. If yes, ask them if they claimed you as a dependent.
2. Ask your parents to see copies of their past tax returns. Look for either of the following documents:
 - a. **An ITIN Assignment Letter** - If your parents claimed you as a dependent on their taxes, they would have received an [ITIN Assignment letter](#) (on green paper) from the IRS with the ITIN number for the dependent child. Most parents keep this letter, but alternatively the ITIN would be used on subsequent tax filings on Form 1040.
 - b. **Form 1040** - Review your parents' [Form 1040](#) (this form is used to file an annual income tax return). On page 1 of Form 1040 under the Dependents section, look to see if your name, relationship (child), and ITIN number is listed under the Social Security Number field. If a 9-digit number that starts with the number 9 (ex. 9##-##-####) is listed under the SSN section, that is your ITIN number.

ITINs Can Expire...

If your ITIN was not included on a U.S. federal tax return at least once during the past 3 consecutive tax years, your ITIN will expire on December 31 of the 3rd year of not being used. Once you receive an ITIN, it is important that you file and pay taxes each year (or your parent files and pays taxes, and claims you as a dependent) so that your ITIN stays valid. If you have an expired ITIN, you will need to renew it. Read the [IRS's ITIN Expiration Frequently Asked Questions](#).

For additional ITIN resources, visit

thedream.us/itin

