

Taxes – The Basics

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1. What time period do I have to report my taxes for?

Taxes for one calendar year are reported the following year. For example, taxes for the year 2024 are reported in 2025. When you fill out the dollar amount of your wages, you only use the wages earned in that year.

2. Do I have to report to the IRS if I had no income?

- a) If you had no income in the previous year through a job or a scholarship or grant you have to report to the IRS that you had no income by filling out [form 8843](#).
- b) Income and presence in the States for 5 years or more: you are considered a resident alien and have to report your taxes using form 1040.
- c) Income and presence in the States for less than 5 years: you have to report your taxes with form 1040-NR (non-resident) Stetson helps you by providing an access code to the software glacier, and a step-by-step guide that helps filling out 1040-NR correctly.

What qualifies as Income?

Most international students at Stetson have to report taxes because they

- Had a **job on campus**
- Did **OPT**
- Did **CPT**
- Or received a **scholarship that included payments that exceed “qualified education expense”** Example: scholarships for tuition are tax free, but if they cover room and board you have to pay taxes on that amount. Check [here](#) for more information
- Received **interest on savings** you have both within and outside the USA
- Had any **other income**

This is not an extensive list as to what qualifies as “income” if in doubt, ask an accountant or tax attorney. WORLD will help any way it can but, it is your individual responsibility to report all income.

Reporting

To report no income/taxes, you need to fill out [form 1040-NR https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040nr.pdf](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040nr.pdf)

Instructions on how to do that can be found in this [document](#). Please read this before you start filling out the form!

What is a W-2?

Everybody who has been legally employed will receive a form W-2 by the end of January of the year following employment. This form provides the exact amount of income and withholdings. [Withholdings](#) are portions of your wages or salary that the employer keeps and sends directly to the Federal and State Tax Authorities.

What is a form 1099

That is a form you receive when you are self-employed, for example during post completion OPT. It gives the IRS a way to cross-check that your earnings are reported, because the client that issues the 1099 forwards it to the tax authorities.

What is a 1098T ?

1098 T is issued by Stetson (or a previous university if you transferred) stating the amount of mandatory education expenses. If you receive a scholarship these costs are non-taxable. Anything you received and used for expenses that are not mandatory education expenses (health insurance, room and board, etc) are considered taxable income and have to be reported as such.

What are withholdings?

[Withholdings](#) are portions of your wages or salary that the employer keeps and sends directly to the Federal and State Tax Authorities.

Do I have to pay Federal and State taxes?

In general yes, but if your income was earned in Florida, no. Florida does not have income tax.

Is there a threshold under which you do not owe taxes?

No. Every amount earned is subject to taxes.

Can I get a SSN?

As an F-1 student you will not be issued a **Social Security Number**, unless you find employment on campus or with CPT or OPT. You will have to apply for the SSN with [form SS-5](#). If you receive a scholarship through Stetson the office of Finance will most likely reach out to you and request you create an account with Glacier, a tax software. They will provide all links. That prompts the process for a SSN.

What is SSN?

Every US citizen gets a Social Security Number issued at birth. He/She will keep it all their lives and need it for all official actions: employment, bank account, taxes, health insurance, etc. If you are not born in the U.S. you must qualify for it, to be allowed to apply for one.

Does my country have a tax treaty with the US

The question cannot be answered in general. It depends on the country.

What is a tax treaty?

A tax treaty is an agreement between two or more countries on how to tax citizens from one of the partners that live in the country of the other.