

**Why Does Bridgewater State University Need My
Individual Taxpayer Identification or Social Security Number (ITIN/SSN)?**

Frequently Asked Questions

Due to the volume of anticipated inquiries related to the University's annual ITIN/SSN solicitation notice, Bridgewater State University may not be able to provide personalized responses in a timely manner. Please read the following Frequently Asked Questions carefully. If you have a specific question that you cannot find in this document, please email the Student Accounts Office at sao@bridgew.edu.

Question: Is this email notice spam?

Answer: No.

Bridgewater State University is required by the IRS to send you this reminder about your responsibility to keep the University's records current.

Question: Is this email notice a phishing attempt?

Answer: No.

Please note that the message advises you NOT to send personal information by e-mail. If you are uncomfortable about clicking on a link in an email, then type the Web address into your browser or search Bridgewater State University website directly.

Question: Why am I receiving this notice?

Answer: This is an administrative email and notice from the University.

You are receiving this University administrative notice because the IRS requires Bridgewater State University to request this information from students who may have had a reportable transaction in tax year.

Question: What is my Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)?

Answer: Your ITIN = your Social Security Number (SSN).

If you are not eligible for a SSN and you have an ITIN instead, then update your student account with your ITIN.

Question: What is an IRS Form 1098-T?

Answer: The IRS Form 1098-T is a tuition statement used to assist the taxpayer in determining eligibility for an educational tax credit and/or deduction.

The IRS requires that the University issue a Form 1098-T Tuition Statement to every student that has a reportable transaction in the tax year.

Question: How is this notice relevant to an international student?

Answer: If you have obtained an SSN or ITIN, then this notice is a reminder to update your student records with this information.

All U.S. citizens, resident aliens and nonresident aliens who had at least one reportable transaction and who intend to or who will file a U.S. tax return for the purpose of receiving an educational tax credit need to provide this information to the University.

Question: If I am an international student and I do not have a SSN/ITIN, what do I do?

Answer: If you are a nonresident alien, do not have an ITIN and do not intend to file a U.S. tax return, then please log into InfoBear and select that option.
Please select that option on InfoBear.

Question: How is this notice relevant to someone who is no longer studying at Bridgewater State University?

Answer: Even if you are no longer enrolled, Bridgewater State University will issue you a Form 1098-T if you had at least one reportable transaction during tax year.
You are responsible for keeping the University's records current.

Question: I don't want to report my ITIN/SSN to Bridgewater State University, but I still want an IRS Form 1098-T to be issued to me. Is that possible?

Answer: The University will issue a Form 1098-T to every student who has a reportable transaction in the tax year.
Please decline via InfoBear. However you may be subject to IRS penalties.

Question: Will I be penalized for not reporting this information to Bridgewater State University?

Answer: The IRS has informed us that it is possible you could be penalized for failing to supply the University with your SSN/ITIN.
For more information, consult your tax consultant, tax accountant or the IRS.

Question: How and when will I receive my Form 1098-T Tuition Statement for tax year?

Answer: Students have the option to access the 1098-T form electronically and opt-out of postal delivery. For more information see <https://www.bridgew.edu/admissions-aid/cost-attending/form-1098-t>.