

Schedule A is a list of occupations for which the U.S. Department of Labor has determined that there is an insufficient number of U.S. workers who are able, willing, qualified and available. This allows foreign nationals to skip the labor certification process which tests the job market and start working in the U.S. sooner. Workers in these occupations must have a full-time job offer from an employer. The following occupations comprise Schedule A

- **Group I – physical therapists and professional nurses; and**
- **Group II – immigrants of exceptional ability in the sciences or arts, including college and university teachers, and immigrants of exceptional ability in the performing arts.**

Because of the occupational shortage of these U.S. workers, DOL has “pre-certified” Schedule A occupations. This means that an employer who wishes to hire a person for a Schedule A occupation is not required to conduct a test of the labor market and apply for a permanent labor certification with DOL. Rather, this employer must apply for Schedule A designation by submitting an application for permanent labor certification to USCIS in conjunction with the petition.

To qualify for Schedule A, the position must meet follow the following steps:

- **Step One: Prevailing Wage Determination and Notice of Filing**  
A Prevailing Wage Determination must be prepared and filed with the DOL.  
4 months
- **Notice of Filing**  
The employer must complete posting requirements as directed by the DOL.  
10 business days  
Waiting Period  
After the notices have been posted, there is a waiting period of 30 days. 30 days
- **Step Two: Filing the ETA 9089 and Form I-140 Petition with USCIS**  
Once the PERM application is prepared, it does not have to be certified by the DOL. Instead, a Preference Petition (Form I-140) can be filed with USCIS as soon as the posting requirements are met.  
Waiting Period  
4 month (15 calendar days under premium Processing)
- **Step Three: Immigrant Visa Processing or Adjustment of Status**