

O-1A

Extraordinary Ability Visa Evidence Requirements Guide



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IMPORTANT NOTE

This guide was developed based on insights from thousands of approvals. You don't need to satisfy all eight criteria, and most cases we've supported meet four to five criteria. We show you what's been successful as evidence for each criteria, with aggregate examples from approved petitions. This list is not definitive, nor exhaustive. Beyond the minimal viable evidence, remember quality over quantity!

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Evidence Standards

The United States Citizens and Immigration Services (USCIS) has strict requirements for how evidence is prepared and submitted in a petition. The standards below are based on insights from thousands of approved cases and common issues raised across Request for Evidence notices.

All evidence in your petition is printed and scanned for USCIS review

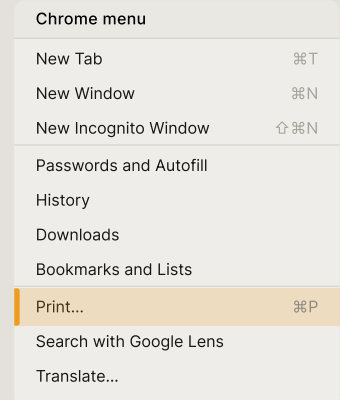
- **Files work best in PDF format.** Image files (JPEG, PNG) are often easily skewed and often don't print cleanly.
- **One piece of evidence per file.** When sharing evidence with us, don't combine screenshots into a single Word doc or PDF.
- **Make sure content is readable when printed.** Text should be clearly visible and sized for paper.
- **Evidence needs to be verifiable.** Slack threads, text exchanges often don't serve as high quality evidence

For evidence that is publicly available online

Our team conducts in-depth research to supplement evidence you provide. We ensure that any online evidence includes:

- URL
- Time stamp

When you're sharing private or pay-walled pages, use "Print to PDF" in your browser so the full page is captured with the URL visible in the final PDF before sharing it with us. In Chrome: click the menu button (three dots) in the top right, then select Print. In the print dialog, change the destination to Save as PDF.



Translations

Any evidence included in a petition that is not in English must be translated — including web pages, internal documents, emails, and letters.

- For certified translations, we recommend vendors like [rushtranslate.com](https://www.rushtranslate.com).
- Alternatively, translate the document yourself and include a signed affidavit confirming the accuracy of your translation.

Quality over quantity

- Detailed evidence helps our team ensure that we apply the strongest evidence to meet the visa requirements.
- Signed letters are considered secondary evidence by USCIS. They are used to connect claims and more is not always better so long as they support the visa requirements. We typically see 3–5 letters as sufficient.
- For evidence, it is critical that your name and/or the relevant organization is visible so it can tie back to you and/or or your work

CRITERION 1 OF 8

Critical Role

at a Distinguished Organization

Provide objective, documentary evidence showing:

1

You made a meaningful difference to outcomes the organization cares about

You shaped work the organization depended on, and your role was visible, named, and connected to outcomes that mattered

2

The organization is known and would be considered recognized

The organization is known and others in the field outside of the company can verify it matters

WHAT ARE WAYS TO DEFINE HOW YOU WERE CRITICAL?

- Executive or managerial position
- Top contributor to the organization's primary product or service
- Public spokesperson for the organization
- Senior faculty or researcher at an academic department or governmental research organization
- Top author of the organization's published research or internal whitepapers

WHAT ARE WAYS TO PROVE A DISTINGUISHED ORGANIZATION?

If you were employed at a company that is publicly traded or easily "Google-able," our team will be able to find ample evidence (e.g., press about the organization's achievements, market size, notable customers, etc.)

OTHERWISE, EVIDENCE WHERE WE'VE SEEN SUCCESS, PARTICULARLY FOR EARLY STAGE COMPANIES

- Signed contracts or revenue dashboards showing \$100k+ in annual recurring revenue
- At least 2 national-level press articles about the organization
- Documentation of 100k+ active users or wait-list of potential customers
- At least 2 signed contracts or letters of intent with notable partners, such as a public company, big-name later-stage startups, government organizations, or similar "Google-able" organizations

Note: Organizations in "stealth" mode often have a higher bar for evidence because the distinguished reputation claim requires significant documentation of users, wait-list, or customer contracts. Not impossible but something to know in advance!

1 Your critical role

What to include

≥ 3 ITEMS

- Original signed offer letter or promotion letters. For founders, we've seen employment verification letters suffice.
- Work product from that role should show affiliation to the company to affirm authenticity (eg, company letterhead, logo, URLs visible)
- Strategy documents, product documentation, business plans, Notion pages, meeting notes, or pitch decks must name you and the organization
- Code repositories that name you and the organization to attest to its validity
- Code contributors pages where you appear within the top 3 for a given project
- Patents (pending or approved) naming you
- Published research naming you and the organization
- Organization white-papers naming you and the organization
- Conferences, panels, or speaking engagements naming you and the organization
- Blogs or press authored by you about your work at the organization
- Blogs or press featuring you, about your work at the company

What doesn't help

- Photos, screenshots, or documentation without your name visible
- Word documents clearly prepared for the O-1A
- Documentation where your work affiliation and organization are not named
- Non-English documentation without translations
- Contributions that name you as one of many, without a clear top ranking or leadership role
- Generic organizational materials without your name
- LinkedIn profile

2 Distinguished organization

What to include

≥ 3 ITEMS

We would expect to include a website or pitch deck which describes the company clearly.

Additionally, evidence of traction that is most applicable to early-stage companies:

- Revenue or traction data with organization name and page URL clearly indicated (Stripe, Mercury, or similar sources help prove authenticity)
 - \$100k+ in annual recurring revenue
 - 100k+ active users or size-able wait-list
- Signed customer, partnership contracts, NDAs, or LOIs naming the organization and its customer. These are highest impact if the customers are notable organizations themselves (multinational corporations, "Google-able" organizations)
- URLs of at least 2–3 major media articles about the organization or its work
- Size-able venture capital funding (\$1M+), especially from industry-leading investors with prominent portfolio companies

What doesn't help

- Prospective documentation of achievements or traction (unsigned contracts, email requests, etc.)
- Self-produced data or information from the organization's website or internal materials (Notion, customizable spreadsheets)
- Re-posted tweets or social media which are heavily scrutinized by USCIS
- Non-English documentation with no translation
- Documents that don't name you or the organization

CRITERION 2 OF 8

Original Contributions

of Major Significance

Provide objective, documentary evidence showing:

1

Something new (research, product, method, or system) exists because of you

Did I make it, or substantially shape it? Can I prove it's mine with documentation?

2

It changed something beyond your team and your field noticed it

Did other people in the field use it, build on it, adopt it, cite it, or pay for it? Did it change how work gets done? Can you point to evidence of that impact that exists outside your own organization?

WHAT ARE WAYS TO DEFINE AN ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION?

A novel technical or business process, product, or idea that can be clearly documented and linked to you as a core contributor. Our aim is to indicate how the contribution wouldn't exist without your work! Examples include:

- Widely adopted technologies or methodologies
- Influential research or publications
- Patents that were commercialized into major products
- Significant software or open-source contributions
- Innovations that changed practices or workflows
- Business innovations with measurable market impact

Note: For some candidates applying for the O-1, the evidence for Critical Role will overlap with evidence for Original Contributions. Our goal is to distinguish evidence that is meaningful for supporting claims around the uniqueness of what you've created vs the importance of the role itself.

WHAT ARE WAYS TO PROVE MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE?

Our team will conduct research to include any publicly available commentary or national or international press. This will often support what USCIS cites as "major media or published discussion about the innovation."

OTHERWISE, EVIDENCE WHERE WE'VE SEEN SUCCESS

- Citation records or widespread adoption (100+ citations, 75k+ users, \$200k+ in revenue and/or industry traction with notable organizations)
- Commercialization evidence (large or impressive customer contracts, partnership agreements, LOIs, NDAs with industry leaders or organizations wanting to use the technology)
- Patents or licensing agreements which indicate significant influence across the industry

1 Your original contribution

What to include

≥ 3 ITEMS

- Strategy documents, PRDs, business plans, Notion pages, or pitch/slide decks naming you and describing what you made. Letterhead or page URLs are valuable here to prove authenticity
- Code repositories that clearly name you and the what you developed (eg, READMEs or product documentation are helpful)
- Code contributors pages where you appear within the top 3 for a given project to indicate you as the key driver of the contribution
- Patents (pending or approved) naming you and the contribution
- Published, peer-reviewed research or white-papers which name you and the contribution
- Blogs or press authored by you about your work on this contribution
- Blogs or press featuring you, about your work on this contribution

What doesn't help

- Photos, screenshots, or documentation without your name visible
- Word documents clearly prepared for the O-1A
- Documentation where what you or what you've built is not named
- Non-English documentation without translations
- Named as one of many contributors, without a clear top ranking or leadership role
- Generic organizational materials without your name
- LinkedIn profile

2 Major significance to the field

What to include

≥ 3 ITEMS

We would expect to include a website or pitch deck which shows that the contribution is commercialized, implemented internally, or available for public consumption.

Additionally, evidence of industry traction or influence are critical to support this claim including:

- Traction dashboard data with the contribution name and page URL clearly indicated (eg, Stripe, Mercury, or similar sources help prove authenticity with \$200k+ in revenue)
- Conferences, panels, or speaking engagements naming you and the contribution's novelty
- 75k+ active users or wait-list which indicates strong interest from the industry
- Links to at least 2 major media articles about the contribution
- NDAs, LOIs, or customer/partnership/licensing agreements, especially impactful if signed with major publicly traded or multinational corporations
- Citation information (100+ is ideal)

What doesn't help

- Prospective documentation of achievements or traction (unsigned contracts, email requests, etc.)
- Self-produced data or information from the organization's website or internal materials (Notion, spreadsheets)
- Re-posted tweets or social media which are heavily scrutinized by USCIS
- Non-English documentation with no translation
- Blogs or press releases which don't serve as national or international media coverage
- Funding that is not selective or significant (typically \$1M+)

CRITERION 3 OF 8

Judging

the Work of Others in Your Field

Provide objective, documentary evidence showing:

<p>①</p> <p>You evaluated others' work</p> <p>Not just invited; you submitted reviews and participated</p>	<p>②</p> <p>They were your professional peers</p> <p>The people whose work you reviewed work in your field, at a professional level</p>	<p>③</p> <p>Recognized event in your field</p> <p>A journal, conference, grant panel, or competition with national or international recognition</p>
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WHAT ARE WAYS TO DEFINE HOW YOU EVALUATED OTHERS' WORK?

Being invited to judge isn't enough on its own. What counts is doing the work: reviewing submissions, scoring entries, deciding outcomes. Our aim is to show you applied your expertise to assess other professionals' work.

OTHERWISE, EVIDENCE WHERE WE'VE SEEN SUCCESS, PARTICULARLY FOR NEWER VENUES OR PROGRAMS

- Public list of reviewers, judges, or committee members naming you
- The venue's editorial board, advisory board, or organizing committee includes people recognized in your field
- Press coverage or third-party recognition of the venue beyond its own website
- Evidence of reach, notable sponsors, submission counts, acceptance rates, geographic spread of applicants, or notable past winners

Note: Internal judging, like reviewing candidates for your own company, judging an in-house company hackathon, or evaluating direct reports, doesn't count for this criterion. The work you judged needs to come from outside your own organization to prove expertise in your field

1 You evaluated others' work

What to include

≥ 1 ITEMS

- Thank you or confirmation email from the event organizer (with email URL), sent after the event, showing that you judged
- Invite email (with email URL) plus a signed letter from the event organizer confirming participation as a judge
- Often for peer review, we can use screenshots from the judging portal (with URL) showing your name, judging role, and the date(s) you submitted reviews
- Post-event announcement (with URL) naming you as a judge

What doesn't help

- Invite email alone
- Photos from the event
- Screenshots without your name or judging date visible
- Documents not clearly tied to you and this event
- Web pages without URL

2 They were your professional peers

What to include

≥ 1 ITEMS

- Link to the event page, or a PDF of the event page with URL preserved, so that we can review it for alignment with your overall field of endeavor and petition
- Judging rubric with URL or on organizational letterhead
- Bylaws or judging contract for the event
- Documentation of the work you judged
- Documentation of other judges from the event to indicate relevance to your field

What doesn't help

- Student-specific judging events (undergraduate or lower) because this receives higher scrutiny regarding its relevance to your professional field
- Event or outlet name missing from the any of the documentation
- Web pages without URL

3 Recognized event in your field

What to include

≥ 1 ITEMS

- Link(s) to press about the event or judging outlet (at least 1 article)
- List of judges from the event website (with URL), or internal judges list on organizational letterhead
- List of event sponsors from the event website (with URL), or internal sponsor list on organizational letterhead

What doesn't help

- Same as above!

CRITERION 4 OF 8

Membership

for Outstanding Achievements

Provide objective, documentary evidence showing:

<p>①</p> <p>You are a member</p> <p>You were accepted into the organization and your membership is real, not pending or aspirational</p>	<p>②</p> <p>Selected on merit</p> <p>Membership is based on your achievements in the field, not your job title, payment, or application alone</p>
<p>③</p> <p>Organization is known in your field</p> <p>The organization is nationally or internationally recognized</p>	<p>④</p> <p>Reviewed by experts</p> <p>A committee of accomplished people in your field decides who joins</p>

WHAT ARE WAYS TO BE CHOSEN, NOT JUST ENROLLED?

Most professional associations are enrollment-based — pay dues, fill out a form, you're in. Those don't count. What counts is membership where someone qualified reviewed your background and decided you belonged.

- Invited fellowships (e.g. IEEE Fellow, ACM Fellow, NAS)
- Elected positions on a board or steering committee
- Selective cohort-based programs (e.g. Schmidt Futures, On Deck)
- Honor societies admitting by nomination (e.g. Phi Beta Kappa)
- Technical advisory boards or expert councils
- National academies or chartered professional bodies

WHAT ARE WAYS TO PROVE THE ORGANIZATION IS KNOWN IN YOUR FIELD?

If the organization is well-known (a major professional society, a national academy, a recognized fellowship), our team can usually find ample evidence of its reputation and selection process.

OTHERWISE, EVIDENCE WHERE WE'VE SEEN SUCCESS PARTICULARLY FOR NEWER OR SMALLER ORGANIZATIONS

- The selection committee or board listed publicly, with members who are recognized in your field
- Published acceptance rate, application criteria, or selection process showing competitive review
- Press coverage or third-party recognition of the organization beyond its own website
- A member directory or roster including people who are themselves recognized in the field

Note: Memberships in newer organizations often have a higher bar for evidence because the recognition claim requires significant documentation of the org's standing and selection process. Not impossible but something to know in advance!

① You are a member

What to include

≥ 1 ITEMS

- Confirmation or acceptance email from the organization (with URL) affirming your selection date and membership level, if available
- Membership certificate naming you and the organization, if applicable
- Member profile page on the organization's internal website or portal (with URL)

What doesn't help

- Invite email alone with no confirmation of acceptance
- Photos of you attending member events or similar
- Screenshots without your name or selection date visible
- Documents not clearly tied to you and this organization
- Web pages without URL

2 Selected on merit

What to include

≥ 1 ITEMS

- Link to the membership website, or a PDF of an internal membership page with URL preserved
- Judging rubric for member selection
- Bylaws or signed membership contract. This is particularly helpful if it details selection criteria

What doesn't help

- Student-level membership (undergraduate or lower) because these don't demonstrate your expertise in your field overall
- Membership selection criteria are based on potential, and not achievements
- Membership based solely on years of experience, education level, or association to an organization
- Membership or organization name missing from your evidence
- Web pages without URL

3 Organization is known in your field

What to include

≥ 1 ITEMS

- Link(s) to press about the membership or organization (at least 1 article)
- List of membership sponsors from the organization website (with URL), or internal sponsor list on organizational letterhead

What doesn't help

- If the membership itself has little to no public presence, this can make it difficult for USCIS to validate
- Notable or recognizable names affiliated with the organization doesn't by default make it credible

4 Reviewed by experts

What to include

≥ 1 ITEMS

List of judges from the event website (with URL), or internal judges list on organizational letterhead. This can also be the advisory or executive board page for the membership organization.

What doesn't help

- Judges involved are clearly not experts in your same field (students, lacking years of experience in your field, etc.). This can cast doubt on its relevance to extraordinary ability in your field
- Membership or organization name missing from the page
- Web pages without URL

CRITERION 5 OF 8

Awards

for Excellence in Your Field

Provide objective, documentary evidence showing:

<p>①</p> <h3>You received an award</h3> <p>A national institution, professional association, conference, or organization confirms your selection</p>	<p>②</p> <h3>For excellence in your field</h3> <p>You were chosen on the merits of your work — through judging, nomination, or competitive selection, not attendance or membership</p>	<p>③</p> <h3>The award is recognized</h3> <p>It's open to candidates across a country or internationally (not limited to one school, employer, or city), and it is nationally or internationally recognized beyond a local scope</p>
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WHAT ARE WAYS TO CLAIM AN AWARD IN YOUR FIELD?

An award qualifies when it answers three questions: (1) Who gave it to you? (2) What did you have to do to win it? (3) How wide is the award's reach? **The award doesn't need to be famous — it needs to be open to and judged across a national or international pool.**

CATEGORIES OF AWARDS THAT WE'VE SEEN USCIS SUPPORT

- Academic & research awards: best paper, best dissertation, conference paper prizes, fellowships from major institutions (NSF, NIH, Fulbright, etc.), named scholarships from national bodies
- Industry & professional association awards: IEEE/ACM/SIAM-type honors, "30 Under 30" style lists from established national publications (Forbes, Inc., MIT Tech Review's 35 Under 35), trade association awards
- Competition wins: hackathons with national/international participation, design competitions, startup competitions (TechCrunch Disrupt)
- Government & honorific awards: national medals, government-issued recognitions, presidential honors from any country
- Funding-as-award (a startup-specific argument): being selected for a competitive accelerator (YC, Techstars, On Deck), receiving a competitive grant (SBIR, country-level innovation grants)
- Team awards where you were a named recipient: USCIS explicitly allows this ("A person may rely on a team award, provided the person is one of the recipients")

A NOTE FOR FOUNDERS

If you don't have a traditional award, selection into a competitive accelerator or receipt of a competitive grant can work towards this criteria. The reasoning is that a panel of judges reviewed your work against a national or international pool of applicants and chose you for excellence in your field.

1 You received an award

What to include

≥ 1 ITEMS

- Confirmation or acceptance email from the organization (with URL) affirming your selection date and award title, if applicable
- Award certificate naming you and the awarding organization
- Press, blogs, or social media about your award selection (with URL) which serves as confirmation of receipt of award
- If funding: signed documents that affirm the funding (SAFE, term sheet, grant). For venture funding, we've typically seen an amount of \$1M+

What doesn't help

- Invite email alone
- Photos of you accepting the award
- Screenshots without your name or selection date visible
- Documents not clearly tied to you and the awarding organization
- Web pages without URL

2 For excellence in your field

What to include

≥ 1 ITEMS

- Link to the awarding organization website, or a PDF of an internal award page with URL preserved
- Bylaws or signed award contract if it details selection criteria
- Judging rubric for award selection

What doesn't help

- Award or awarding organization name missing from the page
- Web pages without URL
- Student-level award (undergraduate or lower)
- Achievements or excellence are not a clear factor in award selection
- Award selection based solely on years of experience, education level, or association to an organization

3 The award is recognized

What to include

≥ 1 ITEMS

- Link(s) to press about the award or awarding organization (at least 1 article)
- List of award sponsors from the organization website (with URL), or internal sponsor list on organizational letterhead
- List of judges from the event website (with URL), or internal judges list on organizational letterhead — this can also be the advisory or executive board page for the awarding organization

What doesn't help

- Award or organization name missing from the page
- Web pages without URL
- Student-level award (undergraduate or lower)
- Judges not clearly experts in your same field (students, lacking years of experience in your field, etc.)

CRITERION 6 OF 8

High Compensation

for Your Field

Provide objective, documentary evidence showing:

1

Your total compensation is documented

Salary, bonus, equity, and any guaranteed compensation added up into one number you can prove with evidence

2

That total sits above the 90th percentile

Your total compensation is higher than 90% of people doing your role in your location, measured against government or industry salary benchmarks

NOT SURE IF YOU QUALIFY?

The 90th percentile bar varies significantly by role and location. For example, a \$200k engineer salary clears the bar easily in some cities and barely clears it in others like San Francisco. Common sources for salary benchmark data include Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data, Glassdoor, and Pave reports. Our team conducts a thorough review of reasonable publicly available sources to provide evidence to support this criteria.

OPTION 1

Future pay

A signed offer letter for a role you'll start once your visa is approved

OPTION 2

Past or current pay

A role you held or hold now, where you can prove what you were paid

OPTION 3

Equity-based compensation

You're a founder or founding employee claiming the value of your equity stake alongside salary

OPTION 1

Future pay

- The original signed offer letter or latest promotion letter is required
- If you do not have this, our team can typically draft an employment verification letter for the intended employer to review and sign. This document serves as evidence to confirm your total compensation package. We'll work with you and your employer to verify salary, bonus, and any other guaranteed compensation.

OPTION 2 **Past or current pay**

The original signed offer letter or latest promotion letter is required

- Plus at least one of the following:
 - Last 3 pay stubs
 - W-2 statement or 1099 statement
 - For foreign compensation, a tax return naming you and the company

OPTION 3 **Equity-based comp**

For early stage companies or across the technology industry, it's common for founders or founding team members to claim the value of your equity stake alongside your salary.

To demonstrate total compensation including equity, you'll need a signed offer letter (or employment verification letter verifying salary) plus both of the following:

- Signed share purchase agreement or signed offer letter affirming the total shares offered
- A document such as a signed SAFE, term sheet, or 409a affirming the company's valuation or share price.
- If the employer is a publicly traded company, the equity value will be based on a public stock price

CRITERION 7 OF 8

Published Materials

about You or Your Work

Provide objective, documentary evidence showing:

<p>1</p> <p>Article names you or your work</p> <p>Coverage in major media or a professional trade publication</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Outlet is major media or trade publication</p> <p>The publication qualifies based on reach and ranking</p>	<p>3</p> <p>At least 2 articles</p> <p>Each must meet both objectives on the left</p>
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A COMMON POINT OF CONFUSION

This criteria is about press written about you by someone else; not articles you authored. Things you wrote belong under Authorship (criterion 8).

If you're not sure which bucket something falls into, ask yourself: who's the byline? If it's yours, it's Authorship. If it's a journalist's and you're the subject, it's this one.

WHAT ARE WAYS TO PROVE AN OUTLET IS MAJOR MEDIA?

If the outlet is well-known (a major newspaper, magazine, or established industry publication), our team can usually find ample evidence of its reach and reputation.

OTHERWISE, EVIDENCE WHERE WE'VE SEEN SUCCESS, PARTICULARLY FOR NICHE OR TRADE PUBLICATIONS

- Circulation or monthly readership numbers (typically 500k+ visitors for general press, lower thresholds acceptable for specialized trade outlets or international outlets)
- Masthead or "about" page showing editorial standards and journalist bylines (not a corporate marketing site)
- Press coverage or industry recognition of the outlet itself
- For trade publications: evidence the outlet is the recognized voice of its industry (referenced by competitors, cited by analysts, etc.)

Note: Press releases, sponsored content, contributed posts, and "as told to" articles you sourced yourself don't count — even if they appear on major outlets. USCIS looks for editorial coverage, meaning a journalist independently decided to write about you.

1 Article names you or your work

What to include

A link to the article, or a full PDF with URL if behind a paywall. The article must meet all of:

- Author name visible — not "Press Room" or press release content
- Date of publication visible
- Features you or your work at length, not a passing mention
- If about your work, includes objective documentary evidence linking you to it — a letter doesn't count

What doesn't help

- Press releases
- Blogs
- Contributed content
- Podcasts
- "YouTube" videos

2 Outlet is major media or trade

What to include — outlet meets at least one threshold

Our team verifies on [similarweb.com](https://www.similarweb.com). The outlet must qualify on at least one of:

- 500k+ monthly readers
- Top 200 in its industry, or top 500 in the country

CRITERION 8 OF 8

Authorship

of Scholarly Articles

Provide objective, documentary evidence showing:

1

You wrote the article

Scholarly article in an academic outlet, major media, or professional trade publication. Your name is on the byline as author or co-author, not "contributed by" or company-bylined

2

Article was peer reviewed or published somewhere with editorial standards

A peer-reviewed journal, a recognized trade publication, or a major outlet. This is not a personal blog, company blog, or pay-to-publish venue

WHAT ARE WAYS TO PROVE THE PUBLICATION COUNTS?

If you've published in well-known journals or outlets, our team can usually find ample evidence of their reputation. For academic work, a Google Scholar profile is the easiest single piece of evidence because it already shows your authorship, the venues, and citation counts in one place.

OTHERWISE, EVIDENCE WHERE WE'VE SEEN SUCCESS, PARTICULARLY FOR INDUSTRY OR TRADE WRITING

- Link or PDF of the article with your byline and date of publication clearly visible
- Editorial process documentation. There is a masthead, submission guidelines, or "about" page showing the outlet has editorial oversight
- Evidence the publication is recognized in your field, referenced by peers, cited in research, or named on industry "best of" lists
- Not required but citation counts, download numbers, or reader engagement metrics, where available can be valuable for establishing the publication's credibility

Note: Personal blogs, company blogs, Medium posts, don't count because these lack the independent editorial review USCIS looks for. The same applies to LinkedIn posts and self-published e-books, regardless of how many readers they reached.

① You authored the article

What to include

PREFERRED

- Link to your Google Scholar profile.

IF NO SCHOLAR PROFILE

Link to the article, or a full PDF with URL if behind a paywall, meeting both:

- Author name visible — your authorship ranking isn't a blocker
- Date of publication visible

What doesn't help

- Poster presentations
- Blogs
- Papers in student journals
- Articles written as part of Forbes Tech or Business Council

② Article was peer reviewed

What to include

Peer review or editorial process for each publication should be publicly available. If not available, an internal PDF on the publisher's letterhead also works.