

**THE MERIT SYSTEM: HOW DO THEY FARE?**  
**“Secure Borders, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Reform Act of 2007”**

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Under the bill, 380,000 visas will be allocated each year to immigration under a new merit-based point system. 100 points are possible. The 380,000 applicants with the highest point totals will be awarded visas. Below are examples of individuals who would earn substantial points under the system.

**Ajay**, 40, is an engineer from India with a Masters Degree. He has worked in the U.S. as an H1-B worker for 6 years. He is fluent in English and his employer finds him a valuable employee.

**Ajay's points:**

U.S. Employment in a Specialty Occupation	20
U.S. Employment in a STEM or Health Occupation	8
Recommendation from a U.S. employer	6
5 years of work for a U.S. firm	10
Graduate Degree	20
Degree in a STEM or Health Occupation	8
TOEFL score of 75 points or higher	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>

**Carla**, 29, is a hospital orderly from Mexico. She has worked in the U.S. as a Y-visa temporary worker for six years for a hospital that is pleased with her work. While working in the U.S., Carla worked hard to learn English and earn her GED. Her mother and stepfather are currently living in the U.S. as legal permanent residents.

**Carla's points:**

U.S. Employment in a High-Demand Occupation	16
U.S. Employment in a STEM or Health Occupation	8
Recommendation from a U.S. employer	6
5 years of work for a U.S. firm	10
Age 25-39	3
GED	6
Pass English/Citizenship test	6
Adult child of an LPR	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>

**John** is a 35 year-old carpenter from Costa Rica, where he earned his a high school degree. He has worked in the U.S. as a Y-visa temporary worker for six years, for a construction company that thinks highly of his work. During that time, John has acquired basic proficiency in the English language, and has completed an apprenticeship program through his local union.

**John's points:**

U.S. Employment in a High-Demand Occupation	16
Recommendation from a U.S. employer	6

5 years of work for a U.S. firm	10
Age 25-39	3
High school degree	6
Completed apprenticeship program	8
Pass English/Citizenship test	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>

**Ray** is a 45 year-old computer programmer from Singapore who has never worked in the U.S. He has a graduate degree and is fluent in English. Ray has no family in the U.S., but has a job offer from an American company that is interested in employing him.

**Ray's points:**

Job offer from a U.S. employer	6
Graduate Degree	20
Degree in a STEM or Health Occupation	8
TOEFL score of 75 points or higher	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>