To establish eligibility for asylum, the applicant:

1. Must meet the definition of a refugee*
   - Applicant has suffered past persecution or has a well-founded fear of future persecution
   - The government was the source of persecution or failed to protect you from persecution by a non-government actor
   - Persecution must be on account of at least one of the five categories:
     - Race
     - Religion
     - Nationality
     - Membership in a Particular Social Group
     - Political Opinion

2. Must apply within 1 year of being in the United States, unless granted an exception based on certain grounds, including but not limited to:
   If "Applicant maintained Temporary Protected Status, lawful immigrant or nonimmigrant status, or was given parole, until a reasonable period before the filing of the asylum application" [8 CFR § 208.4(a)(5)(iv)]

3. Must not be barred from asylum. The asylum bars include:
   - Having engaged in terrorist activity;
   - Having provided material support for terrorist activity;
   - Having persecuted others on account of a protected ground;
   - Convictions or commissions of serious crimes;
   - Having received residency or citizenship in a third country.

*Definition of a refugee

A refugee is “someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.”