

Adoption Credit

Maximum credit for a child with special needs	\$12,650
Other adoptions, qualified expenses	Up to \$12,650
Phaseout range, modified adjusted gross income	\$189,710 - \$229,710

Section 179 Expense

Expense Limit	\$ 139,000
Phaseout Threshold	\$560,000

FICA (SS & Medicare) Wage Base

Social Security Wage Base	\$110,100
Maximum Social Security Tax	\$4,624
Medicare Wage Base	No ceiling
Maximum Medicare Wage Tax	No ceiling

Student Loan Interest Deduction

Maximum interest deduction	\$2,500
Modified Adjusted Gross Income Phaseout:	
Married Filing Jointly	\$125,000 to \$155,000
Single/HOH	\$ 60,000 to \$ 75,000

Qualifying Child

A qualifying child for purposes of the child tax credit must be all of the following:

1. Claimed as your dependent on line 6c of Form 1040 or Form 1040A.
2. Under age 17 at the end of 2012.
3. Your:
 - a. Son, daughter, adopted child, stepchild, or a descendant of any of them (for example, your grandchild), or
 - b. Brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of them (for example, your niece or nephew) whom you cared for as you would your own child, or
 - c. Foster child (any child placed with you by an authorized placement agency whom you cared for as you would your own child).
4. A U.S. citizen or resident alien.

Adopted child. An adopted child is always treated as your own child. An adopted child includes a child placed with you by an authorized placement agency for legal adoption even if the adoption is not final.

Kidnapped child. A kidnapped child is treated as a qualifying child for the child tax credit if both of the following statements are true:

1. The child is presumed by law enforcement authorities to have been kidnapped by someone who is not a member of your family or the child's family.
2. The child qualified as your dependent for the part of the year before the kidnapping.

This treatment applies for all years until the child is returned. However, the last year this treatment can apply is the earlier of:

1. The year there is a determination that the child is dead, or
2. The year the child would have reached age 16.

Dependent Care Credit Limitations

To determine the amount of your credit, multiply your work-related expenses (after applying the earned income and dollar limits) by a percentage. This percentage depends on your adjusted gross income shown on Form 1040, line 37, or Form 1040A, line 21. The following table shows the percentage to use based on adjusted gross income. The maximum eligible to be multiplied by these percentages is \$3,000 per child, maximum of \$6,000 per return.

IF your adjusted gross income is:		Then the percentage is:
Over	But not over	
\$ 0	\$15,000	35%
15,000	17,000	34%
17,000	19,000	33%
19,000	21,000	32%
21,000	23,000	31%
23,000	25,000	30%
25,000	27,000	29%
27,000	29,000	28%
29,000	31,000	27%
31,000	33,000	26%
33,000	35,000	25%
35,000	37,000	24%
37,000	39,000	23%
39,000	41,000	22%
41,000	43,000	21%
43,000	No limit	20%

Comparison of Education Credits

Lifetime Learning Credit	American Opportunity
Up to \$2,000	Up to \$2,500 / Up to 40% is refundable
Maximum lifetime learning rate is 20%	100% of first \$2,000 plus 25% of next \$2,000
Available for all years of post-secondary education and for courses to acquire or improve job skills	Available for four years of college
Available for an unlimited number of years	Only available for 2009 through 2012
Student does not need to be pursuing a degree or other recognized educational credential	AGI Phase Out between \$80,000 - \$90,000 (160K - 180K)
Available for one or more courses	
Felony drug conviction rule does not apply	

Lifetime Learning Credits Phaseout	Refundable American Opportunity
Modified adjusted gross income phaseout :	
Married Filing Jointly	\$104,000 to \$124,000
All other Filing Statuses	\$ 52,000 to \$ 62,000
	\$160,000 to \$180,000
	\$ 80,000 to \$ 90,000

Social Security Payback

At full retirement age or older	No limit on earnings
Under full retirement age	\$1 in benefits will be deducted for each \$2 you earn above \$14,640.
In the year you reach full retirement age	Your benefits will be reduced \$1 for every \$3 you earn above \$38,880.

* For 2012, full retirement age is 66 years.