

# NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES



## To Qualify as a Legal Resident You Must:

### 1. Have 12 months of physical presence in North Carolina.

- Have held legal residency for at least 12 months prior to the start of the requested term.
- Demonstrate that you are a legal resident of North Carolina and not just temporarily residing in the state as a student.
- Have not had any significantly long breaks in physical presence in North Carolina for the past 12 months.

### 2. Have the financial and legal ability to establish a domicile.

- Be (mostly) financially independent from non-North Carolina parents or guardians.
- Not be a tax dependent of non-North Carolina parents or guardians.
- Be able to show that you can financially support yourself independent of any out of state sources.
- Have an independent financial aid status, if using financial aid.

### 3. Demonstrate the intent to make North Carolina your home aside from attending school.

- Complete a cluster of residency acts a year prior to the start of the requested term.
- Not hold ties to another state that would indicate you are a resident of that state.
- Explain why some residency acts may not have been able to be completed, if that is the case.
- In reviewing your residency status, the Residency Officer will examine where you have most recently done each of the following items, if applicable:
  - *Maintained a Driver's License or State of NC Identity Card*
  - *Registered a Vehicle*
  - *Registered to Vote*
  - *Voted*
  - *Owned a Home*
  - *Paid Property Tax*
  - *Paid Income Tax*
  - *Filed an Income Tax Return*
- The Residency Officer may also consider:
  - *Where You Spend Vacations*
  - *Where You Maintain Property*
  - *Whether You Operate a Vehicle*
  - *Where You Have Significant Relationships*
  - *Where You Maintain Organizational Memberships*

*Because students must be a legal resident of the state for at least one year prior to the term for which they request the in-state rate, all of the above requirements must also be true for a year.*

**The University cannot tell a student what they must do to prove their claim to the in-state tuition rate. As you establish legal residency, consider what the sum-total of your behavior says about your ties to North Carolina, and your remaining ties elsewhere.**

## SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Some employment circumstances may grant you special consideration in your tuition classification. These are:

1. **Active-Duty Military Stationed in North Carolina and Their Dependents**  
Legal residency is not required to use this benefit.
2. **Full-Time UNC System Employees, Their Spouses, and Their Dependents**  
You must be a legal resident of any duration to use this benefit.

## MARRIAGE BENEFIT

If you are a legal North Carolina resident, and you are married to a North Carolina resident whose legal residency is longer than your own, you are permitted to use your spouse's time in the state as your own. You still must meet the requirements of legal residency

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students may or may not have the capacity to establish a domicile. For those who have capacity, the requirements are the same as those for US citizens. Examples of eligible immigration classifications are:

Permanent Resident, A-1, A-2, E-1, E-2, E-3, G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, H-1B, H-1C, H-4, I, K-1, K-2, K-3, K-4, L-1A, L-1B, L-2, N, O-1, O-3, P-1, P-2, P-3, P-4, R-1, R-2, T-1, T-2, T-3, T-4, T-5, U-1, U-2, U-3, U-4, U-5, V-1, V-2, and V-3

Those who do not have capacity cannot qualify as residents for tuition purposes, regardless of any other factors. Ineligible immigration classifications include:

**B, C, D, F, J, M, Q, S, and TN visas.**

This list is not comprehensive. If you are unsure if your immigration status gives you capacity, please contact the Graduate School Residency Officer for guidance.