

Basic Checklist



Have you demonstrated all of the following?

- Capacity** (legal ability to make North Carolina your permanent home)
- Presence** (currently residing in North Carolina)
- Intent** (performed various actions to make North Carolina your permanent home for an indefinite period of time)
- Duration** (maintained legal residence for at least *twelve* months prior to submitting an application for residency classification)

For a copy of the North Carolina statute (G.S. 116-143.1) governing the eligibility for residency to qualify for in-state tuition, contact Admissions, in the enrollment services area, located in the Medlin Campus Center Building or the website at <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/Statutes/Statues.asp>

Steps in the Application Process

1. Go to **ncresidency.org**
2. Click on 'Complete Residency Determination'
3. Log in or create an account if it is your first time using RDS system.
4. Complete your residency determination interview by answering the questions truthfully and to the best of your ability.
5. If you are required to provide further documentation, you will have 25 days from the date that you began the interview to provide your materials to RDS.
6. Check your residency status, you will receive a Residency Certification Number (RCN.) You will be asked for this number when applying to the college.
7. If you are not happy with your determination and feel that your circumstances have changed since your first determination, you may wish to apply for reconsideration. You will need to complete the RDS interview again. You are allowed one reconsideration every 90 days.
8. If you believe that you provided the correct information but disagree with the results, you may wish to file an appeal. You will have 10 days following that date of determination to file an appeal with RDS. You will find directions and all necessary information to file an appeal on ncresidency.org website.

Residency Classification for In-State Tuition

GTCC
GUILFORD TECHNICAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

GTCC
P.O. Box 309
Jamestown, NC 27282
(336) 334-4822

Residency determination is now conducted at the state level, if you have any questions pertaining to the residency determination process you may contact someone through the following avenues:

ncresidency.org
Toll-free (884) 319-3640
Local (919) 835-2290
rdsinfo@ncresidency.org

Overview

Under North Carolina law, a person may qualify as a resident for tuition purposes in North Carolina and thereby, eligible for a tuition rate lower than that for nonresidents. This benefit is reserved for those individuals who are actual legal residents of North Carolina; that is, those who have and will continue to contribute to the state.

The North Carolina General Assembly, by and through its enactment, has indicated that it wants the lower tuition to be available *only* to North Carolina residents. There is no automatic right to be classified as an in-state student, and it is the student's burden to show the college that he or she is a legal resident for tuition purposes. If an applicant or someone acting on the applicant's behalf knowingly makes a misrepresentation in connection with a state residency application or appeal, that misrepresentation could lead to a misdemeanor charge.

The following parameters are the basics for determining residency classification:

- **Capacity and Presence** - The student must have the ability to make North Carolina his or her permanent home and must be physically present in the state of North Carolina.
- **Intent** - The student must perform various actions as evidence of making North Carolina his or her permanent home (a place to which he or she intends to always return).
- **Duration**-The student must become a legal resident and remain a legal resident for at least *twelve* months immediately prior to classification, thereby maintaining a domicile (permanent home of indefinite duration).

Classification

The starting point: Establishing domicile

A student's domicile is his/her permanent dwelling place of indefinite duration and is established by:

- Birth or operation of law - minor (under age 18) is presumed to have the domicile of his or her parents.
- Choice - a person may establish domicile of his or her choice.

Actions and activities: Establishing intent

The requisite domiciliary intent is tested by evaluating relevant, objectively verifiable conduct or actions of the student such as:

- Living or not living in the home of one's parents
- Source of financial support
- Payment of taxes: income and property
- Vacations and time away
- Work history
- Time one enters the state
- Place where personal property is kept
- Driver's license
- Car registration and/or licensure and/or insurance
- Ownership of real property as a "homestead"
- Registration to vote and voting history
- Jury duty
- Income tax withheld
- Community activities
- Personal activities
- "Roommate" actions and activities

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Qualifying period: 12 months

Every applicant must make a statement as to his or her length of residency in the state. A 12 month qualifying period of maintaining a bona fide domicile rather than a temporary residence incident to enrollment is required to qualify as a resident for tuition purposes.

Specific Issues

Special rules and circumstances may affect the assessment of domicile for the following students:

- Minors
- Married persons
- Members of the armed forces
- Aliens and refugees
- Federal personnel
- Prisoners

Exceptions are also made for certain minors, students with employer-paid tuition, lawfully admitted public high school graduates, non-profit corporation sponsorships, teachers, emergency workers.

Important Notes

It is the **student's responsibility** to provide **ncresidency.org** with the necessary information to prove in-state status. Remember the bottom line...

Capacity + Presence + Intent + 12 Months

Students must apply for residency at **ncresidency.org**. There, one will find the residency determination system, as well as answers to any questions one may have about the residency determination service.