

Policies Regarding Residence Status for Tuition Purposes

The tuition charge for persons who qualify as residents for tuition purposes is substantially less than that for nonresidents. An explanation of the North Carolina law (General Statute 116-143.1) governing residence classification for tuition purposes is available in the *Undergraduate Bulletin* and the *Graduate School Bulletin*. A complete explanation of the statute and the procedures under the statute is contained in *A Manual to Assist the Public Higher Education Institutions of North Carolina in the Matter of Student Residence Classification for Tuition Purposes*. The *Manual* is the controlling administrative statement of policy on this subject. Copies of the *Manual* are available in the Office of the Provost, the Jackson Library, and the admitting offices.

To qualify as a resident for tuition purposes, a person must establish legal residence (domicile) in North Carolina and maintain that legal residence for at least twelve months immediately prior to classification as a resident for tuition purposes. In addition to the physical presence requirement, a person must also demonstrate through a cluster of residency acts his or her "intent" to make North Carolina his or her domicile for an indefinite duration. Two inquiries on the part of the institution are mandated by the state. First, has the applicant for classification as a resident for tuition purposes in fact resided in North Carolina and continuously maintained residence for a minimum period of twelve months immediately prior to the proposed effective date of his or her classification as a resident for tuition purposes? Second, during the twelve month period in question, did the applicant's presence in the State constitute legal residence for tuition purposes? Thus, a carefully detailed inquiry must be made in each such case concerning the residence status of the applicant.

The burden of establishing facts that justify classification of a student as a resident entitled to in-state tuition rates is on the applicant for such classification, who must show his or her enrollment by the preponderance (the greater part) of the residency information. Being classified as a resident for tuition purposes is contingent on the student's seeking such status and providing **ALL** information that the institution may require in making the determination.

Initial Classification: Every applicant for admission is required to make a statement as to the length of his or her legal residence in North Carolina. Every applicant is classified as a resident or nonresident for tuition purposes prior to actual matriculation by the admitting office making the initial classification. Those not claiming to be residents for tuition purposes are, of course, classified as out-of-state students (nonresidents) for tuition purposes. If insufficient information supports an applicant's claim to be a resident for tuition purposes, the admitting office will initially classify that applicant as a nonresident.

Subsequent Classification: Once assigned, a residency classification (and confirmed pursuant to any appeal properly taken) may be changed thereafter (with corresponding change in billing rates) only at intervals corresponding with the established primary divisions of the academic year. A student who, due to subsequent events, becomes eligible for a change in classification, whether from out-of-state to in-state or the reverse, has the responsibility of applying for a reclassification in the Office of the Provost.

Appeals: A student may appeal a residence classification assigned by the admitting office by submitting to the Office of the Provost a completed "Residence-and-Tuition Status Application." (Application forms may be obtained from the Office of the Provost or from any of the admitting offices.)

It is the responsibility of the student to pay tuition at the rate charged and billed while an appeal is pending. In effect, the student who is classified as a nonresident at the time of registration pays the nonresident rate. Conversely, if a student is classified as a resident at the time of billing, he or she pays the resident rate. Any necessary adjustments in the rate paid will be made at the conclusion of the appeal.

Students or prospective students who believe they are entitled to be classified as residents for tuition purposes should be aware that the process of requests and appeals can take a considerable amount of time and that applications for classification should not be delayed until registration. Students who wish to receive a timely review of their residence status should submit their completed "Residence-and-Tuition Status Application" at least thirty days in advance of the term for which they are seeking a review of their residence status. Applications are reviewed in the order in which they are received; failure to submit an application in a timely manner may delay the review process.

The Office of the Provost's determination of residence classification may be appealed to the Campus Residence Appeals Committee, and decisions of the Campus Residence Appeals Committee may be appealed to the State Residence Committee. A written statement of the appeals procedure is provided to every applicant or student receiving an adverse decision from the Office of the Provost.

Tuition Benefits Notice for Spouses, Family Members, and Military Dependents: North Carolina provides certain tuition benefits for spouses, family members, and military dependents. Persons who qualify for these benefits include spouses of North Carolina residents, spouses and dependents of active duty military personnel stationed in North Carolina, and family members of deceased or disabled emergency workers.

If you believe you qualify for any of these benefits, you should contact the Office of the Provost for the necessary application forms.