

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BEHAVIOR



Establishing In-State Residency for Tuition Purposes

Most Health Behavior students who move to North Carolina to attend graduate school are able to obtain North Carolina residency for their second year in the program (provided they are United States residents), *if they follow the right steps*. The most up-to-date information about obtaining residency status can be found on the websites for the Graduate School and the Office of the University Registrar:

The Graduate School residency information

<http://gradschool.unc.edu/studentlife/resources/residency/>

Office of the University Registrar residency information and residency guide

<http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/residency/>

<http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/residency/residency-guide/>

In addition to these websites, the Department has compiled some information to hopefully help give you the big picture.

Keep in mind that the #1 reason for the state of North Carolina and the Graduate School denying an application for residency is due to filing an application before living in the state for 12 months (before the first day of classes). The #2 reason for denial is students not submitting their online residency applications in accordance with filing period dates. This document provides important details about applying for North Carolina residency for tuition purposes.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BEHAVIOR

The Process

The Graduate School takes into account various aspects of a student's application for in-state residency for tuition purposes. A student must demonstrate what is called "**a preponderance of evidence**":

- that he/she established and maintained a **domicile** in North Carolina at least twelve months before the first day of classes,
- with the **intent** to make North Carolina a permanent home **indefinitely**, and
- that he/she was not in North Carolina solely to attend college.

A legal resident is a person who qualifies as a domiciliary of North Carolina. A domicile is a person's permanent home for legal purposes. A domicile is not a temporary residence established for attending the University after which you intend to depart from the state. A person can have only one domicile, but numerous residences.

According to the Graduate School, "**it is not the day you step foot in North Carolina that starts your clock, but the accumulation of evidence that starts it.**" Waiting a few months to get your NC driver's license or state ID, registering to vote, or registering your car (often the most important pieces of evidence) can really hamper your chances of obtaining residency for tuition purposes. It is important to obtain these items as soon as possible. **The Department recommends moving to the state of North Carolina in July or by August 1st.** This will give you enough time to get your documents in order and to visit the Department of Motor Vehicles, Orange County board of elections, or get your car inspected before classes begin.

According to the Graduate School, the preponderance of evidence is the greater weight of evidence. The classifier is looking for a cluster of factual events/activities in support of the applicant's claim for in-state residency for tuition purposes. If the evidence shows a cluster of significant events occurring at about the same time (within the same week, for example), the classifier will start counting from that point to determine if the twelve-month requirement has been met. If, instead, the evidence has gradually accumulated over time, the classifier must decide at what point a preponderance of the evidence shows intent to establish a North Carolina domicile. If this date is after the first day of classes for the term specified on the application, the classifier will not render an in-state decision for the term in question.

Indefinitely refers to duration of time having no exact limits. Indefinite does not mean you intend to stay in the state forever; instead it means that you have no end date predetermined.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BEHAVIOR

Determination of Intent takes into consideration the following items that may be significant in determining “domiciliary intent”; however, **THE LIST BELOW IS NOT A CHECKLIST. No one element by itself guarantees or denies residency and these items are not comprehensive of all evidence that could be used in support of a case.**

- Tax dependency
- Employment
- Voter registration and activity
- Jury duty
- Sources of financial support
- Car registration
- Driver's license
- Property ownership
- State income tax returns
- Time in and out of state
- Ties to community

Submitting an Application

All enrolled students who wish to change their residency status may request re-classification once they have satisfied the requirements to become a North Carolina legal resident for tuition purposes. In order to do this, a student must complete the [online residency application](#) within the filing period dates (see below), regardless of how long you have lived in the state.

Anyone who has lived in the state for less than three years will be required to submit PDF copies of their evidence including: NC driver’s license, NC state taxes, visas/green cards, military affidavits, or teacher certifications. Make sure that you have the PDF evidence ready before submitting your application.

Application Filing Periods

Making sure that you apply within the filing period is crucial for approval of your application. The dates below indicate the time frame a student has to apply. Applying outside the filing period is one of the top reason why students are denied residency. If you are applying, just do it as soon as you have the 12 months!

Exact Application Deadlines have yet to be released for 2015, below are estimated timeframes for the upcoming application cycle based upon previous years:

Summer Sessions & Maymester 2015 Application Opens	March 2015
Maymester & Summer Session I 2015 Deadline	May 2015
Summer Session II 2015 Deadline	July 2015
Fall Semester 2015 Application Opens	June 2015
Fall Semester 2015 Deadline	September 2015



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BEHAVIOR

Appealing or Reapplying

Note that the Graduate School has very strict guidelines: “New and enrolled students who have not held a domicile in the state for the required time period will not qualify for in-state tuition unless they qualify for a special benefit or provision. There are no exceptions.” If you are denied residency and have documents providing otherwise (from the list above), you can appeal the decision. You will have 15 working days from the receipt of classification to declare you will appeal. However, submitting an appeal will not automatically mean you will be re-classified. The Graduate School NC Residency [website](#) can provide more information about the appeal and/or reapplication process.

International Students and Residency

If you are an international student, there are certain capacity granting statuses for international students, such as permanent resident, H-1B, H-4, K-3, K-4, L-1, L-2, V-2 and V-3. These statuses may be considered, provided you meet the necessary requirements and supply documentation. The clock will start ticking from the date a capacity-granting visa was issued. Please upload a copy of card or visa. You may mail or fax appropriate documentation (copy of visa) to the Graduate School at 919-966-4010. International Student & Scholar Services at 962-5661 has more information regarding visa designations.

Visas that do not grant capacity to establish residency are “No Go” visas; examples are B, C, D, F, J, M, P, Q and S visas. The above list is not comprehensive. Contact the Graduate School if you do not see your designation listed.

Find Out More Information

Resources where you can learn more about the process and evidence required:

The Graduate School

<http://gradschool.unc.edu/studentlife/resources/residency/>

Office of the University Registrar

<http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/residency/>

<http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/residency/residency-guide/>

