

Establishing NC Residency for Tuition Purposes

Most of you who are from out-of-state will want to become classified as North Carolina residents for tuition purposes. Details about the application process can be found online on The Graduate School's website- <http://gradschool.unc.edu/student/residency/>. You should **pay very close attention to the information under "Requirements and Background."**

You need to know this information BEFORE you plan your move.

If you already reside in North Carolina and plan to apply for residency for your first year, we encourage you to send a copy of your residency application to us for review prior to submission. You can copy and paste the application into a document and send to epidemiology@unc.edu.

Under North Carolina General Statute Chapter 116.143.1, to qualify for in-state tuition an applicant (legal resident) must demonstrate a preponderance of evidence:

- that s/he established and maintained a bona fide domicile in North Carolina at least 12 months before the first day of classes,
- with the intent to make North Carolina a permanent home indefinitely, and
- that s/he was not in North Carolina solely to attend college.

You must be in the state for a minimum of one full year before the start of classes in the term you plan to apply. For example, if classes start on August 18th in your second year, the preponderance of your evidence (i.e., actions taken) must have occurred as of August 17th of the previous year. However, ***that does not guarantee residency.***

North Carolina is not a "checklist state." You can do all the "right" things and still not qualify because there must be a "preponderance of evidence" that you intend to establish North Carolina as your domicile. However, if you *don't* do these things, it is almost 100% likely that you will be denied residency, at least on your first try. The one year period is calculated from the first day of the "preponderance of evidence" and not from the first day of arrival in North Carolina. **The earlier you move here before the start of school, the better the chance that you will be successful on your first try.** You simply must do the things listed under "Burden of Proof" -- car registration, driver's license, register to vote, etc. -- prior to the first day of classes. You should also anticipate that the relevant offices will be extremely busy the week before school starts.

Please note that if your out-of-state parents claimed you on their tax return for the previous year, you will not be eligible for NC Residency for Tuition Purposes.