

## Residency Information

Students who are classified as non-resident by Registration and Enrollment Services must appeal in writing for a review of residency. Appeals for reclassification for past terms are not accepted.

Coconino Community College procedures require clear and convincing evidence of residency for tuition purposes.

Each petition is individually reviewed. Not all circumstances can be addressed in this brief summary, so if you wish to discuss your individual case, contact Registration and Enrollment Services.

Arizona institutions of higher education are funded by the State of Arizona. Since non-resident students (and their families) generally have not contributed to the source of this funding of public education in Arizona, they are required to pay fees that more closely represent the actual cost of their education.

The rules and regulations for establishing residency for tuition purposes are defined by the state statutes (A.R.S., 15-1801 through 1807). You can view the policy online at the Arizona State Legislature website. <https://www.azleg.gov/arsDetail/?title=15>

Arizona Revised Statutes Sections 15-1801 through 15-1807 cover:

- [Definitions](#) (Section 15-1801)
- [In-State Student Status](#) (Section 15-1802)
- [County Residency Status; Community College Districts](#) (Section 15-1802.01)
- [Alien In-State Student Status](#) (Section 15-1803)
- [Presumptions Relating To Student Status; Definition](#) (Section 15-1804)
- [Student Status Guidelines](#) (Section 15-1805)
- [Admissions; Enrollments; Community Colleges](#) (Section 15-1805.01)
- [Testimony Concerning Student Status; Designation of Persons to Administer Oaths](#) (Section 15-1806)
- [Concurrent Enrollment; Nonresident Tuition](#) (Section 15-1807)

## Residency Classification Determines Tuition Costs

It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation to the College to establish residency. The College will provide the lowest possible rate of tuition when determining residency classification. The following classifications determine tuition rates (Refer to <https://www.coconino.edu/student-accounts> for current rates).

- Non Resident:
  - Students domiciled outside of this state will be classified as a non-resident.
  - Students who are not lawfully present in the US will be classified as non-resident.

- Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE): Students who are determined as permanent residents of one of the 16 states or regions recognized by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education are entitled to a classification of WUE.
- Resident: Students domiciled in this state for twelve consecutive months before enrollment:
  - Resident, Out-of-District Classification: Students classified as in state and domiciled outside of Coconino County for twelve consecutive months before the first day of class are entitled to Resident, out-of-district tuition rate.
  - Resident, In-District Classification: Students classified as in state and domiciled in Coconino County for twelve consecutive months before the first day of class are entitled to a classification of Resident, in-district tuition rate. Students domiciled in Apache and Greenlee counties are classified as Resident, In District.

## **Independent Student Residency Criteria**

You must couple twelve months of physical presence in Arizona with financial independence and objective evidence of intent to make Arizona your permanent home.

All of the evidence is weighed under the presumption that a non-resident student's presence in Arizona is primarily for the purpose of education and not to establish domicile, and that decisions of an individual as to the intent to establish domicile are generally made after the completion of an education and not before.

The following three criteria must all be met:

### **1. Physical presence (12 Months)**

To be eligible for classification as a resident for tuition purposes, you must provide clear and convincing evidence of continuous physical presence in the state of Arizona for the 12 months prior to the term in question. The 12-month period is referred to as a domicile year. You must be at least 18 at the beginning of the domicile year.

### **2. Intent to establish a domicile (12 months)**

Your evidence of intent to be a resident of this state is demonstrated by the absence of ties to your former state of residence. Actions used to indicate intent must be accomplished at the beginning of the domicile year, and be maintained throughout the year.

If these steps are delayed, the start of your one-year domicile period will also be delayed accordingly. All requirements must be demonstrated for one full year before resident status may be granted.

Samples of indicia are:

- Arizona driver's license general information
- Arizona motor vehicle registration
- Employment history
- Transfer of major banking services to Arizona
- Eligible immigration (visa) status if you are a non-citizen
- Arizona voter's registration (Voter Registration Request Form)
- Change in permanent address on all pertinent records
- Filing of Arizona state income taxes
- Additional documents, as requested

### **3. Financial independence (24 months)**

You need to be self-supporting (financially independent) and not claimed as a dependent by your parents.

Generally, a student is considered dependent on parents while in high school regardless of how taxes are filed. Personal loans, PLUS loans, gifts, and cash earnings are not acceptable. Auto and health insurance policies must be separate from parents' policy. Typical documentation to be considered should include:

- paystubs
- W-2s
- financial aid
- documented inheritance Veteran's or Social Security Benefits
- Trust Funds (established prior to high school)
- accident/insurance settlements
- Federal/Arizona State Income Tax

### **Exceptions to the Twelve Month Residency Rule**

All of these exceptions must be verified through the Office of the Registrar. You may be eligible for resident status without waiting twelve months, if one of the following applies on or before the last day of regular registration.

#### **Dependent**

If you are a dependent of parents who are permanently domiciled in Arizona, you may possibly qualify for reclassification without waiting 12 months. Both parents (unless divorced) must claim Arizona as their legal and permanent domicile.

Students who are over 18 years of age when the semester begins must be claimed as a dependent for the most recent tax year. For students under 18 years, the domicile of the parent with legal custody will determine residency.

#### **Company Transfer**

If you are domiciled in Arizona and are an employee or spouse of an employee transferred to Arizona by his/her employer for employment purposes, you may possibly qualify for reclassification without waiting 12 months. This exception does not apply in the following situations:

- new hire
- self-employment
- family owned/operated business
- recruited by an Arizona employer
- employee-initiated transfer

This Company Transfer provision exempts the qualifying applicant from the 12-months physical presence requirement, but not the intent to make Arizona your permanent home, and the financial independence requirements.

If financial independence is in question, the applicant will be asked to document two years of tax independence. In addition, the employee transferred needs to be a continuous, full-time, benefit-eligible employee of same company.

### **Military**

If you do not live in Arizona, but are a member of the US Armed Forces stationed in Arizona pursuant to active duty military orders, including AZ National Guard and Reserves, or you are a member's spouse or dependent child as defined in ARS Section 43-1001, you may qualify for reclassification without waiting twelve months.

As a full-time student, you do not lose resident status while in continuous attendance towards the degree for which currently enrolled, if military service is discontinued. In addition, if you are domiciled in Arizona immediately prior to becoming a member of the US Armed Forces, you will not necessarily lose resident status because of your absence while a member of the US Armed Forces.

### **Married to an Arizona Resident**

The person's spouse has established domicile in this state for at least one year and has demonstrated intent and financial independence. Furthermore, the individual is entitled to claim the student as an exemption for state and federal tax purposes, but maintained a domicile in this state.

If the person is a non-citizen, the person must be in an eligible visa status pursuant to federal law to classify as an in-state student for tuition purposes. Contact the Registration and Enrollment Services for further assistance.

### **Native American**

If you are not domiciled in Arizona, but are a member and resident of a Native American tribe whose reservation land lies partially in Arizona and another state, you may qualify for reclassification without waiting 12 months.

### **Teachers under contract / full-time non-certified classroom aides**

If you are employed by an Arizona school district and either on contract to teach full-time or are a full-time non-certified classroom aide, you may be eligible to pay resident tuition for courses required for certification.