

TUITION CLASSIFICATION

In-State and Out-of-State Tuition Classification

Tuition classification is governed by state law and by judicial decisions that apply to all public institutions of higher education in Colorado. The University of Colorado does not have discretion to make exceptions to the rules as established by state law.

New students are classified as in-state or out-of-state residents for tuition purposes on the basis of information provided on their admission application and other relevant information. Applicants may be required to submit evidence substantiating their claim of in-state eligibility.

Current nonresident students who believe they have become eligible for a change to in-state status must submit a petition with documentation in order to have their status reviewed. The petition requirements, deadlines for submission, explanation of Colorado tuition classification statutes, specific legal residency exceptions and Office of the Registrar contact information are available on the Tuition Classification (<http://www.colorado.edu/registrar/students/state-residency>) webpage.

Basic Requirement for Establishing Colorado Residency

To become eligible for in-state residency, a person must establish legal residence in Colorado. Legal residence, or "domicile," is defined as a person's true, fixed and permanent home and place of habitation. No person may establish domicile in Colorado solely for the purpose of obtaining in-state tuition benefits. An individual who seeks to establish domicile while registered as a student is presumed to establish Colorado domicile solely for tuition purposes unless there is clear and convincing evidence to the contrary.

Colorado in-state tuition classification requires Colorado domicile for 12 consecutive months. A person must be 22 years of age or older, married, a graduate student or an emancipated minor in order to begin the 12-month period of establishing domicile in Colorado. Unemancipated minors qualify for in-state status if their parents have been domiciled in Colorado for at least one year.

Evidence of Domicile

Establishing Colorado domicile includes actions that would be expected of any permanent resident. Pursuant to Colorado law, the following may be considered evidence of domicile:

- filing a tax return in Colorado and, if applicable, payment of Colorado state income tax;
- Colorado driver's license or Colorado ID card within 120 days of move to Colorado;
- Colorado vehicle registration within 180 days of move to Colorado;
- voter registration in Colorado;
- graduation from a Colorado high school;
- lease or deed showing permanent occupancy of residential real property in Colorado;
- continued residence in Colorado while not enrolled as a student and during semester breaks;
- permanent employment or acceptance of future employment in Colorado; or

- any other factor particular to the individual that tends to establish the necessary intent to make Colorado a permanent home.

No single factor constitutes proof of domicile. All evidence, both positive and negative, is considered. Not all of the listed items are necessary, but individuals should take action on any factors that are appropriate in their circumstance.

Domicile Exceptions

Colorado tuition law provides the following rare exceptions to the one-year domicile requirement in certain circumstances:

- Colorado National Guard members,
- active duty military stationed in Colorado and their dependents ,
- honorably discharged members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their dependents ,
- returning active-duty military members,
- Canadian military stationed in Colorado,
- ASSET law qualified students with three years of Colorado high school and graduation,
- children of new faculty members at Colorado state colleges and universities,
- employees of companies moving to Colorado receiving government economic incentives,
- Western Regional Graduate Program enrollees in specific major fields of study,
- Olympic athletes training in Colorado, and
- others (see Residency Exceptions for Domicile (<http://www.colorado.edu/registrar/students/state-residency/domicile-exceptions>) webpage).

Requirements, including spouse and child eligibility, are detailed on the Residency Exceptions for Domicile (<http://www.colorado.edu/registrar/students/state-residency/domicile-exceptions>) webpage.

Unemancipated Minors

Students under age 23 who depend on their parents for support may qualify for in-state tuition if either of their parents, regardless of custody, has been domiciled in Colorado for 12 consecutive months preceding the first day of class in a given semester, even if the student resides elsewhere. In certain circumstances, students may qualify through their parents up to age 23.

Emancipation

An emancipated minor is someone under age 23 who demonstrates total financial and residential independence. This means the student's parents and all others have entirely surrendered the right to the student's care, custody and earnings, and make no provision for support of any kind. Emancipation is very rare; undergraduates under age 23 who do not have a parent domiciled in Colorado are highly unlikely to be classified as a Colorado resident student.

Students who give false information to evade payment of out-of-state tuition or who fail to provide timely notice of their loss of in-state eligibility are subject to retroactive assessment of out-of-state tuition, as well as disciplinary and legal actions.

For more information on all requirements, see the Tuition Classification (<http://www.colorado.edu/registrar/students/state-residency>) webpage.