Residency Classification in Colorado

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Guidelines

The information on this page is considered to be general guidance and is not legal advice. Refer to state statutes to view the actual law. Tuition classification is governed by state law (Title 23, Article 7, of the Colorado Revised Statutes of 1973, as amended) and by judicial decisions that apply to all public institutions of higher education in Colorado, and is subject to change at any time. The university is not free to make exceptions to the rules except as specifically permitted by state law.
Petitioning for residency requires proof of 12 consecutive months of domicile and intent prior to the term you are petitioning for. Undergraduate students under 23 completing an Emancipation petition are required to also show proof of emancipation. Domicile is defined as a person’s true, fixed and permanent home. Therefore, individuals who are present in Colorado on a temporary basis, for the purpose of completing a degree, cannot establish domicile by merely taking these actions. More information on residency guidelines and eligibility requirements can be found HERE.

Below are examples of appropriate evidence showing domicile and intent, although no single factor alone is conclusive. For information on how to locate documentation click HERE.

- Payment of Colorado income tax.
- Ownership of residential property in Colorado.
- Lease agreements for the twelve or more months.
- Employment in Colorado or acceptance of future employment in Colorado.
- Graduation from a Colorado high school.
- Vehicle registration in Colorado.
- Voter registration in Colorado.
- Driver’s license issued in Colorado.

**Important:** After a student is enrolled at an institution, their classification for tuition purposes remains unchanged in the absence of clear and convincing evidence to the contrary.
Residency Resources

Petition Deadlines