In-State Residency Q & A’s

• Q: What are the standard requirements to qualify for in-state residency?
  A: In-State status requires domicile in Colorado for the year immediately preceding the first day of classes for that term. Intent must be to reside permanently in Colorado. The more documents provided to prove domicile, the stronger the case.

• Q: What is domicile?
  A: Domicile is defined as your true, fixed and permanent home and place of habitation. You can have only one domicile at any one time. Domicile is verified by Colorado driver’s license, vehicle registration, housing, tax returns, payroll information.

• Q: Are there any exceptions to the one-year domicile requirement?
  A: The only exceptions are for active-duty military personnel on permanent duty station in Colorado, for honorably discharged veterans, or for Olympic athletes in training at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

• Q: What if my parents have not established Colorado domiciliary?
  A: You must then be a qualified person who is either at least 23 years old or married, or emancipated, or a graduate student, who has established domicile in Colorado for the one year period as described above. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please refer to page 2 of the form under “Aliens” for additional info.

• Q: What does emancipation mean?
  A: Emancipation requires that your parents cannot provide financial support of any nature for any purpose. This includes funds that may have been previously set aside for your current support, even if in your name. Please refer to Emancipated Minors section of residency form for further information.

• Q: What about a minor who is not emancipated?
  A: Unemancipated minors are under 23 years old, who are dependent on their parents for financial support. They are eligible for in-state tuition if at least one parent or legal guardian has been domiciled in Colorado for one year. If your parents declare you on their tax returns, you are not emancipated.

• Q: My parents were former CO residents who recently moved out of state. Would I still be eligible for in-state tuition?
  A: If you are an unemancipated minor, you may retain in-state status if your parents lived in Colorado for at least 4 years (see Four Year rule on petition) before establishing domicile elsewhere, and you attended high school in Colorado for at least 3 years. If you or they have returned to Colorado, regaining in-state status requires a new one year domicile period.

• Q: What if I take a vacation, will that affect my residency status?
  A: To maintain Colorado domicile during a temporary absence, you should keep Colorado connections, particularly voter registration, and declare any out-of-state income on your Colorado state income tax return. However, residing in your previous home state for a substantial period, is some evidence of continued domicile in that place, although by itself does not disqualify you for in-state status.

• Q: I married an established Colorado resident; does that qualify me for in-state tuition?
  A: If you are married, you are emancipated regardless of parental support. However, marriage to a Colorado resident does not by itself qualify you for in-state tuition status. Although marriage may be considered some evidence of intent, you must still maintain your own Colorado domicile for one year.

• Q: Do Military Personnel or their dependents get special tuition classification?
  A: Active-Duty members of the armed forces in the United States and Canada on permanent duty station in Colorado, and their dependents (as defined by military regulations) are eligible for in-state status, regardless of domicile or length of residence in Colorado. The military member must have reported to a duty station in the state, as certified by their military commander, not later than the first day of class of the applicable academic term. Unless the student meets the domicile requirement as detailed above, this eligibility expires as of the first term that begins after retirement, permanent change in duty station, or loss of dependent status. Please refer to section on Military Personnel, or link to Veterans Affairs for details.