

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ESTABLISHING RESIDENCY

ONLINE AT: <http://www.sfsu.edu/future/costs/fees.html#resfaq>

## WHY SHOULD I ESTABLISH RESIDENCY?

You should establish residency to take advantage of lower **registration fees** at California public colleges and universities for California residents. In many cases, you will reduce your education costs substantially.

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO ESTABLISH RESIDENCY?

You are eligible for resident status only if you have established and maintained permanent residence in California at least one year prior to the following residence determination dates:

- Spring semester: Jan. 25
- Summer semester: June 1
- Fall semester: Sept. 20

## IF I AM UNDER AGE 19, CAN I ESTABLISH RESIDENCY ON MY OWN?

No. California State University policy states that the residence of applicants who are under age 19 is based on the residence of the parents or guardians. If you will be under age 19 at the time of the residence determination date, be sure to indicate the identity and residence of your parent or guardian on the CSU admission application and any residency questionnaire or residency reclassification form.

## IF I AM A NONRESIDENT, HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR CALIFORNIA RESIDENT STATUS?

To be eligible for resident status for tuition purposes, you must, for at least one year prior to the residence determination date, maintain physical presence in California and establish your intent to make California your permanent home. Evidence of intent to remain in California indefinitely can vary based on individual circumstance, but should include items listed below as well as the absence of residential ties to your former state. Keep in mind that physical presence in California for the specific intention of academic study does not constitute intent to make California your permanent home. If you are not a citizen of the United States, you must also maintain, for one year prior to the residence determination date, an immigration status that allows you to establish California residency. The following will be considered when your resident status is reviewed:

- California driver's license
- California voter registration
- California automobile registration

- California state income tax obligations on total income
- Ownership of residential property or continuous occupancy or leasing of an apartment where your personal belongings are kept
- Active, continuous savings and/or checking accounts in a California bank since the prior year
- Immigration status with legal capacity to establish California residency
- Maintaining a permanent military address and home of record in California
- Military leave and earnings statements showing California as legal residence
- Financial independence from parents for the current year and for three years prior to the current year. (Please note that information regarding financial independence is not required from applicants for admission, but is required from current students seeking residence reclassification.)

## WHAT IS AN ELIGIBLE CITIZENSHIP, VISA, OR IMMIGRATION STATUS?

To establish residency a student must be either a U.S. citizen, a legal immigrant (alien registration card holder), or hold a visa A, E, G, H-1, H-1B, H-4 (if dependent on a H-1 or H-1B), I, K, L, N, O-1, O-3 (if dependent on a O-1), R, S, T, U, V.

## IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT I'M A NONRESIDENT, CAN I ASK FOR ANOTHER REVIEW?

Yes, as soon as you are eligible. If you are an applicant for admission, you should submit a [Residency Questionnaire](#). If you are a current student, you should submit a [Residence Reclassification Request Form](#). Submit the form and any supporting documents to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

## WHEN CAN I ASK FOR ANOTHER REVIEW?

You may request reclassification after:

- Sept. 15 for spring semester
- Feb. 1 for summer semester
- March 1 for fall semester

## HOW LONG DOES A REVIEW TAKE?

It normally takes 15 working days for the review to be complete after you have submitted all required documents.

## WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

If you have further questions please contact the Undergraduate Admissions Department, Phone: (415)338-6486 or Graduate Division (Graduate students only), Phone: (415)338-2234.

## TEN THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CALIFORNIA RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES

1. California residency for tuition purposes eligibility criteria are established by State Law and the California Code of Regulations. California State University implements these Laws and Regulations.
2. California State University **cannot** alter or waive the eligibility criteria for **any** reason.
3. Under California law, if you have moved to California primarily to attend a California institution of higher learning, then you **are not eligible** for in-state tuition.
4. Living in California for 12 months **is not** an automatic qualification for in-state tuition.
5. You **must** prove through **official and/or legal documents** that you have moved to California permanently and are not merely living in California temporarily while you attend California State University, however long your course of study may take.
6. Financial hardship **cannot** be considered in evaluating California residency for tuition purposes eligibility.
7. Legal ties that you maintain in another state or country (e.g., state tax liability, a driver's license, voter's registration, etc.) **will disqualify** you from residency reclassification, regardless of your reason(s) for maintaining these ties.

8. Evidence that you are receiving out-of-state financial support in any way, either directly (e.g. tuition payments, parent PLUS loans, etc.) or indirectly (e.g., parent-purchased or co-purchased residences, parent-controlled financial portfolios), **will disqualify** you from California residency for-tuition-purposes.

9. Despite the length of time you attend California State University or live in California, you **might not** qualify for California residency for-tuition-purposes.

10. Residency reclassification applications and all supporting documentation must be submitted during the term in which reclassification is requested.

The term "California resident" for tuition purposes may differ from other definitions of California residency. **A person who has a California driver's license/vehicle registration or who is a California resident for tax, voting, or welfare purposes may have established legal residence in the state but might not necessarily be considered a resident for tuition purposes.**