

Florida Residency for Tuition Purposes

Effective July 1, 2009, non-residents students who come to Florida and enroll in a Florida post-secondary educational institution will not meet the Florida residency requirement for in-state tuition, regardless of the length of time enrolled. You must obtain Florida residency 12 months prior to your first day of class. More information is provided below.

General Classification Procedures

http://www.registrar.usf.edu/Residency/General_Procedures.php

“Florida state statute Section 1009.21 defines the requirements for a student to be considered an "in-state" resident for tuition purposes. A person may be considered a Florida resident for the purpose of paying taxes, voting or other legal purposes after residing in the state for a designated length of time however, the state statute specifies additional requirements must be met before a student may be classified as "in-state" for tuition purposes.

Living in or attending school in Florida will not in it self establish legal residence for tuition purposes.

Initial Classification

The initial classification is made by the office admitting you to the University as either an undergraduate, graduate or non-degree seeking student. The classification is based on the information you provided on the application submitted. Failure to provide all relevant information, including copies of required documents, may lead to an initial classification as an "out-of-state" resident.”

Qualifying for In-State Residency

<http://www.registrar.usf.edu/Residency/Qualifying/>

Florida Residency for Tuition Purposes, **Florida School Code (SB 20-E) Section 1009.21 Florida Statutes** (<http://www.leg.state.fl.us>) requires that a U.S. Citizen/Permanent Resident Alien student or a dependent student's parent/legal guardian establish and maintain a legal Florida residence for at least 12 months before the first day of the semester for which in-state status is sought.

You can only establish in-state status if you intend to reside in the state permanently and establish "domicile" in Florida. Your evidence of intent to be a resident of Florida is demonstrated by the absence of ties to your former state of residence. It is important that you change your permanent address on all pertinent records.

The University of South Florida is required to obtain documentation of 12 months of legal residence before reclassifying you as a resident for tuition purposes. Your intent to establish a residence is evaluated for the domicile year associated with the term for which you are seeking reclassification. Please note, in most cases you will be required to submit a copy of a federal income tax return to substantiate either dependent or independent status.

Residency Reclassification

<http://www.registrar.usf.edu/Residency/Qualifying/florida-residency.php>

Florida law requires universities to confirm that a student's residency in Florida during the twelve-month qualifying period was for the purpose of making a bona fide domicile rather than for maintaining a mere temporary residence or abode incidental to enrollment. Therefore, it is important to understand that living in or attending college in Florida is not tantamount to establishing a legal residence for tuition purposes. Effective July 1, 2009, non-residents students who come to Florida and enroll in a Florida post-secondary educational institution will not meet the Florida residency requirement for in-state tuition, regardless of the length of time enrolled. In order to have the benefit of paying tuition at in-state rates, students seeking residency reclassification must provide clear and convincing evidence of legal ties to the State and continuous physical presence in Florida for at least 12 consecutive months which predates initial enrollment in an institution of higher education. Generally, non-resident students who enroll in a post-secondary institution at any point during the twelve-month qualifying period will automatically be precluded from Florida residency status.