



Board Procedure 500.4: Student Residency

Students

A person who has been admitted to the District will be classified as a resident or as a non-resident for admission, tuition, and fee purposes according to the definitions in Iowa Administrative Code 281-21.2(11). A person classified as a resident will pay resident tuition costs. A person classified as a non-resident will pay, unless previously notified by the District, non-resident tuition costs. This procedure classifies residency status for purposes of assessing tuition charges and credit courses.

Determination of Residency Status

In determining a community college resident or non-resident classification, the primary determination is the reason a person is in the state of Iowa. The second determination will be the length of time a person has resided in Iowa. If a person is in the state primarily for educational purposes, that person will be considered a non-resident. The burden of establishing the reason a person is in Iowa for other than educational purposes rests with the student.

The Registrar or official designated community college office will require written documents, affidavits, or other related evidence deemed necessary to determine why a student is in Iowa. A student will be required to file at least two documents from different sources to determine residency status. The following are examples of acceptable documentation:

- Written and notarized documentation from an employer that the student is employed in Iowa or a signed and notarized statement from the student describing employment and sources of support
- Iowa state income tax return
- An Iowa driver's license
- An Iowa vehicle registration card
- An Iowa voter registration card

- Proof of Iowa Homestead credit on property taxes

In all events, to be determined a resident of Iowa, the student must document residing in the state of Iowa for at least 90 days prior to the beginning of the term for which the student is enrolling.

Residency of Minor Students

The domicile of a minor shall follow that of the parent with whom the minor resides, except where emancipation of said minor can be proven. The word “parent” herein used shall include legal guardian or others in cases where the lawful custody of a minor has been awarded to persons other than the minor’s actual parents. A minor living with a resident of Iowa who is legally responsible for the minor shall be granted resident status if the minor has lived with the Iowa resident for at least 90 days immediately prior to enrollment. The residency status of an emancipated minor shall be based upon the same qualifications established for a person having attained majority.

Residency of Students Who Are Not Citizens of the United States

- International students who are in the United States on any type of student visa (e.g. an F-1 or F-2 visa) *cannot* establish in-state residency while studying in this country.
- A student who is a refugee or who is granted asylum by an appropriate agency of the United States must provide proof of certification of refugee or asylum grantee status. A student may be accorded resident status for admission and tuition purposes when the student comes directly, or within a reasonable time, to the state of Iowa from a refugee facility or port of debarkation and has not established domicile in another state.
- A student who has immigrant status, and the student’s spouse or dependents, may establish Iowa residency in the same manner as a United States citizen.
- A student who has non-immigrant status and who holds a non-student visa, and the student’s spouse or dependents, may establish residency in the same manner as a United States citizen. An alien who has non-immigrant status and whose primary purpose for being in Iowa is educational is classified as non-resident. A "student

visa" is prima facie evidence of non-residency (i.e., in a rare case, a student holding the visa could overcome the presumption of non-residency).

- A student who is a resident of an Iowa sister state may be classified as a resident or non-resident, per rules adopted by the college's board of directors.

Residency of Federal Personnel and Dependents

A student, or the student's spouse or dependent child, who has moved into the state of Iowa as the result of military or civil orders from the federal government, and the minor children of such student, is immediately an Iowa resident.

Veterans Exemption

A veteran of a uniformed service, a member of the National Guard, or the veteran's or member's spouse or dependent child will be classified as an Iowa resident student and be eligible for resident tuition and fee amounts, if the veteran or national guard member meets one of the following conditions:

- The veteran has separated from a uniformed service with an honorable or general discharge, is eligible for benefits, or has exhausted benefits, under the federal Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 or any other federal authorizing veteran educational benefits program.
- The individual is an active duty military person or activated or temporarily mobilized National Guard member.
- The individual is a covered person under Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 or subsequent legislation, as effective on February 7, 2024.

Reclassification of Residency Status

It is the responsibility of a student to request a reclassification of residency status. If a student is reclassified as a resident for tuition purposes, such classification shall be effective beginning with the next term for which the student enrolls. In no case shall reclassification to residency status be made retroactive for tuition and fee purposes, even though the student could have previously qualified for residency status had the student applied.

Appeal

An adverse decision by the Registrar on the residency status of a student for admission, tuition, and fee purposes may be appealed to the Appeals Review Committee. The decision of the Appeals Review Committee is final.

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Date: November 12, 2001

Legal Reference

Iowa Administrative Code 281-21.2(11); Iowa Administrative Code, Section 260C.14(2)

Related Administrative Rules and Regulations

None

Revision History

July 12, 2023; December 12, 2018; October 10, 2018

Formerly Board Policy 514; Procedure 514