

North Carolina Residency for Tuition Purposes (revised Fall 2003)

Legal Residency in North Carolina is not the same thing as *Residency for Tuition Purposes*.

Residency for Tuition Purposes **requires** the following:

Legal Residency for at least one year. This means that the students must do the following (among other things) at least one year before applying for tuition residency:

- Register to vote in North Carolina
- Vote in North Carolina
- Acquire a North Carolina driver's license
- Register vehicle insurance in North Carolina
- Transfer all bank accounts (including trust funds) to North Carolina
- Work full-time in North Carolina and file tax forms as a legal resident of the state.

Proof that the move to North Carolina was not for the purpose of attending school.

("Maintaining a bona fide domicile rather than for purposes of maintaining a mere temporary residence incident to enrollment in an institution of higher education")

Proof that the student is completely independent and was not named as a dependent on the most recent tax forms filed by the student's parents.

**N.B. All of the above do not guarantee residency for tuition purposes. Each application is considered independently of all others. For example, employment records and tax returns vary widely-some are sufficient to lead to residency for tuition purposes, and some are not.*

The following conditions are not relevant to an appeal for residency for tuition purposes.

They **do not count** in the appeal:

- Paying rent and utilities
- Paying tax on personal property
- Volunteer work and church membership
- References from mentors, neighbors, or ministers attesting to the "niceness" of the student.
- Desire to "make North Carolina my home"
- Years of attending summer camps in North Carolina Mountains
- Number of siblings in school in North Carolina
- Intention to work in North Carolina after graduation (the numbers show that most out-of-state students do not stay in North Carolina)

Reference: *A Manual to Assist the Public Higher Education Institutions of North Carolina in the Matter of Student Residence Classification for Tuition Purposes.* 5/2005