

## Tuition Classification FAQs

### Who Decides?

The Office of Admissions initially determines your classification based on the information you provide on your admission application. It is very important that you fill the application out completely. If you don't, you might be classified as out-of-state.

### When Do I find Out What My Classification Is?

When you are admitted to the college, you will receive an acceptance letter that states your tuition classification.

### What If You Disagree With Our Decision?

If you've been classified as out-of-state, and you don't agree with this classification, we'll explain the appropriate procedures you must follow to request a change in your status. There are several options.

In more simple cases, we might only need to include additional information on your admission application (remember what we said before about the importance of answering all the questions).

### Other Questions and Answers:

Here's a list of the most commonly asked questions regarding tuition classification,

#### **Q. Who sets the rules and procedures for considering individuals as in-state students for tuition purposes?**

**A.** The State of Colorado tuition law is the basis for determining an individual tuition classification. The law authorizes each institution to make the classification. General guidelines for the implementation of the law have been established by the state, along with common policies generated by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

#### **Q. How long must I live in Colorado before I can be granted in-state tuition rates?**

**A.** An in-state student is defined as an individual who has been *domiciled* (physical presence and intent) in Colorado for the 12 continuous months or more *immediately preceding* the first day of the semester in which you enroll.

#### **Q. How old must I be before I can begin to establish my domicile in Colorado?**

**A.** There are three possible situations:

1. If you are at least 23 years of age, you are eligible to establish domicile in Colorado. Because domicile must be established for 12 months prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of classes, you may meet the requirements of the law no sooner than your 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.
2. If you are emancipated, you are eligible to establish domicile.
3. If you are less than 23 years of age and not emancipated, you will be classified based on information about your parents or legal guardians.

#### **Q. If I marry a Colorado resident or live with a relative who is a Colorado resident, am I considered an in-state student?**

**A.** No. Each individual must establish domicile, independently as prescribed by the tuition law.

#### **Q. Are there special circumstances for military personnel?**

**A.** Yes. Active duty military personnel who are permanently stationed in Colorado and their dependents, as defined by military regulations, can qualify for an adjustment of the out-of-state portion of their tuition. For complete information you should contact the education officer at the

base where you are assigned. Military personnel who wish to become permanent Colorado residents may establish their in-state status the same as any other resident.

**Q. Is the tuition classification decision at one institution transferable to another institution?**

**A.** No. Each institution is responsible for determining the tuition classification of its students. There may be slightly different procedures at different institutions, but each one must have a process by which individuals can appeal their tuition classification.

**Q. Can I establish in-state status while I am a student?**

**A.** Yes, but the mere fact that you are a student, part-time or full-time, is not sufficient evidence to change your classification. You must still demonstrate your physical presence and intent, as defined earlier, before you can be classified as an in-state student.

**Q. May I leave the state for vacations or summer work while establishing my in-state status?**

**A.** Yes, but you must maintain the Colorado connections you have begun, such as claiming any income as Colorado income for tax purposes. Any interruptions or change in these connections could be sufficient cause to negate whatever domicile has been established and result in starting your domicile over again once you return to Colorado. You should check with your registering authority before you leave.

**Q. Is there any consideration given for a minor whose parents have lived in Colorado and established in-state status, but who now have permanently moved out of the state?**

**A.** If the parents move during the minor's senior year in high school and can provide copies of Colorado income tax for the previous 4 years, it is possible for the minor to be considered in-state for tuition purposes. One stipulation is that the minor must enroll in a Colorado post-secondary institution within 3 ½ years of graduation for a Colorado high school.

**Q. Can anyone I know be my legal guardian?**

**A.** Legal guardianship must be established through judicial system. Only a court-appointed guardianship, not a self-appointed guardianship will be recognized.

**Q. Can resident aliens establish in-state classification?**

**A.** Resident aliens can legally establish a domicile when the U.S. Immigration Service has granted them status of lawful permanent resident. The date used to begin establishing domicile is the date the application for permanent visa was submitted. This date should be documented, along with the photocopy of the immigrant card.

**Q. Can foreign students establish in-state classification?**

**A.** Only certain non-immigration classifications allow for establishing in-state status. You should contact the Office of Admissions for information.

**Q. What if I disagree with the final tuition classification decision?**

**A.** The college has established appeal procedures, and the decision reached during this process is final. If you disagree at this point, subsequent appeal would require legal action. There is no central state office or agency that is involved in the appeal process.