

The following information has been provided to assist you in understanding the residency law as passed by the Utah Legislature.

Residency status for tuition purposes is determined by the Admissions Office. Students are classified either resident or non resident at the time the admission application is received. If there are questions regarding the residency status, individuals are classified non-residents.

Non-residents may have their status reclassified by meeting the state domicile requirements and submitting a residency application along with supporting documentation. Applications are accepted thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the semester for which residency is desired. The deadline date for submitting the application is twenty-one (21) days from the date classes begin.

The University honors the residency status determined by other Utah colleges or universities unless the classification was obtained under false pretense or there has been a lapse in attendance.

Applicants who are denied Utah residency for tuition purposes may file an appeal to be reviewed by the Residency Appeal Committee. The Committee shall make an independent examination of the issues presented and make a final determination of the resident status

Please Note: WUE and Legacy scholarship recipients will **not** be eligible to apply for residency for tuition purposes.

Frequent or extended absences, especially if the student establishes residency or domicile out of state i.e. working out of state or returning to prior home of record for an extended time, may be regarded as evidence that residency requirements have not been satisfied.

To qualify for Utah residency for tuition purposes, an individual must:

- be a **US citizen** or have Permanent Resident status **AND**
- have **objective evidence** such as a Utah Driver's license, Utah voter registration, vehicle registration in Utah, employment and/or school attendance in Utah. **AND**
- have **lived in Utah** for twelve continuous months immediately preceding the term, without leaving for a total of thirty (30) days or more. **OR**
- **married to a Utah resident.** Applicants are required to submit a marriage certificate and documentation that their spouse is a Utah resident and the objective evidence listed above for yourself and your spouse **OR**
- **move to Utah for permanent full-time employment.** May apply to attend SUU after four months of moving to Utah **OR**
- be a **spouse or dependent** of an individual who establishes his/her domicile in Utah to work on a full-time permanent basis (must provide a tax return verifying relationship) **OR**
- be a **U.S. military personnel on active duty in Utah.** The spouse and dependents residing with such individual may also qualify for residency status. After terminating active duty, residence is determined using the same criteria for other students **OR**
- be a **military veteran or the dependent of a veteran who** separated from the military within the previous five years **OR**
- be a **client of a Social or Rehabilitation Service Agency** in Utah that will pay tuition. Individual must provide Utah documentation of domiciliary intent **OR**
- be an **American Indian who appears on the rolls** of a tribe having at least some trust land within Utah or whose reservation or trust land has a border contiguous with Utah.

All Applicants must provide:

- Verification of time lived in Utah or other basis for application. Rental agreements or receipts, and/or utilities bills do not constitute physical presence in the state.
- Utah driver's license
- Utah voter registration
- Vehicle registration (Utah registration required if applicants name is on the registration)

* Applications submitted under the 12 month rule must also **provide verification of financial independence.** (May not be claimed on a person's tax return that lives outside of Utah for the prior year).

* If applying based on another person's residency, all of the above must be provided for that person in addition to the applicant. Additional documents will be required.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **How do I obtain residency status for tuition purposes?**
You may complete a Residency Application and provide required documentation to the Admissions Office. The application will then be reviewed for compliance with Utah Code and the Utah State Board of Regents Policy and Procedures.
- **How long do I have to live in Utah?**
You must live in Utah for twelve (12) or more continuous months immediately before the term for which you are applying without leaving for a total of thirty (30) days or more during the twelve months.
- **What if I go on a mission after attending SUU for two semesters? Can I use the time before my mission toward residency?**
No, Utah State Law requires that students live in Utah continuously immediately prior to the semester that the student is requesting reclassification as a resident.
- **Can I obtain residency status with credit hours?**
No. The Utah State Legislature has removed this option.

- **If I leave the state of Utah, can I still be a resident when school starts for the next semester?**

If you are a resident and leave the state of Utah for a short period of time without establishing ties in another state you may not lose your Utah eligibility for tuition purposes.

- **What if I didn't go to school or work during the last twelve months?**

You must provide verification that you were physically in the State. If you have done anything on a regular basis that can be verified by a community/business leader, you may provide a letter (on official letterhead) or other documentation to substantiate this fact.

- **Are there other circumstances where residency can be earned?**

Yes, one of the following may apply:

- Move to Utah as a result of full-time permanent employment.
- One or both of your parents have permanently moved to Utah; you are their dependent, single and under age 24.
- Married to a Utah Resident.
- Student or parents are in the military and stationed in Utah or have declared Utah as Home of Record and file Utah state tax returns.
- An American Indian enrolled on the tribal rolls of a tribe whose reservation or trust lands lie partly or wholly within Utah; or whose border is at any point contiguous with the border of Utah.
- Active duty military member or dependent stationed in Utah or a member of reserves assigned to Utah.
- Left active duty military service within the twelve months prior to the start of the semester.

- **If I, or my parents, work in Utah but live in another state, would I be a resident?**

You must reside within the State, regardless of where you or your parents work. Exceptions may apply.

- **What if I was born in Utah but my family moved away?**

Generally, a minor's residency remains with the parents.

- **How can military veterans get in state tuition rates?**

Veterans who have separated from the military within five (5) years of the semester they want to be classified as a resident may submit a copy of their DD 214 with the application and other required documents.

- **My family owns property and pays taxes in Utah, would I be a resident?**

The principal residency must be in the state of Utah, regardless of whether you own property or pay taxes in the state.

- **When can I apply for residency?**

A completed residency application can be submitted thirty (30) days prior to the first day of class and no later than the end of the second week of the term for which reclassification is desired.

- **How long does it take for a decision to be made?**

A decision will be made within a few weeks of receipt of the completed application and required documentation.

- **Where do I turn in my residency application?**

You may turn the application in the Admissions Office at Southern Utah University.

- **May I register prior to obtaining residency?**

You may register at any time you would like. If residency is granted, your records will be adjusted.

- **If I have received the WUE or Legacy scholarship, is there any way in which I can obtain residency?**

Any credits or time spent in Utah will disqualify you from reclassification as a resident if you have received either the WUE waiver or Legacy scholarship in the previous twelve months or sixty credits. Exceptions are if you marry a Utah resident, parents' move to Utah, or you join the Utah National Guard.

- **If I am applying for residency after living in Utah for one year, can my parent's claim me on their tax return if I lived with them for part of the prior year?**

No. If you moved to Utah for fall semester one year and are applying for resident status the next fall, your parents can **not** claim you on the prior year tax return. If you are applying for spring semester, you may provide a signed statement from your parent or guardian that you will not be claimed on the prior year return. They will then provide a copy of the tax return when filed. If you were claimed on another person's tax return, they may amend their return by filing a form 1040X.

- **Can I appeal the decision if my application is denied?**

Yes, you may submit a written request for you application to be reviewed by the Residency Appeals Committee prior to the end of the third week of class for the semester the application was denied.



Utah Residency For Tuition Purposes

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