

INFORMATION ON FLORIDA RESIDENCY FOR TUITION CLASSIFICATION - Effective December 2, 2015
ALL INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

Students who are admitted to public-supported postsecondary educational institutions in Florida, including Miami Dade College (MDC), must complete a declaration and provide proof of “Florida residency for tuition classification purposes,” in accordance with state law [1009.21, Florida Statutes \(F.S.\)](#) and [6A-10.044, Florida Administrative Code \(F.A.C.\)](#) and statute [1009.21, Florida Statutes \(F.S.\)](#).

The following information serves as a summary of the Florida Residency requirements for students and parents.

Information about Florida Residency for Tuition Classification

The tuition amount due for the classes in which you enroll is determined by your residency classification. Florida residents pay a much lower tuition rate than out-of-state residents. All students who apply online will be admitted as non-Florida residents until each student provides the required declaration form and supporting documentation needed to prove Florida residency, as explained below. You will be charged out-of-state tuition if you do not provide this information to an MDC campus Admissions and Registration Office **before the first day of the term**.

Florida Residency for Tuition Classification Purposes Documentation Requirements

Living in or attending school in Florida will not, in itself, establish legal residence for tuition classification purposes. Your residence in Florida must be based on establishing a permanent home not incidental to college enrollment. Students who depend on out-of-state parents for support are presumed to be legal residents of the same state as their parents. Additional determinations, such as immigration and dependent/independent status may affect Florida residency for tuition classification, as explained below. Also, the required documents to establish initial classification and reclassification are explained below.

Immigration Status

Non-U.S. citizen students and/or their parent(s)/guardian must provide evidence of eligible legal immigration status in the U.S. before they may be considered for Florida resident fees. U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and certain non-U.S. citizens as described below may be classified as a Florida resident for tuition purposes provided legal residence has been established in the State for at least 12 consecutive months immediately prior to the first day of classes of the term for which Florida residency is sought. Pursuant to section 1009.21 (2)(d), F.S., a dependent student who is a US citizen may not be denied classification as a resident for tuition purposes based solely upon the immigration status of his or her parent.

The following visa categories grant the person the legal ability to establish and maintain a bona fide domicile in the United States: A, E, G, H-1B, H-1C, I, K, L, N, NATO 1-7, O-1, R, S, T, U, and V. The following visa categories do not grant the person the legal ability to establish and maintain a bona fide domicile in the United States: B, C, D, F, H2, H3, M, P, Q, and TN. J visa holders are not eligible to establish residency for tuition purposes except as provided in Section 1009.21(10), F.S. Please check with the Admissions Office for more specific information.

Dependent/Independent Status

A Florida resident for tuition purposes is an independent person, or a dependent person’s parent, who has established and maintained legal residency in Florida for at least 12 consecutive months **before the first day of the term**. Listed below are the definitions of “independent” and “dependent” statuses, as applicable to Florida residency for tuition classification purposes.

• **Dependent Status**

Students under the age of 24 are considered “dependent” automatically, unless proven otherwise. Dependent students must provide their parent’s or guardian’s documentation for residency. A “parent”, as defined by s. 1009.21, Florida Statutes, means either or both parents of a student, any guardian of a student, or any person in a parental relationship to the student. Documentation in the form of IRS tax return transcripts showing that the student was claimed as a dependent in the previous income tax year may be required.

• **Independent Status**

Students age 24 and over are considered “independent” automatically, unless proven otherwise. Students who claim to be “independent” and are under the age of 24 must meet one of the following criteria and must provide the indicated documents:

- Prove 50% or more of their own support, as indicated by the previous year IRS tax return transcripts showing a minimum income of \$13,767. Independent students cannot be claimed as a dependent by another person on their taxes; or
- Proof of marriage, as indicated by a marriage license; or
- Be a veteran of the United States military service, as indicated on form DD214; or
- Be classified as “independent” by the Financial Aid Office at Miami Dade College, or
- Be a ward of the court (as indicated on court documents) or Project Independence recipient

All documents supporting the establishment of Florida residency for tuition classification purposes MUST:

- Be original and unaltered, as well as dated, issued, or filed twelve (12) months **before** the first day of the term in which the Florida residency-for-tuition-purposes classification is requested.
- Be received **no later than the first day of the term for the term in which Florida residency is being requested**; otherwise, the Florida classification for tuition purposes will be effective the following term.
- Show that all names listed on each of the documents **match**.

Unacceptable documents—the documents below cannot be used to support Florida residency classification for tuition purposes

Hunting/fishing licenses - Library cards - Shopping club/rental cards - Birth certificate – Passport - Social Security Card - Florida Concealed Weapons permit - Insurance Card

Note that more than two documents may be requested, no single document shall be conclusive, and all documentation is subject to verification. Evidence of ties to another state invalidates the eligibility of Florida residency classification for tuition purposes.

Requirements for Initial Classification of Florida Residency for Tuition Purposes

Students who claim Florida residency for tuition purposes are required to submit the Florida Residency Declaration form and provide documents from the list specified below from the first group and second group or both from the first group. At least one of the documents must be from the first group, and more than two documents may be requested. Documents must be issued at least twelve (12) consecutive months prior to the first day of the term in which Florida residency classification is requested. Note that no single document shall be conclusive, and all documentation is subject to verification. Evidence of ties to another state invalidates the eligibility of Florida residency classification for tuition purposes.

First group (at least one of the two documents submitted must be from the first group)

- A Florida voter's registration card.
- A Florida driver's license (licenses from any other state must be relinquished).
- A State of Florida identification card (if no evidence of ties to another state exists).
- A Florida vehicle registration.
- Proof of permanent home in Florida occupied as primary residence for 12 consecutive months prior to the student's enrollment. (Required: document such as a deed or other evidence of title to property used as primary residence, a homeowner's policy, a title insurance policy, evidence of a property tax payment on the primary residence, multiple leases reflecting a Florida address, or a lease of multiple years' duration).
- Proof of a Homestead Exemption in Florida.
- Official transcripts from a Florida high school for multiple years (2 or more years) if the Florida high school diploma or GED was earned within the last 12 months.
- Proof of permanent full-time employment in Florida for at least 30 hours per week for a 12-month period. (Required: pay stubs or W-2 form for past 12 consecutive months and/or verification from employers, and/or an IRS 1099 with verification of employment for the past 12 consecutive months from an employer).

Second group (may be used in conjunction with one document from the first group)

- Declaration of domicile in Florida in accordance with s. 222.17, Florida Statutes.
- A Florida professional or occupational license.
- Florida incorporation.
- Documents evidencing family ties in Florida.
- Proof of membership in Florida-based charitable or professional organizations.
- Utility bills and proof of 12 consecutive months of payments.
- Lease agreement and proof of 12 consecutive months of payments.
- Official Federal, State or court documents evidencing legal ties to Florida.
- Any other documentation that supports the student's request for Florida resident status.

Requirements for Reclassification of Florida Residency for Tuition Purposes

Except as otherwise stated, a student who is classified as a nonresident for tuition purposes may become eligible for reclassification as a Florida resident for tuition purposes by presenting a **minimum of three (3) documents, one of which must be from the first group of documents, and the other two documents may be from either of the two groups** identified earlier in this document that convincingly demonstrate the establishment of permanent legal residence in Florida other than for the sole purpose of pursuing a postsecondary education. In addition, documentation must demonstrate that students—or, for dependent students, their parent—maintained legal residence in Florida for at least twelve (12) consecutive months prior to their request for reclassification; examples of such documentation are proof of full-time permanent employment for the prior twelve (12) consecutive months or proof of purchase of a home in Florida and proof of having lived there for the prior twelve (12) consecutive months **while not enrolled in an institution of higher education**.

Out-of-State Fee Waiver

An Out-of-State Fee Waiver for select Florida high school graduates became effective on July 1, 2014 for eligible students who do *not* qualify as Florida residents for tuition purposes. See the [Out-of-State Fee Waiver requirements](#) if you believe you may be eligible for this waiver.

Out-of-State Tuition Waiver for Veterans

Effective July 1, 2014, and applicable Fall Term 2014 and thereafter, House Bill 7015 [amended section (s.) 1009.26, Florida Statutes (F.S.), *fee waivers*] created the *Congressman C.W. Bill Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Program*, which authorized an out-of-state fee waiver for honorably discharged veterans of the United States (U.S.) Armed Forces, U.S. Reserve Forces or the National Guard who physically reside in Florida. See the [Out-of-State Tuition Waiver for Veterans requirements](#) if you believe you may be eligible for this waiver.

The above information serves as a summary of Florida law and related policies/procedures applied by Miami Dade College in determining eligibility of Florida residency for tuition purposes. See MDC's [Florida Residency for Tuition Purposes Web page](#) for further details.

Miami Dade College is an equal access/equal opportunity institution and does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, marital status, age, religion, national origin, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, or genetic information. Contact the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs/ADA Coordinator, at 305.237.2577 for information.



Florida Residency Declaration for Tuition Purposes

A Florida “resident for tuition purposes” is a person who has, or a dependent person whose parent or legal guardian has, established and maintained legal residency in Florida for at least twelve (12) consecutive months preceding the first day of classes of the term for which Florida residency is sought.

- Residence in Florida must be a bona fide domicile rather than for the purpose of maintaining a residence incident to enrollment at an institution of higher education.
- To qualify as a Florida resident for tuition purposes, you must be a U.S. citizen, a foreign national in a nonimmigrant visa classification that grants you the legal ability to establish a bona fide domicile in the United States, a permanent resident alien, parolee, asylee, Cuban-Haitian entrant, legal alien granted indefinite stay by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, or other qualified alien as defined under federal law. Other persons not meeting the twelve-month legal residence requirements may be classified as Florida residents for tuition purposes only if they fall within one of the limited special categories authorized by the Florida Legislature pursuant to section 1009.21, Florida Statutes (see “Qualification by Exception” below). All other persons are ineligible for classification as a Florida “resident for tuition purposes.”
- Living in or attending school in Florida will not, in itself, establish legal residence. Students who depend upon out-of-state parents for support are presumed to be legal residents of the same state as their parents.
- Residency for tuition purposes requires the establishment of legal ties to the state of Florida. A student must verify that the student has broken ties to other states if the student or, in the case of a dependent student, his or her parent has moved from another state.

Please print if submitting hard copy.

Name of Student: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Student is a: U.S. Citizen Non-U.S. Citizen Permanent Resident Other

Alien Registration Number: _____ Issue Date: _____

Visa Category _____

All non-U.S. citizen students seeking classification as a Florida resident for tuition purposes are required to submit documentation of their legal status in the United States as issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services office.

NON-FLORIDA RESIDENT

I do not qualify as a Florida resident for tuition purposes for the term for which this application is submitted. I understand that should I qualify for a future term, it will be necessary for me to submit an updated Residency Declaration while providing prescribed, supporting documentation to substantiate as “reclassification” of my status. I understand being classified as a non-Florida resident will not exclude me from the possibility of receiving a waiver to cover part or all of the out-of-state fee as defined in s. 1009.26, Florida Statutes. Submission of an updated Residency Declaration must occur prior to the beginning of the term for which residency is sought. I do not have to complete any further portion of this form, with the exception of signing below.

Student Name: _____

Signature of Student: (Electronic or ink): _____ Date: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT SEEKING FLORIDA RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES:

I qualify as a resident for tuition purposes, as defined by s. 1009.21, Florida Statutes, for the term for which this application is submitted. I understand that it will be necessary for me to present evidence of residency for tuition purposes, supporting my claim as a Florida resident for tuition purposes. I have read the residency information on qualifying as a dependent or independent student, and declare that: (select one of the options below):

I am a dependent student, as defined by s. 1009.21(1)(a), Florida Statutes, in that I am eligible to be claimed as a dependent under the federal income tax code by the claimant below. The claimant is my "parent" as defined by s. 1009.21(1) (f), Florida Statutes, (i.e., either or both parents of the student, any guardian of a student, or any person in a parental relationship to the student). My parent has maintained legal residence in Florida for at least the past 12 consecutive months. As defined by section 1009.21(1)(d), Florida Statutes, "legal resident" or "resident" means a person who has maintained his or her residence in this state for the preceding year, has purchased a home which is occupied by him or her as his or her residence, or has established a domicile in this state pursuant to s. 222.17." A copy of your parent's tax return may be requested to establish dependence.

I am an independent person who has maintained legal residence in Florida for at least the past 12 consecutive months. I provide more than 50% of my own support. An independent student generally includes a person who is at least 24 years old, married, a graduate or professional student, a veteran, a member of the armed forces, a ward of the court, or someone with legal dependents other than a spouse, pursuant to the United States Department of Education for the purposes of federal financial aid eligibility. There may be limited cases where a person under the age of 24 years old may qualify as an independent student. Such students will be required to verify independence (including financial independence.) A copy of your tax return may be requested to establish independence.

I meet residency requirements through one of the Qualifications by Exception below (check appropriate exception):

TERM OF APPLICATION: (check one): FALL SPRING SUMMER YEAR: 20 _____

QUALIFICATION BY EXCEPTION (to be completed by the student.)

As provided in s. 1009.21, Florida Statutes, I qualify for residency based on the following permitted exception (documentation required):

I am a qualified beneficiary under the terms of the Florida Prepaid College Program (s. 1009.98, Florida Statutes.) (Required: Copy of Florida Prepaid Recipient card.)

I am married to a person who has maintained legal residence in Florida for at least the past 12 consecutive months. I now have established legal residence and intend to make Florida my permanent home. (Required: copy of marriage certificate and/or other documents required to establish residency.)

I was previously enrolled at a Florida state postsecondary institution and classified as a Florida resident for tuition purposes. I am transferring to another Florida state postsecondary institution within 12 months of the previous enrollment. (Required: Evidence of previous enrollment as a FL resident)

I was previously enrolled at a Florida state postsecondary institution and classified as a Florida resident for tuition purposes. I abandoned my Florida domicile less than 12 months ago and am now re-establishing Florida legal residence.

Active duty members of the Armed Services of the United States residing in this state and their spouses and dependent children, and active drilling members of the Florida National Guard. (Required: Copy of military orders or DD2058 showing home of record.)

Active duty members of the Armed Services of the United States and their spouses and dependents attending a Florida College System institution or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment

where they are stationed, if such military establishment is within a county contiguous to Florida. (Required: Copy of military orders.)

United States citizens living on the Isthmus of Panama, who have completed 12 consecutive months of college work at the Florida State University Panama Canal Branch, and their spouses and dependent children. (Required: Copy of marriage certificate or proof of dependency.)

Full-time instructional and administrative personnel employed by state public schools and institutions of higher education and their spouses and dependent children. (Required: Employment Verification)

Students from Latin America and the Caribbean who receive scholarships from the federal or state government. Any student classified pursuant to this paragraph shall attend, on a full-time basis, a Florida institution of higher education. (Required: proof of scholarship and Latin America or Caribbean residency.)

Southern Regional Education Board's Academic Common Market graduate students attending Florida's state universities. (Required: Certification letter from State Academic Common Market Coordinator.)

Full-time employees of state agencies or political subdivisions of the state when the student fees are paid by the state agency or political subdivision for the purpose of job-related law enforcement or corrections training. (Required: Employment verification/payment agreement).

McKnight Doctoral Fellows and Finalists who are United States citizens. (Required: Verification from graduate studies.)

United States citizens living outside the United States who are teaching at a Department of Defense Dependent School or in an American International School and who enroll in a graduate level education program which leads to a Florida teaching certificate. (Required: Proof of enrollment in graduate program for FL teaching certificate.)

Active duty members of the Canadian military residing or stationed in this state under the North American Air Defense (NORAD) agreement, and their spouses and dependent children, attending a Florida College System institution or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed. (Required: Proof of active duty membership for specified purpose.)

Active duty members of a foreign nation's military who are serving as liaison officers and are residing or stationed in this state, and their spouses and dependent children, attending a Florida College System institution or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment where the foreign liaison officer is stationed. (Required: Proof of active duty membership for specified purpose.)

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CLAIMANT/PERSON CLAIMING FL RESIDENCY:

Note: If the student is a dependent, the parent is the claimant and will complete this section and provide evidence of residency supporting the claim. If the student is independent, the student is the claimant and will complete this section and provide evidence of residency supporting the claim. **No single document shall be conclusive in establishing residency. Additional documentation, other than what is prescribed, may be requested in some cases. All documentation provided is subject to verification. Evidence of ties to another state may result in denial of Florida residency for tuition purposes.**

Claimant/Name of Person Claiming FL Residency: _____

Claimant's Relationship to Student: _____

Claimant's Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Date Claimant began establishing legal FL residence (if upon birth, enter birthdate): _____

PROVISION OF DOCUMENTS TO SUPPORT CLAIM OF FLORIDA RESIDENCY

Per s. 1009.21(3) (c), Florida Statutes, the residency determination must be documented by the submission of written or electronic verification that includes two or more of the documents identified below. No single piece of evidence shall be conclusive.

A. **Claimant must provide at least one of the following of his/her personal documentation:**

Florida Voter's registration card Number: _____ Issue Date: ___/___/___

Florida Driver's license. Number: _____ Original Issue Date: ___/___/___

Current Issue Date: ____/____/____

Original Issue Date: ____/____/____

[] Florida State identification card. Number: _____

Current Issue Date: ____/____/____

[] Florida Vehicle registration. Number: _____ Original Issue Date: ____/____/____

Current Issue Date: ____/____/____

[] Proof of permanent home in Florida occupied as primary residence for 12 consecutive months prior to the student's enrollment. (Required: document such as a deed or other evidence of title to property used as primary residence, a homeowner's policy, a title insurance policy, evidence of a property tax payment on the primary residence, multiple leases reflecting a Florida address, or a lease of multiple years' duration.)

[] Proof of a homestead exemption in Florida. (Required: document from the county tax collector demonstrating the application of a homestead exemption to the claimant's primary residence.)

[] Official transcripts from a Florida high school for multiple years (2 or more years), if the Florida high school diploma or GED® was earned within the last 12 months.
(Dates of Attendance: _____ Graduation Date: ____/____/____). (Required: transcript)

[] Proof of permanent full-time employment in Florida for at least 30 hours per week for a 12-month period. (Required: pay stubs or W-2 form for past 12 consecutive months and/or verification from employers, and/or an IRS 1099 with verification of employment for the past 12 consecutive months from an employer.)

B. Claimant may provide one or more documents from the following categories to demonstrate residency in Florida (to be used in conjunction with one document from above):

- [] Declaration of domicile in Florida in accordance with s. 222.17, Florida Statutes.
- [] Florida professional or occupational license.
- [] Florida incorporation.
- [] Document evidencing family ties in Florida
- [] Proof of membership in a Florida-based charitable or professional organization.
- [] Any other documentation that supports your request for resident status, including, but not limited to, utility bills and proof of 12 consecutive months of payments; a lease agreement and proof of 12 consecutive months of payments; or an official state, federal, or court document evidencing legal ties to Florida.

RESIDENCY DECLARATION:

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I have read the foregoing document and that the facts stated in it are true and further affirm the authenticity of the information provided on all pages of this Residency Declaration. I understand that any false or misleading information on this Residency Declaration, or provided in support of this Residency Declaration, will subject me to penalties pursuant to section 837.06, Florida Statutes, for making a false statement. I give permission for the institution to review or examine any and all documents and records, including those accessible electronically, which may assist in support of my claim as a Florida resident for tuition purposes.

Student Name (Please Print): _____

Claimant Name (if not the Student): _____

Signature of Claimant (Electronic or ink): _____ Date: _____