

Establishing NC Residency – A Workshop for Students

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Workshop Expectations

- Learn about basic criteria for residency for tuition purposes
- Review process for requesting residency determinations and for notifying campus of changes
- Overview of resources and contacts
- Review of important campus deadlines
- Chat open during session – will answer questions as time allows after presentation
- **Unable to answer specific/individual residency questions**
- **Session will be recorded - please do not share personal/identifying details (including in the session chat)**
- Slides/session recording distributed post-session

The Very Basics

- The state subsidizes the cost of NC public university tuition for all students whose permanent legal residence is in NC
- A student's residency determination establishes their tuition rate

Three Pillars of Residency for Tuition Purposes

1. Residence v. domicile
2. 12 months of uninterrupted domicile in North Carolina
3. Financial independence

Defining and demonstrating domicile: Examples of residential actions

- Employment
- Voter registration and activity
- Jury duty
- Car registration
- Driver's license / State I.D.
- Property ownership
- Time in and out of state
- Ties to community



Defining and demonstrating financial independence

- Employment (full- or part- time status) in NC
- Tax status and dependency
 - Evidence of not being claimed on parental taxes
 - Federal and State income tax returns
- Current/prior income
- Sources and extent of financial support (university assignments, parental assistance, other funds in your name, etc.)
- Leases, bank accounts, titles, etc. in student's name without parents
- *Parent's health insurance policy – does not impact independence*

What is RDS?

- Residency Determination Service (ncresidency.org)
 - Centralized system that provides one residency determination for admissions applications to multiple North Carolina public colleges and universities
 - Residency processes via RDS:
 - Initial consideration
 - Reconsideration
 - Appeals
 - Graduate student populations began using RDS Fall 2018

RDS for graduate applicants

- Applicants who claim to be NC residents while completing the admissions application are routed to RDS for a residency determination
- Applicants who do not claim NC residency during the application process are coded as Non-Residents and do not go to RDS at this time. They will likely engage RDS for the first time during their second year.

Do you claim to be a North Carolina Resident?

- Yes, I claim to be a North Carolina resident for tuition purposes.*
- No, I do not claim North Carolina residency for tuition purposes. I understand I will be charged the non-resident tuition rate if enrolled at a North Carolina state-supported institution.

*If you claim to be a resident, you must complete the residency process with the Residency Determination Service (RDS) at www.ncresidency.org. The RDS will provide you with a Residency Certification Number (RCN), which you may enter below. If you do not enter your RCN below, you will not be able to submit your application.

RCN

1234567890

Continue

RDS for enrolled graduate students

- Students who are already residents do not need to take any action
- In Fall 2020, students have **45 days** to complete their residential actions (adjusted from 30 days due to impacts from the pandemic)
 - **FALL 2020 DEADLINE FOR RESIDENCY CHANGES: SEPTEMBER 23**
 - Updated policy: RDS determinations within 45 days from the first day of the term are applied to the current term. Determinations more than 45 days from the first day of classes are applied to the next term.
- Students should engage RDS no earlier than 365 days after arriving in NC and completing some residential acts
 - Timing very important and individualized
- Same RDS process as for applicants (the RDS “interview”)
- Link to RDS from ConnectCarolina StudentCenter

Applying for Residency: Basic Two-Step Process

1. Initial determination/Reconsideration/Appeal/Status – ncresidency.org
 - Log in via CFNC account
 2. Students must provide RCN number in their ConnectCarolina StudentCenter to notify campus when they obtain resident determination
- ❖ Must pay attention to campus term dates – RDS not linked to campus calendars
- Fall 2020: September 23, 2020
 - Spring 2021: TBD
 - Fall 2021: TBD
 - University Registrar's calendar: <https://registrar.unc.edu/academic-calendar/>

The RDS “interview” process

- Students asked a series of questions designed to determine residency
 - Do you have a NC drivers license? What is the number?
 - Did you file a NC tax return last year? What filing status?
 - Average interview takes 10-12 minutes to complete
- Students will not be asked to upload documents; the RDS system queries state databases
- Verification of information – initial v. verified determination
- Reconsideration? Appeal?
 - Reconsideration – new determination date; 3 reconsiderations every 90 days
 - Appeal – original determination date
- Live demo – ncresidency.org

ConnectCarolina StudentCenter Views

The screenshot displays the 'Student Center' interface with the following elements:

- Navigation Tabs:** Student Center (active), General Info, Admissions, Transfer Credit, Academics, Finances.
- Search:** Search for Classes button.
- Academics:** My Class Schedule, Shopping Cart, My Planner, Order an Enrollment Cert, Order an Official Transcript, Schedule Planner, Order My Textbooks. A message states: "You are not enrolled in classes."
- Student Financials:** My Account (Pay, Bills, Manage Student Finances), Financial Aid (View Financial Aid Award, Financial Aid To Do List). A message states: "other financial..."
- Personal Information:** Demographic Data, Emergency Contact. A message states: "other financial..."
- Holds:** Student Must Pre-Pay, Account Past Due, Hold Reg., Transcript, Diploma. Includes a Details link.
- To Do List:** Milestones.
- Enrollment Dates:** Shopping Cart Appointment, Your Shopping Cart for the 2019 Fall Session A session is available for use beginning March 6, 2019. Includes a Details link.
- Advisor:** Program Advisor, None Assigned.
- NC Residency Status:** 2019 Spring: NC Non-Resident Reconsideration or Appeal. This section is highlighted with a red box and a red arrow.

ConnectCarolina StudentCenter View

NC Residency Appeal

NC Residency Appeal

NC Residency for tuition purposes is governed by North Carolina State law and is determined through the Residency Determination Service (RDS) at www.ncresidency.org. Please visit this web site to complete an initial residency determination, an appeal to a residency determination or a request for reconsideration of residency determination. Note that appeals must be completed within 10 days of your initial determination. For information on residency appeals and reconsiderations, visit <https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/guidelines>.

If you have completed one of these processes at RDS and would like for UNC-Chapel Hill to retrieve your new residency determination, please check the box below and submit.

Residency Certification Number

I have an updated RDS residency determination

Approved Provisions/Exceptions

- Non-US Citizen
- Military & Dependent/Spouse
- Veteran's Choice Act (effective July 1, 2015)
- Spousal Pair
- Employee & Dependent/Spouse (Full-time, permanent employees only)

Some exceptions/provisions are handled by RDS; others are handled by campuses

- Campus Registrar's Office handles some exceptions and is the central office on campus for residency policy
- Visit <https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/studentFAQ> for more information

Misconceptions

- Students are REQUIRED to become residents - **FALSE**
- Homeownership guarantees residency status for tuition purposes – **FALSE**
- Students must obtain a NC driver's license - **FALSE**
- Students cannot leave the state of NC during the first 12-month period - **FALSE**
- Students must attend a church or have some religious affiliation - **FALSE**
- Students are guaranteed residency status after after their 1st year - **FALSE**
- I do not need to know how I file my taxes - **FALSE**

Suggestions and Tips

- Apply only when tangible actions (cluster) have been taken
- Apply only once the 12-month (365 days) physical presence requirement has been met
- Provide accurate and detailed information
 - Inaccurate information can lead to delays in verification and/or reversal of residency determination
- Pay attention to campus deadlines
- Take advantage of the right to appeal if appropriate
- Students can request a reconsideration up to 3 times every 90 days

Takeaways

- Spread the word!
 - Students can apply NOW for Fall 2020 residency (must engage RDS on or before September 23, 2020 for fall tuition adjustment)
- Students MUST notify UNC-CH (via ConnectCarolina StudentCenter) by entering their RCN when they obtain a resident determination
- Graduate School and Office of the University Registrar act as a resource for students and programs
 - Feedback to grad_residency@unc.edu

Additional Resources

- RDS (ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo)
 - RDS line for students: 844.319.3640
- Office of the University Registrar
 - Web: registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/residency
 - [Email: residency@unc.edu](mailto:residency@unc.edu)
 - Telephone: 919.962.3954
- Graduate School: grad_residency@unc.edu or <https://gradschool.unc.edu/studentlife/resources/residency/>