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](http://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 form 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
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 website 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/residency/info/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

Submit and Return  Cancel
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
  • Telephone: 919.962.3954
• Graduate School: grad_residency@unc.edu or https://gradschool.unc.edu/studentlife/resources/residency/