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

Pillars of Residency for Tuition Purposes

- 1. Legal Capacity: at least 18 and a US Citizen or hold eligible immigration status
- 2. Domicile: must establish and have intent for NC residence to be primary, permanent home
 - Domiciliary Acts Evidence that a person has taken actions typically associated with establishing a permanent residence
- **3. Duration**: minimum of 12 months of established domicile and presence in NC
- 4. Financial independence: not claimed as dependent on income tax return; possesses sufficient funds to live and pay tuition and fees at the person's current resident classification without outside financial assistance. In general, a student cannot be approved as a resident for tuition purposes if that student is financially dependent upon parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who are not legal NC residents.

Defining and demonstrating domicile: Examples of domiciliary acts

- Employment
- Taxes
- 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



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 considerations
 - Reconsiderations
 - Appeals

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
- Students currently have 45 days from FDOC to complete their residential actions
 - FALL 2024 DEADLINE FOR RESIDENCY CHANGES: OCTOBER 3, 2024
 - 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

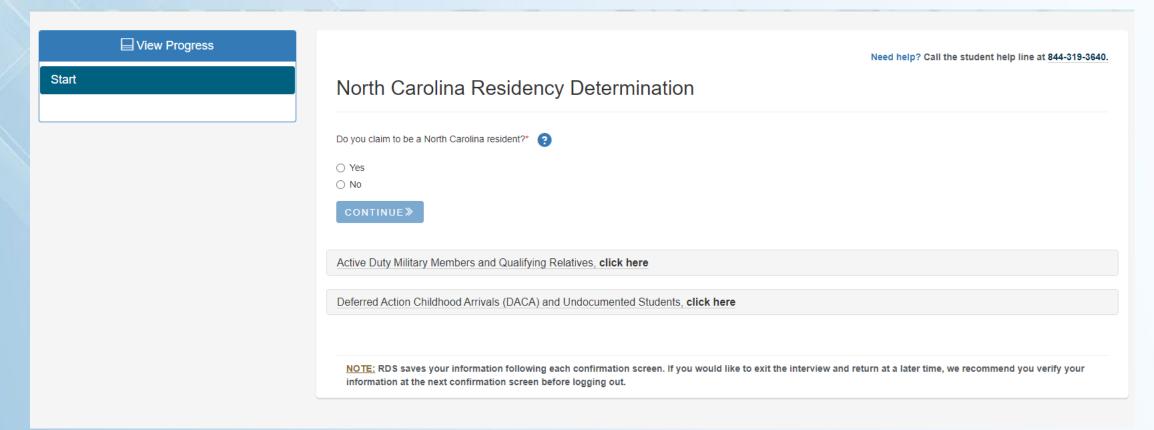
- Initial determination/Reconsideration/Appeal/Status ncresidency.org
 - Log in via CFNC account
- Students must provide RCN number in their ConnectCarolina StudentCenter to notify campus when they obtain resident determination
- Must pay attention to campus term dates RDS not linked to campus calendars
 - Fall 2024: October 3, 2024
 - Spring 2025: likely February 21, 2025
 - University Registrar's calendar: https://registrar.unc.edu/academic-calendar/

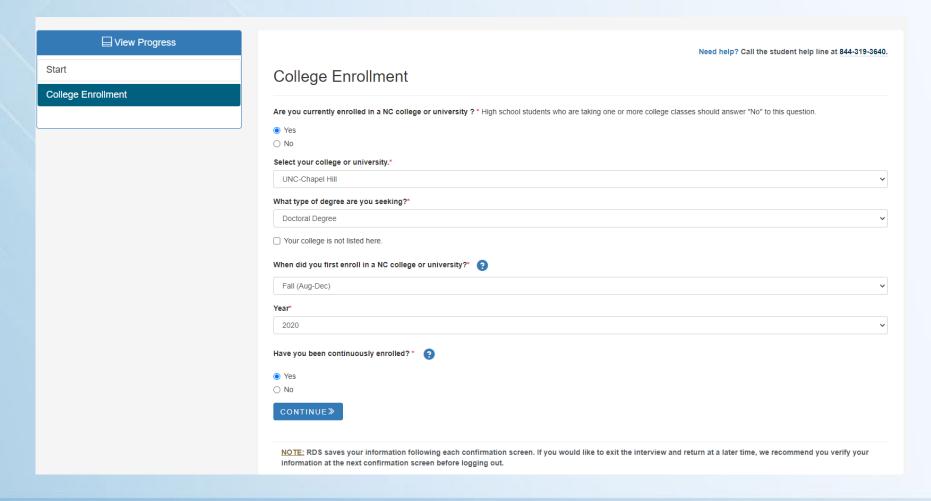
The RDS Interview process

- 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 <u>not</u> be asked to upload documents during the initial interview; the RDS system queries state databases
- Validation of information initial v. validated determination
 - Additional documentation may be requested as part of the validation process
 - Students will be notified via email and their RDS status page if additional documentation is requested

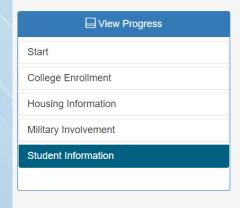
RDS Interview – Getting Started

- Create/log-in via CFNC account (ncresidency.org)
- Acknowledge tips for completing the process
- Agree to consent and authorization
- Validate (or edit) basic bio/demo information on account
- Option to opt-in to text alerts

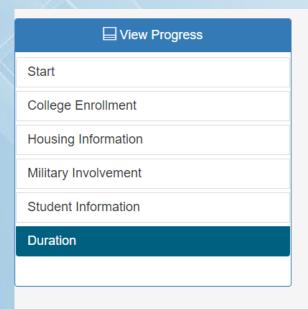


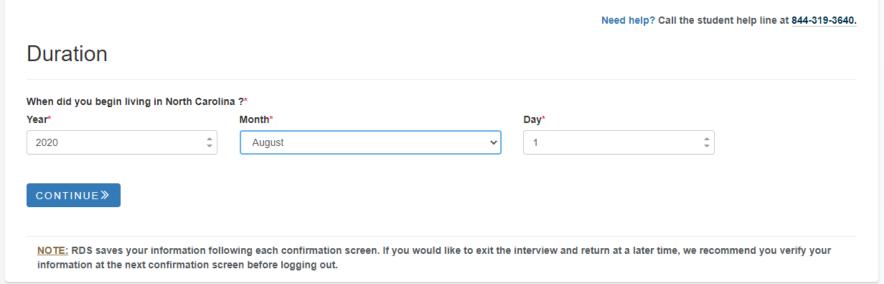


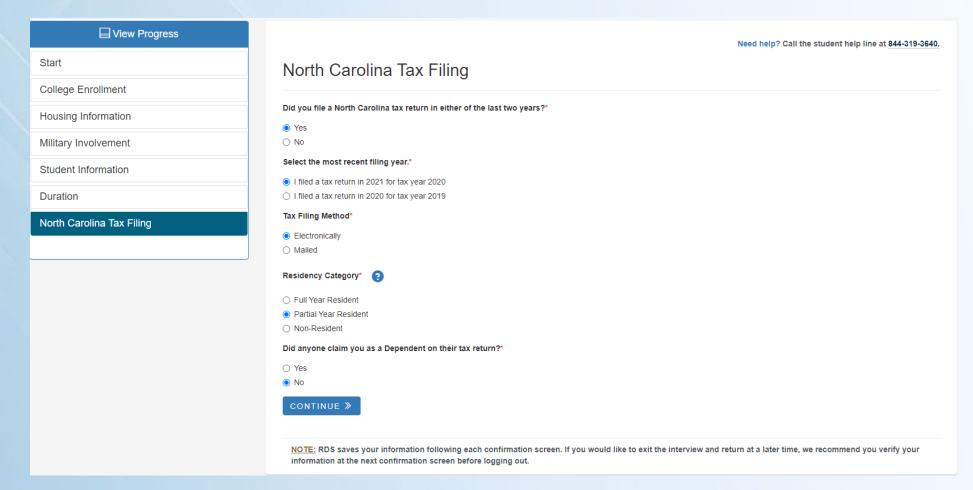


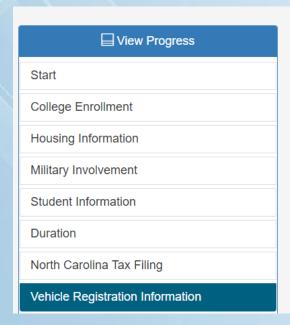


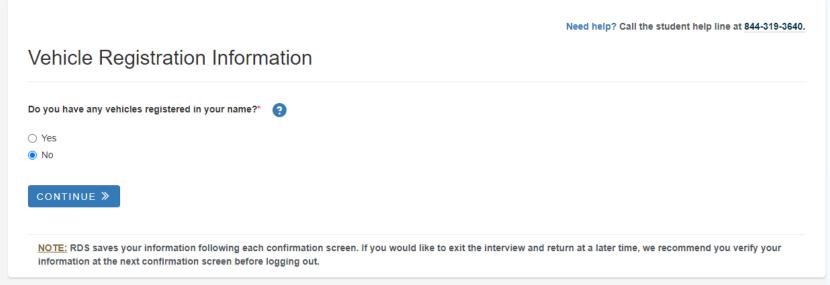
	Need help? Call the student help line at 844-319-3640.
Student Information	
Are you married? *	
○ Yes ⑤ No	
Are one or both of your parents/legal guardians living? *	
Yes No	
Do your parent(s)/legal guardian(s) currently live in NC? *	
YesNo	
Do your parent(s)/legal guardian(s) do any of the following: *	
Give you money on a monthly basis	
Pay for part or all of your food and clothing	
You live with them or they pay for part or all of your rent Pay for part or all of your tuition	
O Yes	
No	
CONTINUE	
NOTE: RDS saves your information following each confirmation screen. If you would like to exit the interview and information at the next confirmation screen before logging out.	return at a later time, we recommend you verify your

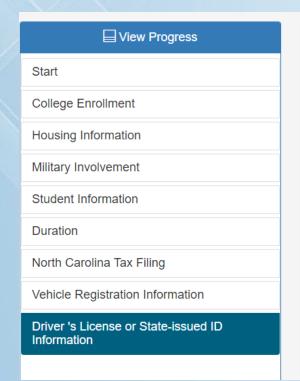


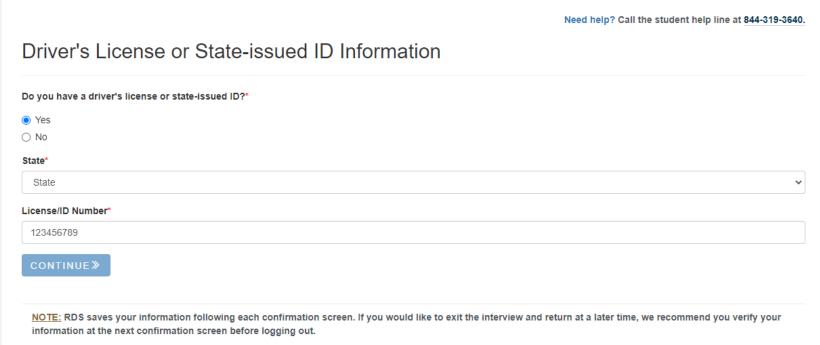


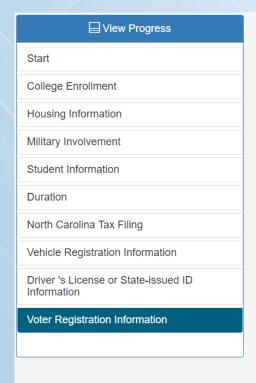


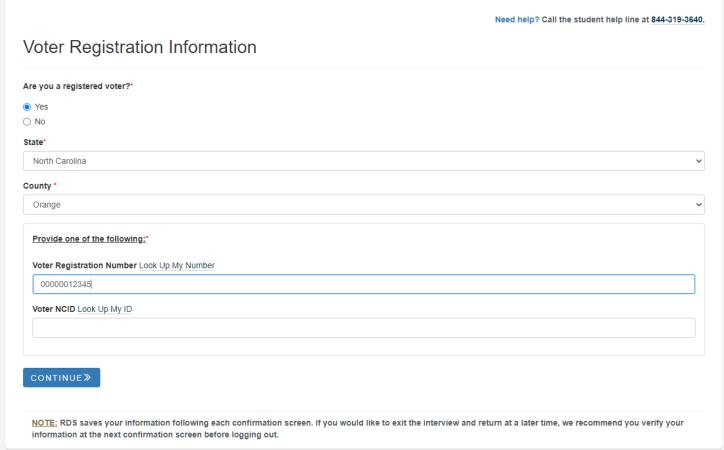












 Answering those questions completed my interview and gave me this initial, unvalidated determination of NC resident

Your Residency Certification Number (RCN) is 1100514738

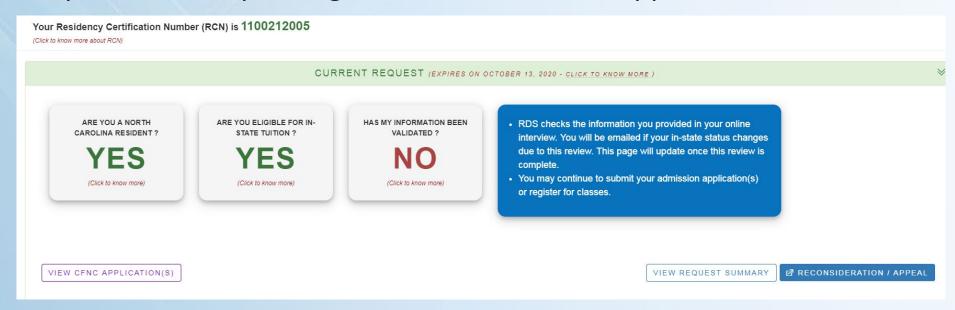
(Click to know more about RCN)

① Your Determination is		<u>Understanding your Residency Status</u>	
Residency Status: North Carolina Resident	Tuition Status: In State	Valid Until: December 20, 2022	
You will be emailed if your residency status changes due to validation. You may continue to submit your admission application(s) or register for classes.			
VIEW REQUEST SUMMARY ADD 3RD PARTY AUT	гн	NEXT STEPS →	



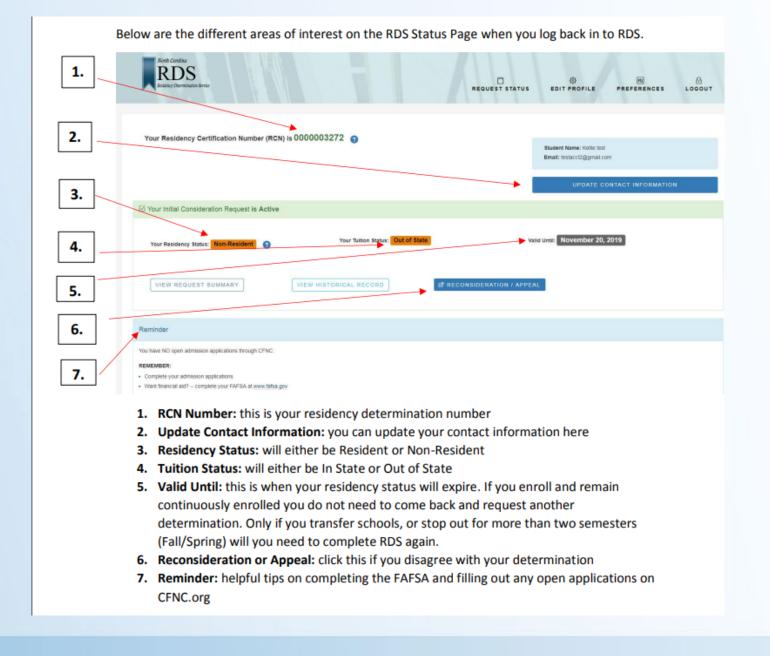
Student Dashboard Summary

- All status pages have a Reconsideration/Appeal button.
 - If you click this button, informational screens then direct you through the process of requesting a reconsideration or appeal.





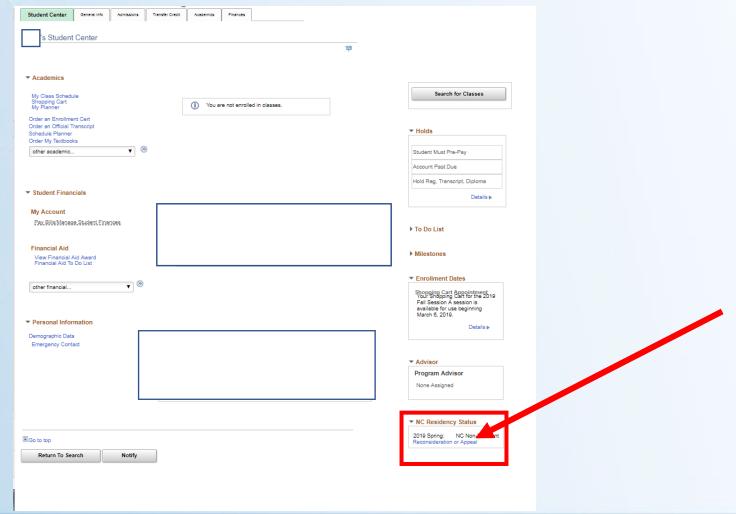
RDS Status Page



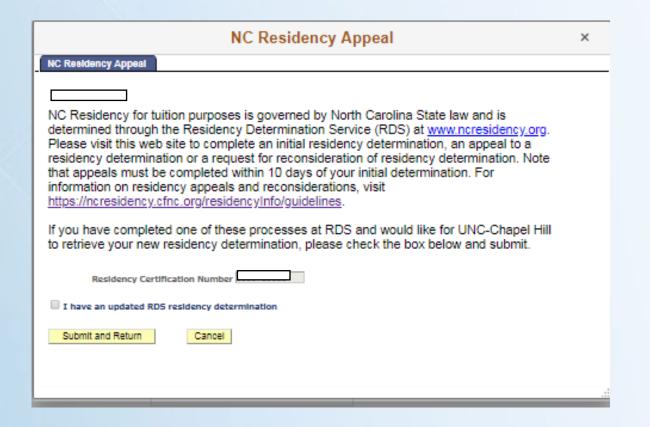
What happens next?

- If you receive a validated NC resident determination, notify campus via ConnectCarolina StudentCenter
 - This is the only way UNC-CH is aware of a change in your residency status
 - If this step is missed, residency status and tuition will not be adjusted
 - If you update your status in ConnectCarolina and it doesn't change within 5-7 business days, please contact The Graduate School via grad residency@unc.edu.
 - If you've already paid tuition at the non-resident rate for a term, the tuition difference will be refunded to you/your funding source once your residency status updates in campus systems.

ConnectCarolina StudentCenter Views



ConnectCarolina StudentCenter View



Reconsideration? Appeal?

- If you receive a non-resident determination, you have the option to request an appeal or reconsideration
 - Reconsideration
 - Allows student to change info about themselves
 - Complete a reconsideration if: incomplete or missing data; error while entering information; failure to submit additional documentation on time; change in your personal /living situation
 - Carries a new determination date
 - Appeal
 - For students who believe their determination is incorrect
 - Must request within 10 days of determination
 - Submit additional information and documentation within 25 days
 - May include phone calls, emails, and/or meeting to answer any questions and review appeal
 - Same date as original determination

Top reasons students receive a non-resident determination on their first submission

- Entered incorrect SSN and/or DOB
- Not providing enough specific information to validate (said "no" to most or all items)
- Other identifying information is not correctly entered (DL #, etc.)
- Unable to demonstrate financial independence*
- Not meeting the prerequisite 12-month period of living in NC
- Failure to turn in additional documents
- Special/complex situation*
- Not holding an eligible immigration status
- Information provided does not validate/cannot be confirmed with state agencies



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 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
- Contact RDS directly for specific questions about your 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 2024 residency (must engage RDS on or before October 3, 2024 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.org)
 - Provides general information, resources, handouts, Q&A, links to statutes/Guidebook
- RDS Call Center (students): 844.319.3640 (toll free)
 - General questions/guidance
 - Account/password resets
 - Review of status/next steps
- RDS email: rdsinfo@ncresidency.org
- 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/

