

Frequently Asked Questions

How long must I live in South Carolina before I can establish residency?

Under most circumstances, a person must live in South Carolina for 12 consecutive months to establish residency.

What kind of documents establish intent to become a South Carolina resident?

1. Statement of full-time employment.
2. Designating South Carolina as a state of legal residence on military record.
3. Possession of a valid South Carolina driver's license, or if a non-driver, a South Carolina identification card. Failure to obtain this within 45 days of the establishment of the intent to become a South Carolina resident will delay the beginning date of residency eligibility.
4. Possession of a valid South Carolina vehicle registration card. Failure to obtain this within 45 days of the establishment of the intent to become a South Carolina resident will delay the beginning date of residency eligibility. If there is no vehicle, mark no vehicle.
5. Maintenance of domicile in South Carolina.
6. Paying South Carolina income taxes as a resident during the past tax year, including income earned outside of South Carolina from the date the South Carolina domicile was claimed.
7. Ownership of principal residence in South Carolina
8. Licensing for professional practice (if applicable) in South Carolina.

*Please note that any single indicator may not be conclusive.

I am a member of the military. How does that affect my South Carolina residency?

Members of the military permanently assigned in South Carolina on active duty and their dependents qualify under an exception category. Military members and their dependents may be charged in-state tuition and fees without having to establish a permanent home in South Carolina. Current orders must be submitted to the residency officer for review.

South Carolina residents who are members of the military stationed outside of South Carolina and their dependents may receive in-state tuition and fees if they continue to claim South Carolina as their state of legal residency. This must be reflected on the individual's South Carolina State Income taxes and Leave and Earnings Statement (LES). South Carolina residents who change their state of legal residence lose their South Carolina resident status for tuition and fee purposes. If a service person leaves the military (DD214), they have three years to become a South Carolina resident.

What if I'm using Post 9-11 GI Bill Benefits at USCB?

You may be eligible to pay in-state tuition charges while living in the state and using specific education benefits at a public college or university if you are:

- A veteran who has served 90 days or longer on active duty.
- A person entitled to and receiving assistance under Section 3319, Title 38 of the US Code, or who is using transferred benefits under this Section while the transferor is on active duty.
- A person who is entitled to and receiving assistance under Section 3311(b)(9), Title 38 of US Code
- A person who is entitled to and receiving rehabilitation benefits under Section 3102(a), Title 38 of USC Code

What if my parents or legal guardians are not married and not together? How does that affect my residency?

If one of the following scenarios applies to your situation, then you may be eligible to claim South Carolina residency:

- Joint Custody and one parent (or legal guardian) are a South Carolina resident; or
- The parent (or legal guardian) who is a South Carolina Resident, who is claiming the child on income taxes; or
- The parent (or legal guardian) who is a South Carolina resident pays child support over the cost of attendance as dictated by the college.

If you are a dependent of a South Carolina resident, then you may be eligible for State scholarships and grants. Please consult the financial aid office at your institution.

What happens if my parents (or legal guardian) are transferred out-of-state before my admission to USCB?

Should your parents (or legal guardians) establish Resident status in another state (get a new Driver's License, register their vehicle(s), and pay taxes in a new state) before your Admission, you will be considered Non-Resident for tuition and fee purposes.

What happens if my parents (or legal guardians) are transferred out of state after classes begin?

If the domicile of an independent person in South Carolina is lost after enrollment, eligibility for in-state rates shall end on the last day of the academic session during which the domicile is lost. However, eligibility to continue to pay in-state tuition rates may continue once proof is provided that verifies the student has been claimed as their parents (or legal guardians) dependent on their South Carolina income tax return along with Federal income tax returns for the last three consecutive years. The student must continue to be enrolled and registered for classes (excluding summers) in order to maintain eligibility to pay in-state rates in subsequent semesters.

My company transferred me to South Carolina from another state during my student's senior year of high school. Will my student be eligible for in-state tuition?

For your student to be eligible for in-state tuition rates, you will need to be a resident of South Carolina and meet the 12-month residency requirements before the first day of class for the semester that residency is being sought. The following items will show the intent to become a resident of South Carolina:

1. Statement of full-time employment in South Carolina.
2. Designating South Carolina as a state of legal residence on military record.
3. Possession of a valid South Carolina driver's license, or if a non-driver, a South Carolina

identification card. Failure to obtain this within 45 days of the establishment of the intent to become a South Carolina resident will delay the beginning date of residency eligibility.

4. Possession of a valid South Carolina vehicle registration card. Failure to obtain this within 45 days of the establishment of the intent to become a South Carolina resident will delay the beginning date of residency eligibility.
5. Maintenance of domicile in South Carolina.
6. Paying South Carolina income taxes as a resident during the past tax year, including income earned outside of South Carolina from the date South Carolina domicile, was claimed.
7. Ownership of principal residence in South Carolina; or
8. Licensing for professional practice (if applicable) in South Carolina.

The individual seeking residency must ensure that no item from the list above or any other item, reflects residency or intent to be a resident in another state or country. Having any one item from the list above or any other item(s) reflecting residency in another state or country will delay the beginning date of residency. The absence of indicia in other states or countries is required before the student is eligible to pay in-state rates. If the Student or Parent (Legal Guardian) moved to South Carolina for Employment, they may be eligible for in-state tuition based on a one-year waiver to become domiciled.

What is the difference between applying for residency as dependent or independent?

If the student is claimed on their parent(s) or legal guardians' taxes, that is where the student is domiciled. If a parent, legal guardian, or spouse provided more than half of the student's support for the past 12 months, the student is considered dependent, and it is the parent, legal guardian, or spouse that must meet the residency requirements. If the student provided most of the support, then the student may be eligible to apply as an independent. An independent student must have their own South Carolina domicile. If you are Independent under the age of 25, you must submit the following documentation:

1. South Carolina Driver's License
2. Car Registration, and State income taxes.
3. A copy of the lease or rental agreement in your name showing you maintained it for at least 12 months.
4. Current paystub
5. And you need to fill out a financial affidavit form and
6. Certificate of Independent form.

Dormitory housing cannot be used as one's domicile, as it is temporary in nature.

Am I required to provide over 51% of my total financial support to be considered independent?

You must provide over 51% of your total support with earnings coming from your own earnings or income from employment, investments, or payments from trusts, grants, scholarships, commercial loans, or payments made in accordance with court order. Total support must also be greater than total expenses. Personal loans and promissory notes are not an acceptable source of support provided by the student.

Can gifts from parents, legal guardians, and relatives be counted as support that a student has provided?

No. Gifts are considered money coming from elsewhere and do not count toward financial independence. Financial support must come from the sources listed in the law/regulations.

Are Parent (PLUS) loans considered financial support contributed by students?

No. PLUS loans are applied for and awarded to the parents.

Are pre-paid tuition plans considered financial support provided by the parents or legal guardians?

Yes. Even though pre-payment plans are in students' names, the parents (or legal guardians) contributed the funds and received the tax benefits. Therefore, they are considered funds from the parents (or legal guardians).

Can I use the money I've saved in my savings and checking accounts to establish my financial independence?

A student may be allowed to use the money saved in a savings or checking account if they can prove that the funds are from allowable sources. Allowable sources consist of their own earnings or income from employment, investments, or payments from trusts, grants, scholarships, commercial loans, or payments made in accordance with a court order.

Does owning property in South Carolina allow students to receive in-state tuition?

No. For independent students, owning property by itself does not allow students to receive in-state tuition, as the other requirements still must be met. For parents (or legal guardians) of dependent students, South Carolina must be the primary state of residence. Simply owning property is not sufficient.

If I have lived in South Carolina for more than one year, does that make me eligible for in-state tuition?

No. There is nothing automatic about residency. You must meet all the requirements, submit a residency application, and be approved before you become eligible.

If I move here and live with relatives, does that make me eligible?

Not unless the relative has permanent court-ordered guardianship and claims you on their South Carolina taxes.

Am I eligible for residency if I use a South Carolina address on all my records and legal documents?

You still must meet the other requirements. Other factors are important for admission, such as the source of transcripts and parents' (or legal guardians) addresses.

Can I use my on-campus apartment as my family's residence?

On-campus housing is considered temporary because you must be a student to live in it. As a result, you may not use on-campus housing to prove in-state residency.

If I enroll as an out-of-state student in my first year, can I receive in-state tuition and fees in the second year if I live off-campus?

No. You would need to establish residency and show you are in South Carolina for reasons other than attending college.

Where do I submit an appeal if I do not agree with USCB's residency decision?

You may email residency@uscb.edu to make a request for an appeal. Follow the steps on the In-state residency website at <https://www.uscb.edu/admissions/admitted-students/residency/index.html>

Your appeal will be reviewed by USCB's Residency Appeals Committee. All requests for refund must be received during the academic year for which the fees were paid. Refunds may be requested at any time during the academic year in which the applicable term occurs. The academic year begins with the Fall term and ends with the Summer term. Once the current academic year has concluded, requests will not be reviewed. The Appeals Committee meets as needed during the semester.

What if my parent(s) or Legal Guardian are undocumented?

US Citizen Children with Undocumented Parents is presumed to have the same residency status as the parent or guardian on whom he/she is dependent. USCB requires a permanent resident card to be eligible.

If you would like to appeal this decision, please email residency@uscb.edu with the following

documentation:

1. Students Birth Certificate
2. Official High School transcript(s) showing whether the student graduated from an SC high school and showing years of attendance at an SC high school.
3. Possession by the student of a valid SC driver's license, or if a non-driver, an SC identification card.
4. Possession of a valid SC vehicle registration if the student owns a motor vehicle.
5. Proof that the student filed SC tax returns (SC1040) as a resident for prior tax years.
6. Proof that the parent or guardian on whom the student is dependent filed SC tax returns (SC1040) as a resident for prior tax years.
7. Other proof that the parent or guardian on whom the student is dependent is living in SC, including evidence of employment in SC,
8. A lease or rental agreement, or mortgage statement showing in SC.

Please note "This is not intended to be exhaustive, and no single piece of evidence is necessarily conclusive. However, the Commission recommends that the institutional residency office weigh the evidence to decide whether the U.S. citizen student is domiciled in South Carolina.