

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS
BRIEF GUIDE TO NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES

If you hold an appointment as a Graduate Teaching Assistant, the cost of in-state tuition is covered for you. But if you're not considered a resident of North Carolina for tuition purposes, **the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition, which currently amounts to over \$8,500 per semester, must still be paid.** The Graduate School provides each department with a certain amount of funds to cover that difference; these funds are known as tuition remission, and the Department uses them to pay the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition on your behalf during your first year in the program. But because these funds are limited, we can't guarantee that we'll be able to provide tuition remission beyond your first year. This means that **if you haven't established North Carolina residency for tuition purposes by the beginning of your second year, you may have to pay the difference in tuition yourself.** We will do our best to continue to provide tuition remission, but we can't count on the availability of sufficient funds.

If you're not already considered a resident of North Carolina for tuition purposes, you need to take a number of steps in order to apply for residency at the start of your second year. The criteria for establishing NC residency for tuition purposes is regulated by North Carolina General Statute 116-143.1. To be considered a North Carolina resident for tuition purposes, you must have established permanent domicile in North Carolina and have maintained it for at least 12 months prior to applying for residency. Be aware that having already lived here as a student (e.g., if you got your BA at a North Carolina institution or you attended some other program) is on its own not enough to establish domicile. Establishing domicile does not simply mean moving to North Carolina and living here, but demonstrating the intent to make North Carolina your permanent home indefinitely.

To do that, you need to **do the following things, and do them on the following schedule.**

- 1) **Establish a residence in North Carolina no later than August 1 of your first year.**
Since you'll need to demonstrate that you've been a resident for 12 months at the time you apply for residency, anything you do after mid-August will normally be too late to help you obtain residency in your second year.
- 2) As soon as you move in (that very day!) **start taking tangible actions, and make sure you have done them no later than August 15.** Examples include:
 - Establish a physical residence: rent an apartment, buy a condo or a house; buying property yourself (that is, in your own name and not in that of your parents) and living there is a major plus in a residency application
 - Arrange for services in your name (electricity, water, etc.)
 - Get a North Carolina driver's license or official state ID, and register your vehicle in North Carolina (<http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/moving/>)

- Open a local bank account
- Register to vote in North Carolina (<https://www.ncsbe.gov/ncsbe/registering-to-vote>)
- Join a local community organization (note that UNC groups don't count!):
 - a church, synagogue, mosque, etc.
 - a public service organization, e.g., Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Triangle
 - a national group with a local chapter, e.g., the Archaeological Institute of America (be sure to sign up for the local affiliation!)
 - a food co-op (e.g., Weaver Street Market, Durham Co-op Market)
 - a public library

Other points you should keep in mind, although they don't apply to everyone:

- If you are married, your spouse needs to be living in North Carolina as well; if your spouse lives elsewhere, the committee deciding residency may well take that as an indication that you do not intend to make North Carolina your permanent home indefinitely
- If you have children, enroll them in local schools
- Having or establishing other family connections in North Carolina is a plus, e.g., getting married to a North Carolina resident

- 3) Make sure that you **do these things within a period of two weeks or less**, because the North Carolina state statute requires those making the decision about residency to date the beginning of the 12-month period from a cluster of significant events occurring around the same time. If you do them gradually over a period of months, the person making the decision will have to decide at what point the evidence shows intent to establish residency.
- 4) Make sure to **obtain and submit documentation** for everything you do, at the time you first do it; again, documentation that dates after August won't help you. You will need to document what you've done as part of your application.
- 5) Very important: make sure that you can **demonstrate financial independence**. This means that your parents are no longer claiming you as a dependent and that you can support yourself. You must **file your own federal and state taxes**. If appropriate, be sure to file North Carolina state taxes.

The Graduate School is the body that determines North Carolina residency for tuition purposes for students in the College of Arts and Sciences. It provides extensive information about the eligibility and criteria for establishing residency status for tuition purposes on its website (<http://gradschool.unc.edu/studentlife/resources/residency/>), including the deadlines for submitting residency applications and instructions for completing the online application. A number of resources exist to assist students with the process. The GPSF Guide to Residency for Tuition Purposes (<http://classics.unc.edu/files/2013/05/Residency-Guide.pdf>) provides a useful overview, with FAQs and a question-by-question guide to the residency application. A more detailed residency guide can be found on the University Registrar's website (<http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/residency/residency-guide/>). Last but not

least, the North Carolina State Residence Classification Manual provides the official regulations for the process; you can access it here (http://www.northcarolina.edu/sites/default/files/documents/state_residence_classification_manual.pdf). If you have any questions at any point, please contact Kim Miles, the Department's Student Services Manager (kmiles@email.unc.edu); if she doesn't know the answer, she will find it out.