



KNOW THE RULES REGARDING CA RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES

All information regarding residency in this resource was compiled from the CCC Chancellor's office www.cccco.edu, the CSU Chancellor's office www.calstate.edu and the UC Office of the President www.ucop.edu. For more details, search for "residency" in the above websites or on your school's website. You can also contact the office that determines CA state residency at your school: CCC: Admissions & Records, CSU: Admissions; UC: Registrar.

California Residency for Tuition Purposes at Public Colleges & Universities

Rules governing state residency in postsecondary education are determined by the California Education Code. Each student's residency status will be determined based on the information submitted on their application for admission or residency paperwork. If the student is under the age of 19, California residency will be determined by the residency status of their parents or legal guardians. This is important for students whose parents live in another state or another country or do not have legal presence in the state. Students who are over the age of 19 must demonstrate financial independence from their parents or legal guardians to be considered residents for tuition purposes.

California Residency for Tuition Purposes is Measured by:

- 1) Legal presence in the state: i.e., citizenship or an immigration status that allows the person to establish residence in California; (i.e., citizen, permanent resident or an eligible immigration status)
- 2) Continuous physical presence in California for 366 days immediately prior to the determination date
Note: CCCs, CSUs and UCs all have distinct determination dates. Check your campus for specific dates.
- 3) Intent and capacity to remain in California indefinitely.

California Residency for Tuition Purposes is Different From U.S. Citizenship/Permanent Resident Status

California Residency for Tuition Purposes	U.S. Citizenship & Permanent Resident Status
Determined by the college or university	Determined by the US government: DHS & USCIS
Governed by CA Educational Codes	Governed by multiple immigration laws & policies
Begins with legal physical presence in California	Begins with legal presence in the United States
Required to be eligible for state financial aid	Required to be eligible for federal financial aid
Student must provide necessary documentation by the criteria and timeline set by their school to be admitted and charged resident or nonresident tuition.	Individual must provide necessary documentation to US government agencies & courts. Citizenship/Immigration status does not guarantee CA residency for tuition purposes.

Resident and Non-Resident Fee Rates & Eligibility for CA State Financial Aid

Resident Fees	Non-Resident Fees
Pay resident per unit or per year tuition & fees	Pay an additional per-unit or per year non-resident fee & resident fees.
Eligible to receive state financial aid	Ineligible to receive state financial aid
Able to participate in programs for CA residents	Unable to participate in programs for CA residents

Non-Resident Tuition Exemption (AB 540) & Non-Residents

AB 540 is a California law that allows certain categories of students (citizens and non-citizens) to be exempt from paying non-resident tuition. Students who meet the AB 540 requirements may be eligible for financial aid.

Non-Resident Tuition Exemption (AB 540)	Non-Resident
Pays resident fees	Pays non-resident fees
Eligible to receive state financial aid	Not eligible to receive state financial aid
Able to participate in programs for CA residents	Unable to participate in programs for CA residents