

INITIAL FLORIDA RESIDENCY CLASSIFICATION FOR TUITION PURPOSES

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA 2016-2017 UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG

This notice summarizes the provisions of Florida School Code (SB20-E) section 1009.21, Florida Statutes, and University Policy/Procedure concerning Florida Residency for tuition purposes.

In determining residency classification, students fall into one of two categories. They are either *independent students* (students *not* claimed on parent's or legal guardian's federal income tax statement *or* whose parents do not provide 50 percent or more of their support) *or dependent students* (students, regardless of age, who are eligible to be claimed as dependents by parent or legal guardian on federal income tax statement *or* whose parents provide 50% or more of their support).

The law basically requires that a U.S. citizen/permanent resident alien/independent student or a dependent student's parent/legal guardian has established and maintained a *LEGAL* Florida residence for at least twelve (12) months before the first day of classes of the term for which Florida residency status is sought.

USF is required to obtain documentation of 12 months' legal residence before a student is classified as a Florida resident for tuition purposes. A student is required to submit a Florida Residency Declaration, electronically or in other form, and the documentation required by USF to establish Florida residency for tuition purposes no later than the fifth day of classes in the term for which classification is sought.

The following is acceptable, non-conclusive evidence of the establishment of a legal residence in Florida. Two documents must be dated that they were issued at least 12 months before the first day of classes of the term for which Florida residency is sought.

Required Documentation

At least one of the two necessary documents must be from this list:

- Florida Driver's License
- Florida Voter Registration card
- Florida Vehicle Registration
- State of Florida identification card
- Proof of a permanent Florida home which is occupied as your primary residence
- Proof of a Florida homestead exemption
- Proof of permanent full-time employment in Florida (one or more jobs for at least 30 hours per week for a 12-month period; i.e. official employer letterhead required)

Additional Documentation may include:

- A declaration of domicile in Florida (the date that the Clerk of Circuit Court notes the declaration was established shall be 12 months prior to the start date for the term in which you are applying for consideration)
- A Florida professional occupational license
- Proof of Florida-based charitable or professional organization membership
- Documents of evidence of Florida incorporation
- Documents supporting the applicant's claim of Florida residence status including, but not limited to, proof of 12 consecutive months of payment of utility bills, a lease agreement or official state, Federal or court documents depicting Florida legal ties.

Out-of-State Veterans Tuition Exemption: HB 7015-Florida GI Bill, created the "Congressman C.W. Bill Young Tuition Waiver Program." This will waive out-of-state tuition fees for honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard who physically reside in Florida while enrolled at a Florida state university. Persons who are entitled to and use educational assistance provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs also qualify for this waiver if they physically reside in Florida while enrolled at the university in any term beginning after July 1, 2015. Tuition and fees charged to a veteran or person who qualifies for the out-of-state fee waiver under this section may not exceed the tuition and fees charged to a resident student enrolled in the same program.

Out of State Waiver Eligibility Process: Bill HB 851-Postsecondary Education Tuition and Fees is a new law that allows students, including but not limited to undocumented students who meet certain guidelines, to receive waivers to attend college at Florida resident (in-state) tuition rates. These non-resident students, who do not have sufficient ties to Florida as set forth under Florida School Code (SB-20E) section 1009.21, Florida Statutes, may qualify for an out-of-state tuition waiver.

Child Protection & Welfare Tuition Exemption: Section 402.403, Florida Statutes, established the Child Protection and Child Welfare Personnel Tuition Exemption Program for the purpose of recruiting and retaining high-performing individuals who are employed as child protection and child welfare personnel. For those personnel who meet the requirements of the program up to 6 credit hours of courses per term are exempt from the payment of tuition and fees at a Florida state university.

For more information regarding residency for tuition purposes please visit: <http://www.usf.edu/registrar/resources/residency.aspx> and for more information regarding the residency tuition waiver exemptions, please visit <http://www.usf.edu/registrar/resources/forms.aspx>.

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PLEASE NOTE: Rental receipts, leases, employment records, tax returns, school/college records are **NOT** evidence of establishing a legal Florida residence. Students who are dependent on out-of-state parents or who come to Florida for educational purposes are generally ineligible for reclassification to Florida status. In rare cases, the law allows some students (e.g., military, public school teachers, etc.) who do not meet the basic requirements to be classified as Florida residents for tuition purposes. For more information about exceptional categories, contact the Admissions Office, the Office of the Registrar, or the Office of the General Counsel.