



Tuition Residency Classification and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Am I eligible for in-state tuition?

The Massachusetts Department of Higher Education sets the rules about eligibility for in-state tuition rates at Massachusetts public colleges and universities. You can find the official policy at: www.mass.edu/forstudents/admissions/residency policy.asp

To be considered a Massachusetts resident and eligible for in-state tuition, you must meet all of these conditions:

- You must be a U.S. citizen, lawful immigrant, or permanent resident; or have another legal immigration status or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.
- You (or your parent, if you are a dependent student) must have lived in Massachusetts for the 12 months immediately before your enrollment at a state university or at the University of Massachusetts; or for 6 months before your enrollment at a community college. You do not qualify for resident status if your only reason for living in Massachusetts during that time was to attend school here.
- You (or your parent, if you are a dependent student) must intend to make Massachusetts your permanent home. You may be asked to show proof of your intent to stay in Massachusetts (such as a Massachusetts driver's license, rent and utility bills, voter registration form, or income tax returns).

You (and your spouse and dependent students) are presumed to be Massachusetts residents if you are in the Armed Forces and stationed on active duty in Massachusetts; or if you are a faculty member, professional staff employee, or classified staff employee at a Massachusetts public college or university. Other exceptions may apply.

If your residency status is questionable, the Admissions Office will review your information on a case-by-case basis and make a decision. State and federal tax returns are required for any residency appeals.

I am a senior in high school outside the state of Massachusetts and I am considering applying to Worcester State University. What would my residency classification be?
If you are financially dependent on your parents, your residency classification will be based the same as their state residency status.

I live out-of-state but I (or my family) own property in Massachusetts. I pay Massachusetts taxes on this property. Does this qualify me to receive in-state tuition?

No. Your residency is based on your permanent address (or your family's permanent address). A good indicator is your Federal Income Taxes. The address you list on those tax forms will be your permanent address.

I am from out-of-state but have lived in Massachusetts for the last 12 months, while attending school. When does my residency status change to in-state? I have a Massachusetts driver's license; I live and have a job off-campus.

Your residency will not change to in-state. If you relocate to Massachusetts to attend a college or university, this action supports the intent to pursue and education but it is not considered intent to establish residency for tuition and fees purposes. The regulations state "residency is not acquired by

mere physical presence in Massachusetts while the person is enrolled in an institution of higher education."

I am not a US citizen but have an H1-B visa. I have worked and lived in Massachusetts for several years. Am I eligible for in-state classification or are my children eligible for in-state tuition?

No. To be eligible for In-State residency classification, a person has to be a U.S. citizen, a permanent resident, hold a Form I-797C (Notice of Action) confirming that the I-485 was received, or holder of another legal immigration status (including those on refugee/asylum status) to be eligible for In-State residency status. An H1B visa is a non-immigrant visa, and therefore not eligible. This applies to all non-immigrant visas accepted at the University, such as F-1, J-1, etc. Contact the International Programs Office with questions about visas – 508-929-8305 or kpalumbo2@worchester.edu

I am not a US citizen but I have an employee authorization card (EAC); does this make me eligible for in-state residency?

That will depend on your status:

1. If you were given employee authorization card due to your Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, then you may apply for in-state residency reclassification. However, you must meet all other Massachusetts residency requirements (see the Tuition Residency Statement for a list of supporting documents to be submitted along with the application).
2. If your employee authorization card was not obtained by qualifying for the DACA status, then you would not be eligible for in-state residency under this policy.

Do I qualify for the New England Board of Higher Education's Regional Tuition Program?

The NEBHE's Tuition Break program, the New England Regional Student Program (RSP), enables thousands of New England residents to enroll at out-of-state New England public colleges and universities at a discount. Students are eligible for the RSP tuition discount when they enroll in an approved major that is not offered by the public colleges and universities in their home-state.

If Worcester State University is closer to their home address than any state institution in their home state, students may also qualify for a reduced tuition rate based on home address proximity. Proximity is based on actual miles mapped from their permanent address to Worcester State University.

For more information or to view a list of approved programs go to:

www.nebhe.org/programs-overview/rsp-tuition-break/overview/

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE RESIDENCY STATUS OF STUDENT FOR TUITION PURPOSES

These rules and regulations apply to the classification of students at the public institutions of higher education as Massachusetts or non-Massachusetts residents for tuition and fee purposes.

Part I. Definitions

- (1) **"BOARD OF TRUSTEES"** shall mean, the Board of Trustees of an institution.
- (2) **"CONTINUOUS ATTENDANCE"** shall mean, enrollment at an institution for the normal academic year in each calendar year, or the appropriate portion or portions of such academic year.
- (3) **"ELIGIBLE PERSON"** shall mean a U.S. citizen, lawful immigrant, permanent resident, or holder of another legal immigration status, who has satisfied the durational residency requirement and can demonstrate his/her intent to remain in Massachusetts.
- (4) **"EMANCIPATED PERSON"** shall mean, a person who has attained the age of 18 years and is financially independent of his or her parents, or, if under 18 years of age, (a) whose parents have entirely surrendered the right to the care, custody, and earnings of such person and who no longer are under any legal obligation to support or maintain such person; or (b) a person who is legally married; or (c) a person who has no parent. If none of the aforesaid definitions applies, said person shall be deemed an "unemancipated person."
- (5) **"INSTITUTION"** shall mean, the public college or university at which any person is or seeks to be enrolled as a student.
- (6) **"PROOF OF EMANCIPATION"** shall be demonstrated through submission of evidence including, but not limited to: (a) Birth Certificate or any other legal document that shows place and date of birth; (b) Legal guardianship papers-court appointment and termination must be submitted; (c) Statement of the person, his or her parent(s)/guardian(s), or others certifying no financial support; (d) Certified copies of federal and state income tax returns filed by the person and his/her parent(s); (e) Copies of applications for federal financial aid; or (f) Where none of the foregoing can be provided, an affidavit of the emancipated person in explanation thereof and stating fully the grounds supporting the claim of emancipation.
- (7) **"PARENT"** shall mean, (a) person's father and mother, jointly; (b) if the person's father is deceased, the person's mother; if the person's mother is deceased, the person's father; (c) if a legal guardian has been appointed by a court having jurisdiction, the legal guardian; (d) if neither the father nor mother is living and no legal guardian has been appointed, the person who then stands *in loco parentis* to the person; (e) if the father and mother are divorced, separated or unmarried, the parent who has been awarded legal custody of the person; or, if legal custody has not been awarded, the parent with whom the person lives.

With respect to any adopted student, the word "adoptive" should be inserted before the words "father" and "mother" wherever used.

Part II. Classification

- (1) For the purpose of assessing tuition and fees, each student shall be classified as a "Massachusetts resident" or a "Non-Massachusetts resident." At the state colleges, an eligible person shall be classified as a Massachusetts resident if he or she (or the parent of an unemancipated student) shall have resided in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for purposes other than attending an educational institution (including a private educational institution) for twelve months immediately preceding the student's entry or reentry as a student.
- (2) Physical presence for this entire twelve-month period need not be required as long as the conduct of an individual, taken in total, manifests an intention to make Massachusetts his or her permanent dwelling place. However, residency is not acquired by mere physical presence in Massachusetts while the person is enrolled in an institution of higher education.

Part III. Determination of Residency

- (1) Proof of Residency
 - a) Each case will be decided on the basis of all facts submitted with qualitative rather than quantitative emphasis. A number of factors are required for residency to determine the intention of the person to maintain permanent residence in Massachusetts. No single indicium is decisive. The burden of proof rests on the student seeking classification as a Massachusetts resident.
 - b) The following shall be indicia of residence:
 1. For unemancipated persons, the residency of parents, having custody, within Massachusetts;
 2. Certified copies of federal and state income tax returns;
 3. Permanent employment in a position not normally filled by a student;
 4. Reliance on Massachusetts sources for financial support;
 5. Possession of a Massachusetts high school diploma;
 6. Continuous physical presence in Massachusetts during periods when not an enrolled student;
 7. Military home of record; and
 8. All other material of whatever kind or source which may have a bearing on determining residency.

(2) Eligibility:

- a) The following individuals shall be eligible for in-state tuition:
 1. Any person who is registered at an institution as a Massachusetts resident shall be eligible for continued classification as a Massachusetts resident for tuition purposes (until attainment of the degree for which he/she is enrolled) during continuous attendance at the institution.
 2. The spouse of any person who is classified or is eligible for classification as a Massachusetts resident is likewise eligible for classification as a Massachusetts resident. This provision will not apply in the case of a spouse in the United States on a non-immigrant visa.
 3. A person who is a lawful immigrant or permanent resident of the United States (or is eligible to apply and has applied for such status) is eligible to be considered for Massachusetts residency for tuition purposes provided that he/she meets the same requirements for establishing residency in Massachusetts as are required of a United States citizen. Non-citizens who are in (or who are eligible to apply and who have applied for) refugee/asylum status are likewise eligible to be considered for Massachusetts residency for tuition purposes provided that they meet the same requirements for establishing residency in Massachusetts as are required of a United States citizen. All non-citizens must provide appropriate United States Citizenship and Immigration Services documentation to verify their status.
 4. Those students whose higher education pursuits are funded by the Department of Institutional Assistance, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, or any of the other Commonwealth of Massachusetts public assistance programs.
 5. A member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is stationed in Massachusetts on active duty pursuant to military orders, his or her spouse and dependent children. A person does not gain or lose in-state status solely by reason of his/her presence in any state or country while a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.
 6. Full time faculty, professional staff, and classified staff employees of the public higher education system and their spouses and dependent students.
- b) A person having his or her residency elsewhere than in Massachusetts shall not be eligible for classification as a Massachusetts resident for tuition purposes, except as herein provided.

Part IV. Appeals and Reclassification

- (1) **Reclassification:** A student may at any time request the institution to reclassify him/her as a Massachusetts resident if the factual basis for his/her classification as a non-resident has changed. To do so, the student shall submit a "Residency Reclassification Form" to the appropriate office of the institution for its review and final classification as a resident or a non-resident student.
- (2) **Appeals:** A student or applicant may appeal the institution's final decision to deny his/her classification (or reclassification) as a non-resident by filing an appeal through the appeal process established by the institution. The decision on appeal is final and may not be appealed further.
- (3) **Tuition Deadlines:** All deadlines for payment of tuitions, fees, and other financial obligations to the institution remain in force during the pendency of any request for reclassification or any appeal.
- (4) **Retroactive Effect:** Any change in a student's classification as the result of a request for reclassification or an appeal will be retroactive only to the beginning of the semester during which the institution makes the final decision to reclassify the student.

Part V. Penalties

Misrepresentation in or omission from any evidence submitted with respect to any fact which, if correctly or completely stated, would be grounds to deny classification as a Massachusetts resident, shall be cause for exclusion or expulsion from or other disciplinary action by the institution.

Part VI. Miscellaneous

- (1) Each institution may adopt supplementary rules governing any procedures, deadlines, and related matters appropriate for the implementation of this policy.
- (2) The provisions of this policy shall apply to the classification of a student as the resident of any New England state for purposes of determining his/her eligibility for tuition benefits through the New England Board of Higher Education.