

The determination of dependent or independent status is important because it is the basis for whether the student has to submit his/her own documentation of residency (as an independent) or his/her parent's or guardian's documentation of residency (as a dependent).

Independent Student. A student who meets any one of the following criteria shall be classified as an independent student for the determination of residency for tuition purposes:

1. The student is 24 years of age or older by the first day of class.
2. The student is married. (**Marriage Certificate**)
3. The student has children who receive more than half of their support from the student. (**Recent tax return**)
4. The student has other dependents who live with and receive more than half of their support from the student. (**Recent tax return**)
5. The student is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces or is currently serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces for purposes other than training. (**Military discharge papers or military orders**)
6. Both of the student's parents are deceased or the student is or was a ward/dependent of the court. (**Death certificates or court documents**)
7. The student is determined an unaccompanied homeless person by a school district homeless liaison, emergency shelter or transitional housing program. (**Signed documentation on official letterhead**)

Dependent Student. A student, whether or not living with his or her parent, who is eligible to be claimed by his or her parent under the federal income tax code shall be classified as a dependent student.

In general, the IRS requires that a "qualifying child" or "dependent" meet six tests:

1. The child must be your son, daughter, or stepchild.
2. The child must be
 - (a) under age 19 at the end of the year and younger than you (or your spouse, if filing jointly),
 - (b) under age 24 at the end of the year and a full-time student and younger than you (or your spouse, if filing jointly), or
 - (c) any age if permanently and totally disabled.
3. The child must have lived with you for more than half of the year subject to IRS exceptions.
4. The child must not have provided more than half of his/her own support for the year.
5. The child is not filing a joint return for the year (unless that joint return is filed only as a claim for refund).
6. If the child meets the rules to be a qualifying child of more than one person, you must be the person entitled to claim the child as a qualifying child.

TWO FORMS OF DOCUMENTATION ARE REQUIRED.

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

1. A Florida voter's registration card.
2. A Florida driver's license.
3. A State of Florida identification card.
4. A Florida vehicle registration.
5. Proof of a permanent home in Florida which is occupied as a primary residence by the individual or by the individual's parent if the individual is a dependent child.
6. Proof of a homestead exemption in Florida.
7. Transcripts from a Florida high school for multiple years (2 or more years) if the Florida high school diploma or GED was earned within the last 12 months.
8. Proof of permanent full-time employment in Florida for at least 30 hours per week for a consecutive 12-month period.

One of the documents may be from this list:

1. A declaration of domicile in Florida.
2. A Florida professional or occupational license.
3. Florida incorporation.
4. A document evidencing family ties in Florida.
5. Proof of membership in a Florida-based charitable or professional organization.
6. Any other documentation that supports the student's request for resident status, including, but not limited to, utility bills and proof of 12 consecutive months of payments; a lease agreement and proof of 12 consecutive months of payments; or an official state, federal, or court document evidencing legal ties to Florida.
7. For students in state custody, the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) may facilitate residency determinations by providing ACE with documentation evidencing parental or legal guardian residence in Florida for the qualifying period. The DJJ Address Verification Form is acceptable documentation for residency determinations in conjunction with additional information that demonstrates the parent or legal guardian has maintained legal residence in this state for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the first day of classes of the term for which residency status is sought

Examples of documents that may not be used

Hunting/fishing licenses	Birth certificate
Library cards	Passport
Shopping club/rental cards	

Approved exemptions:

Students who have tuition and fees waived or exempted according to the following sections of Florida Statutes shall be classified as Florida residents and shall not be required to submit additional residency documentation for tuition purposes for the duration of the exemption or waiver eligibility period. Documentation must be provided for the exemption:

1. Custody of Department of Children and Families, in the care of a relative or adopted from the Department of Children and Families
2. Homeless
3. Wrongful incarceration
4. Dependents or spouses of firefighters killed in the line of duty, and dependents or spouses of law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officers killed in the line of duty