

Other things to know

- The term “resident for tuition and fee purposes” differs from other definitions of Montana residency. You can be a resident for other purposes and not be a resident for tuition purposes.
- Because residency is complex and depends on the ability of a student to document their situation, we will not make a residency decision without reviewing a fully-completed questionnaire and supporting documentation. Any suggestions about how a particular circumstance may affect your ability to meet the requirements for residency should not be taken as a guarantee that you will or will not be classified as a resident.
- Domicile requires both physical presence and evidence of intent to stay, which includes relinquishing all valid legal ties with a former state of residence and affirmatively creating legal ties and relationships with Montana.
- Physical presence in Montana solely for educational purposes does not constitute the establishment of a Montana residence.
- During and after the 12-month period, you are expected to act in a manner consistent with Montana residency and to do all those things required by law of a Montana resident.
- Your intent to make Montana your permanent residence will be questioned if you return to your former state of residence when school is not in session.
- The financial independence requirement makes it difficult for most undergraduates who do not have a parent living in Montana to qualify for classification as a resident.
- You are considered financially independent if you were not and will not be claimed as an income tax dependent by any individual for the previous and current tax years and are self-sufficient.
 - This definition may differ from the definition used by the financial aid office at your campus.
 - To be self-sufficient, you must pay the majority of your expenses and more than 50% of your income and financial support must come from your own income and resources, such as employment, commercial/institutional loans in your name only, financial aid, and savings from your earnings.
 - Parent PLUS loans cannot be considered self-support.
 - Loans or gifts from parents or other individuals cannot be considered self-support.
 - Trust and investment accounts, including 529 College Savings Plans, must have been established and funded before the student’s 14th birthday. The student must be the named beneficiary and must have independent access to the account during the period under review for financial independence.
- You may qualify as a resident if you are a student who is financially dependent on a Montana resident parent who meets the requirements for residence for tuition purposes.
- Accepting reduced tuition through the Western Undergraduate Exchange or an academic achievement award for nonresident students can impact your eligibility for classification as a Montana resident.
- “Parent” means a biological or adoptive parent whose parental rights have not been terminated.
- To “operate” a vehicle means that some other person or entity is the owner of the vehicle and is allowing the student to regularly use the vehicle. “Regularly use” means that the student frequently, habitually, and unrestrictedly uses or has the opportunity to use the vehicle in question. For example:
 - A student did not “operate” a vehicle for purposes of the residency policy when the student drove a number of vehicles over the course of the year, including ones

borrowed from his parents, employer, and girlfriend. The fact that one of the numerous vehicles he operated but did not own was registered out of state did not negate his intent to become a Montana resident.

- A student “operated” a vehicle for purposes of the residency policy when her out-of-state parents owned the car that she used for daily personal use.
- Property ownership in Montana is not sufficient by itself to show domicile in Montana. It is not uncommon for a person to own property in Montana and maintain domicile elsewhere.
- The documents you submit are all used to help us piece together an understanding of your particular situation. Submitting all documents helps to paint a complete picture but does not guarantee approval. If you don’t submit the requested information, your request for reclassification may be denied on that basis.
- You or your parent/guardian may be required to have documents related to your residency questionnaire notarized, such as an employment affidavit or tax exemption affidavit. When a document needs to be notarized, it means the person signing the affidavit must have a notary public present to verify their identity and witness the signature. A notary is a local official appointed by the state to serve as an impartial witness. The notary also verifies that the signer is signing willingly and is aware of the contents of the document. The notary “notarizes” the document by adding their signature and stamp to the document. You can search for notaries in Montana here: <https://sosmt.gov/notary/find-a-notary/>.
- You must comply with the submission deadlines and requirements set by the appropriate campus or program. If you miss a submission deadline, your request for reclassification may be reviewed for the following term.
- If your request to change residency classification is not approved by the time tuition is due, you are responsible for paying non-resident tuition and fees. If residency is granted, you will be reimbursed the tuition differential. To inquire about the reimbursement process, contact your campus directly. It can take weeks for a questionnaire to receive an initial review. If required documentation is missing, or if additional documentation is required, it will further delay the process. Therefore, you should be prepared to pay the non-resident tuition rate by the tuition deadline.
- Non-U.S. citizens who possess a visa type that requires them to maintain a foreign domicile cannot be classified as residents for tuition purposes as their visa type does not allow them to establish a permanent domicile in Montana.