



# RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES

## Frequently Asked Questions

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**1. Why are there separate tuition rates for Arizona residents and non-residents?**

In Arizona, as in all other states, tuition at the State's publicly supported universities is lower for in-state resident students than for out-of-state, non-resident students. These different tuition rates reflect the fact that Arizona's state universities are supported financially by the State's taxpayers.

**2. When is the deadline for submitting the necessary petition or affidavit to be reclassified as a resident for the semester?**

If you are enrolled in any 16-week course, the deadline is the day after the last day to add or drop classes for that semester. If you are enrolled only in shorter (8-week, 7.5 week, dynamically dated, etc.) sessions, contact Residency at (928) 523-6464 or [residency@nau.edu](mailto:residency@nau.edu) to discuss the deadline. Students who fail to submit a petition or affidavit within the allowable time frame waive their right to gain reclassification as an in-state resident for that semester, term, or session.

**3. May I petition to be reclassified as an Arizona resident for tuition purposes before I commit to attending Northern Arizona University?**

No. New students must properly register for and enroll in at least one course using the classification initially determined by Northern Arizona University prior to petitioning for reclassification for that term.

**4. May I submit a residency reclassification petition for a previous term?**

Residency reclassifications can only affect tuition rates for the current or future terms.

**5. Does living in Arizona with a relative other than my parents or court-ordered legal guardian make me an Arizona resident for tuition purposes?**

As outlined in Northern Arizona University's Residency for Tuition Purposes policy, your tuition status is determined based on numerous factors. Living with family members other than a parent or legal guardian, or with friends in Arizona is, by itself, not a sufficient indicator of your domicile or your intent to establish permanent domicile in Arizona.

6. **I am currently attending a community college in Arizona as a resident. Does this mean that Northern Arizona University will also consider me an Arizona resident?**

Not necessarily. Residency for tuition purposes at Arizona's state universities is determined according to a set of requirements that may differ from those employed by various Arizona community colleges. Thus, your Arizona's public university residency classification may not be the same as your Arizona community college residency classification.

7. **I am on active U.S. military duty currently stationed out-of-state, or I am the spouse or dependent of an individual who is on active military duty, with Arizona as our legal residence. Am I eligible for in-state resident tuition rates?**

Yes. When you are first accepted at Northern Arizona University, however, you will be classified as a nonresident for tuition purposes. To be reclassified as a resident, you must submit the Active Military Duty Affidavit and provide any other required documentation.

8. **I am a veteran or my family is otherwise affiliated with the U.S. military. How do I find out about special tuition rules or programs for which I may be eligible?**

Contact Northern Arizona University's Veteran Success Center at 928-523-VETS (8387) or [vets@nau.edu](mailto:vets@nau.edu) to request more information.

9. **I live out-of-state, but am a member of a federally recognized Arizona Native American tribe. Do I qualify for in-state tuition?**

Yes. All members of federally recognized Arizona Native American tribes are eligible for in-state tuition rates at Arizona's public universities. When applying to Northern Arizona University, however, you will be first be classified as a non-resident. To be reclassified as a resident, you will need to submit by emailing to [residency@nau.edu](mailto:residency@nau.edu) a copy of your tribal enrollment card OR your tribal identification OR your Certificate of Indian Blood. Upon receiving a copy of one of these valid documents, you will be reclassified as an Arizona resident for tuition purposes.

10. **I am currently attending Northern Arizona University as a non-resident. Will my residency classification automatically change after one year?**

No. Simply attending an Arizona university as an out-of-state student is not sufficient to establish Arizona residency, as it is presumed that your presence in Arizona is primarily for the purpose of education and not to establish domicile. Students who believe they have established domicile in Arizona according to applicable requirements may petition for residency reclassification by the appropriate deadline.

**11. My parents live out-of-state, but I attend an Arizona high school. Will I be considered an Arizona resident if I graduate from an Arizona high school?**

Possibly. Prop 308 allows anyone who attended an Arizona High school for at least 2 years and graduated from that school resident tuition. See more on Prop 308 here:

[https://www.azregents.edu/sites/default/files/public/prop-308/Proposition-308\\_FAQ-6-2-23.pdf](https://www.azregents.edu/sites/default/files/public/prop-308/Proposition-308_FAQ-6-2-23.pdf)

There are some exceptions:

- a. Nonimmigrant aliens described under 8 U.S. C. § 1101(a)(15) are not eligible for in-state tuition under Prop. 308. This includes, but is not limited to, students who hold F1, F2, J1, H4 or H1 visas. For a complete list, please look at [8 U.S. C. § 1101\(a\)\(15\)](#).
- b. If you fall under the category of one of these visas and you graduated from an Arizona High School that you attended for at least 3 years, you may qualify for the Non-resident tuition rate for Arizona High School Graduates

**12. I am currently attending Northern Arizona University as an in-state resident, but my parents are moving to another state. Will I remain classified as an Arizona resident for tuition purposes?**

Once you are classified as a resident for tuition purposes, your classification will not change as long as you maintain what is referred to as “continuous attendance.” This means that you stay enrolled through each fall and spring semester until you graduate and receive your degree. If you apply for a second degree program (e.g., graduate or professional school), your residency will be reviewed based upon your situation and domicile at the time of application.

**13. I completed a degree in another state and am returning to Arizona to start another degree. Will I be considered a resident?**

If you have been outside Arizona for more than thirty (30) consecutive days in the twelve (12) months preceding the term you will attend, you will initially be classified as a non-resident for tuition purposes and must provide the required evidence that you maintained domicile in Arizona during your absence. If you graduated from an Arizona High School, you may qualify for in-state tuition under Prop 308.

**14. Are there any hardship exceptions?**

No, there are no hardship exceptions. Any person requesting classification as an Arizona resident for tuition purposes must meet the eligibility criteria established by the Arizona Board of Regents to be considered an in-state resident.

**15. I or my parents own property or pay taxes in Arizona. Does this qualify me as an Arizona resident for tuition purposes?**

Owning property in Arizona does not automatically qualify you as a resident for tuition purposes. If your goal is to establish residency in Arizona, paying Arizona income taxes can be one indicator of such intent. You must meet all applicable requirements, however, to become eligible for in-state resident tuition rates.

**16. I am an out-of-state research assistant, teaching assistant, or graduate assistant and have been paying in-state tuition rates. Am I a resident for tuition purposes?**

Many of these positions are funded by waivers submitted by your college or department that pays the out-of-state portion of your tuition and fees and you remain classified as a non-resident. Out-of-state graduate assistants or associates whose assigned teaching or research responsibilities meet certain requirements may be eligible for reclassification as an Arizona resident for tuition purposes. Contact the Residency Department at **(928) 523-6464** or **residency@nau.edu** for additional information.

**17. Is it possible that no state considers me a resident for tuition purposes?**

It is possible to be in a situation where no state considers you a resident for tuition purposes. The information provided here only applies to residency classification for tuition purposes at Arizona's universities. Other states have different rules.

**18. If I marry an Arizona resident, can I be classified as a resident?**

If you marry an Arizona resident, you may become eligible for in-state tuition rates by submitting the Spouse Domicile Affidavit and providing any other required documentation.