



FLORENDA RESIDENCY



FLORIDA RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES

Basic Questions

What is Florida residency?

- According to Florida Statute 1009.21, for tuition purposes, Florida residency means you have lived in the state of Florida as a permanent legal resident for the twelve consecutive months prior to the first day of class. Florida must be your physical, permanent home, not just the state in which you attend an educational institution. To qualify for in-state tuition, you cannot have ties to any other state, such as an out-of-state driver's license, vehicle registration, permanent home, etc. The requirements for residency are provided by Florida law; therefore, Santa Fe College is required to enforce the residency statutes.

Why should I establish Florida residency?

- Florida residents are eligible for significantly reduced tuition rates at Florida public colleges and universities. If you do not establish Florida residency, you will be charged the full cost of tuition at the out-of-state rate.

Who is eligible for Florida residency?

- To be eligible for Florida residency, you must be a U.S. citizen, have U.S. permanent residency (possess a Green Card), or hold an approved visa or international classification that makes you eligible to apply for Florida residency. (A complete list of approved international classifications can be found at the end of this booklet.) You must also meet the twelve-month residency requirement. It is your responsibility to provide proof of permanent Florida residency to receive the reduced tuition rates for Florida residents.

What if I do not prove Florida residency?

- You may attend Santa Fe College without proving Florida residency. However, you will be charged the full price of tuition, equivalent to the out-of-state rate.

Are there any exceptions for the Florida residency requirement?

- The only exceptions that Santa Fe College will provide are those specifically outlined in Florida law.



How to Prove Florida Residency

Step 1: Determine Dependent or Independent Status

Florida law specifies requirements for determining the person responsible for proving Florida residency. This person is known as the claimant.

A DEPENDENT STUDENT (Student is not the claimant)

- A student who is under the age of 24 by the first day of classes is automatically assumed to be dependent on at least one parent. In this case, one of the student's parents is the claimant. If the student's birth parent is the claimant, there is no need to prove guardianship unless the student has a different last name from his/her parent. If the student's last name is different from his/her parent's last name, the student must provide a birth certificate showing that the claimant is his/her parent. If the parent's name is currently different than what it was on the student's birth certificate, the student must provide legal proof of the parent's name change either through a marriage certificate or official court documents. An official tax transcript from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for the most recent tax year that shows the parent claimed the student as a dependent may also be used.
- A student who is under the age of 24 by the first day of classes for the first term of attendance and who is dependent on someone other than a birth parent needs to provide proof of dependence upon that person. This proof may be either official tax transcripts from the IRS for the previous three years showing the guardian has claimed the student as dependent or legal guardianship documentation from a U.S. Court. Guardians who do not meet these requirements but who have maintained a parental relationship with the student for the previous consecutive 12 months prior to the first day of class will be considered on a case-by-case basis.



- A student who is married to a Florida resident and is unable to establish Florida residency on his/her own may use a spouse as the claimant. The student must provide a marriage

certificate, plus required documentation proving the spouse's Florida residency. In addition, the student must provide official proof that Florida is his/her place of residence.

AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT (Student is the claimant)

- A student who is 24 years old or older by the first day of classes is automatically classified as independent and does not need to provide proof of independence.
- A student under the age of 24 upon the first day of classes who wishes to be the claimant must provide documentation of one of the following:

- A student who is married or divorced must provide a marriage certificate or legal proof of divorce.
- A student who provides 50% or more of the cost of attendance must provide tax transcripts from the most recent tax year from the IRS to reflect that this amount was earned. This amount varies each year based on the Financial Aid cost of attendance calculation.
- A student who is classified as independent by the Santa Fe College Office of Financial Aid must provide verification from the Office of Financial Aid that he/she has been

classified as independent once the student's financial aid file is complete.

- A student who claims a child or other person as a dependent on federal income taxes must provide a tax transcript from the most recent tax year from the IRS to reflect that the student claimed an individual as his/her dependent.
- A student who is a veteran or is currently serving the United States Armed Forces on active duty must provide his/her current orders or separation documents (DD214) from the military.
- A student whose parents are deceased and/or incarcerated must provide the death certificate(s) or incarceration documents of both parents.
- A student who is determined to be an unaccompanied homeless person by a school district homeless liaison must provide documentation from the school district regarding his/her status.



Step 2: Providing the Documents

The claimant, once determined, will need to complete a Residency Affidavit, providing two of the documents outlined by the State of Florida to show that Florida is his/her established permanent home. The statute is very specific about what documents are acceptable and classifies the possible documents into two categories: First Tier and Second Tier. At least one of the documents provided by the claimant must come from the First Tier. The second document may come from either tier. All documents must show that the claimant has lived in Florida for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the first day of classes.

THE APPROVED DOCUMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

First Tier (Required)

- A Florida voter's registration card
- A valid Florida driver's license
- A State of Florida identification card
- A Florida vehicle registration
- Proof of a permanent home in Florida which is occupied as a primary residency by the claimant
- Proof of a homestead exemption in Florida
- 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
- Proof of permanent full-time employment in Florida for at least 30 hours per week

Second Tier

- A declaration of domicile in Florida dated 12 months previous to the first day of class(es)
- A Florida professional or occupational license
- Florida incorporation
- A document evidencing family ties in Florida
- 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.



THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS CANNOT BE USED TO PROVE FLORIDA RESIDENCY:

Birth Certificate	Passport
Library Card	Hunting/Fishing license
Shopping Club/Rental Card	Social Security card
Auto insurance	Standard mail
Bank statements	Cell phone statements

**A student who attended a Florida state college or university within the previous 12 consecutive months prior to the first day of classes at Santa Fe College and was classified there as a Florida resident may not be required to provide additional documents proving residency. An official college transcript from that institution reflecting the residency status and a semester of classes attended during the 12 month window will be required.*

**A student enrolled in the Florida Pre-Paid College program will not be required to provide additional residency documentation.*

Exceptions

Certain circumstances may excuse students from needing to prove the 12-month legal residency requirement. Documentation is still required, however, to prove that they qualify for any exception. The persons listed below shall be classified as residents for tuition purposes.

For purposes of this booklet, an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) means any charter technical career center as defined in s. 1002.34, career center operated by a school district as defined in s. 1001.44, Florida College System institution as defined in s. 1000.21(3), or state university as defined in s. 1000.21(6).

- a) Persons who were enrolled as Florida residents for tuition purposes at a Florida public IHE, but who abandoned Florida domicile and then re-enrolled in Florida within 12 months of the abandonment— provided that he/she continuously maintained the re-established domicile during the period of enrollment. (This benefit only applies one time.)



- b) Active duty members of the Armed Services of the United States residing or stationed in Florida (and spouse/dependent children) and; active drilling members of the Florida National Guard [s. 1009.21(10)(a), F.S.]; or military personnel not stationed in Florida whose home of record or state of legal residence certificate, DD Form 2058, is Florida (and spouse/dependent children).
- c) Active duty members of the Armed Services of the United States and their spouses/dependent children attending a public college or university within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed, if such military establishment is within a county contiguous to Florida.
- d) United States citizens living on the Isthmus of Panama, who have completed 12 consecutive months of college work at the Florida State University Panama Canal Branch, and their spouses and dependent children.
- e) Full time instructional and administrative personnel employed by the public school system and IHEs (and spouse/dependent children).
- f) Students from Latin America and the Caribbean who receive scholarships from the federal or state government. The student must attend, on a fulltime basis, an IHE.
- g) Southern Regional Education Board's Academic Common Market graduate students attending Florida's state universities
- h) Full-time employees of state agencies or political subdivisions of the state when the student fees are paid by the state agency or political subdivision for the purpose of job-related law enforcement or corrections training.
- i) McKnight Doctoral Fellows and Finalists who are United States citizens.
- j) United States citizens living outside the United States who are teaching at a Department of Defense Dependent School or in an American International School and who enroll in a graduate level education program which leads to a Florida teaching certificate.



- k) Active duty members of the Canadian military residing or stationed in this state under the North American Air Defense (NORAD) agreement, and their spouses and dependent children, attending a public community college or university within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed.
- l) Active duty members of a foreign nation's military who are serving as liaison officers and are residing or stationed in this state, and their spouses and dependent children, attending a community college or state university within 50 miles of the military establishment where the foreign liaison officer is stationed.
- m) Qualified beneficiaries under the Stanley G. Tate Florida Pre-Paid College Program per s. 1009.98, F.S. (Pre-Paid ID Card Required).
- n) Linkage Institute participants receiving partial or full exemptions from s. 1009.21, F.S., based on criteria approved by the Florida Department of Education per s. 288.8175(5), F.S., which establishes linkage institutes between postsecondary institutions in this state and foreign countries.

Waivers

There are certain provisions within Florida Statute that allow for the out-of-state portion of fees to be waived, if the student cannot be classified as a Florida resident. A student who qualifies for these waivers will still be responsible for the in-state portion of fees. All attempts to be classified as a Florida resident should be made prior to exploring these options.

1. Any student, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students, who meets all of the following criteria qualifies for a waiver of out-of-state fees:
 - a. Attended a Florida high school for at least three years immediately prior to graduation from a public or private school
 - b. Graduated from a Florida high school
 - c. Applied to a Florida state college or university within 24 months of high school graduation

An official high school transcript and verification of an application to a Florida state college or university are required to prove eligibility for this waiver. A student who uses this provision to waive out-of-state fees is not eligible for state or federal financial aid.

2. Any veteran of the United States Armed Forces with an equivalent of an honorable discharge on record is qualified for a waiver of out-of-state fees if he/she is currently residing in Florida. A copy of the student's DD-214 and a valid Florida ID proving that the veteran resides in Florida must be provided for this waiver. The student must apply for this waiver each semester.

In accordance with Florida House Bill 851, these waivers are applicable to no more than 110% of the required credit hours for the degree or certificate program in which the student enrolls. Courses that are outside the required curriculum for the student's program of study will be billed at the out-of-state tuition rate. Changing the program of study or the courses in which the student enrolls may affect his or her tuition rate and the total cost of the degree or certificate program.

Exemptions

FLORIDA STATUTES PROVIDE SOME EXEMPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WHO FALL UNDER THE CATEGORIES BELOW (APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED):

- Students who are homeless.
- Students who are or were in foster care, adopted from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) after May 5, 1997.
- Students who are the spouse and/or dependents of Public Safety Officers killed in the line of duty.
- Students who have been wrongfully incarcerated.
- Students who are in foster care
- Students who have been placed in the custody of a relative by DCF
- Students who are in the Welfare Transition Program

Students who are eligible to receive an exemption based on one of the circumstances above should speak with an admissions advisor in Room R-101 at the Northwest campus.

Non U.S. Citizens

Certain non-U.S. citizens, including lawful permanent residents, temporary permanent residents, asylees, parolees, and refugees who have applied for and been approved for such status, and who otherwise meet the 12-month legal residence requirements, are eligible to establish Florida residency for tuition purposes. Provided that a non-U.S. citizen has proof of his/her permanent immigration status, he/she may be classified as a Florida resident 12 months from the time the residency claimant establishes legal Florida residence for tuition purposes (e.g., 12 months from the time he/she purchases a Florida home, obtains a Florida driver license, etc.). It is not necessary to wait 12 months from the date he/she becomes an eligible alien (e.g., the date of the resident alien card [I-551] is issued).

VISA CATEGORIES AND U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES CLASSIFICATIONS:

Visa category A - Government official

Visa category E - Treaty trader or investor

Visa category G - Representative of international organization

Visa category H1B - Temporary worker performing professional services or in a specialty occupation

Visa category I - Foreign information media representative

Visa category L - Intra-company transferee (including spouse or child)

Visa Category N - Parent or child of alien accorded special immigrant status

Visa Category O-1 - Workers of “extraordinary” ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics

Visa category R - Religious workers

Visa category NATO I-7 - Representatives and employees of NATO and their families

Visa category S - Alien witnesses and informants, including spouse and Children

Visa category T - Victims of trafficking (and spouse and children) who cooperate with federal authorities in prosecutions of traffickers

Visa category U - Victims of certain crimes, including spouse and children

Visa category V - Spouse and children of lawful permanent residents

NON-U.S. CITIZENS WHO FALL WITHIN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES SHALL ALSO BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE TO ESTABLISH FLORIDA RESIDENCY FOR TUITION PURPOSES:

- Citizens of Micronesia
- Citizens of the Marshall Islands
- Individuals granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- Individuals granted Withholding of Removal status
- Individuals granted Suspension of Deportation status or Cancellation of Removal.
- Individuals granted Deferred Action Status
- Individuals granted a Stay of Deportation or Stay of Removal
- Individuals granted Asylum Applicants for Adjustment of Status
- Individuals granted Deferred Enforced Departure status
- Individuals granted Refugee status
- Individuals granted Parolee status
- Individuals defined as Cuban or Haitian entrants under the
- Refugee Education Assistance Act

All students who are unable to provide proof of Florida residency by the first day of classes for their first term and attend classes as out-of-state students must petition for reclassification through the Office of the Registrar in order to obtain Florida residency for tuition purposes.

Santa Fe College will notify you through your eSantaFe account (My Status) if you are required to submit proof of citizenship.

NOTES

EA/EO

Notice of Equal Access/Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination

Santa Fe College is committed to an environment that embraces diversity, respects the rights of all individuals, is open and accessible, and is free of harassment and discrimination based on, but not limited to, ethnicity, race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, marital status, national origin, genetic information, political opinions or affiliations, and veteran status in all its programs, activities and employment. EA/EO notice Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies should be directed to: Lela Frye, Equal Access/Equal Opportunity Coordinator 3000 NW 83rd Street, R-Annex, Room 105, Gainesville, Florida 32606, (352) 395-5420, lela.frye@sfcollege.edu.

SACSCOC Accreditation Statement

Santa Fe College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate and baccalaureate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Santa Fe College.

The purpose for publishing the Commission's address and contact numbers is to enable interested constituents

- (1) to learn about the accreditation status of Santa Fe College,
- (2) to file a third-party comment at the time of Santa Fe's decennial review, or
- (3) to file a complaint against Santa Fe College for alleged non-compliance with a standard or requirement.

To find out more about the college's accreditation status, visit the SACSCOC website and type in Santa Fe College in the Search By Institution Name or Keyword search box.

To learn more about college admission requirements, financial aid, educational programs, etc., please contact Santa Fe directly.



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