

Student Residency Classification

This information will help you to determine if you are a California resident for purposes of attending a California community college.

Residents of California are entitled to attend a community college by paying the community college enrollment fee. See the class schedule for current fees.

Nonresidents must pay the enrollment fee plus nonresident tuition. See the class schedule for current fees.

To qualify as a California resident, you must verify physical presence in California and intent to become a resident one-year prior to the residency determination date (the day before classes begin for a new term).

The one-year period begins when you are not only present in California, but also have demonstrated clear intent to become a resident of California.

The burden of proof is on the student, to verify both physical presence in California and intent to make California your residence.

No single document is controlling or decisive.

Please bring ALL documents necessary to establish residency to the residency office on your campus.

Primary Evidence – Documents for Intent:

1. California state and federal tax returns with W-2 forms (required)
2. California automobile registration
3. California driver's license and/or California ID card
4. California voter registration
5. Military personnel: Active Duty orders and Military ID

Primary Evidence – Documents (as applicable) for Physical Presence:

1. Bank account statements
2. California license for professional practice/membership in California organizations
3. Petitioner for divorce in California
4. Utility bills
5. Proof of employment (pay stubs)
6. Rental agreement
7. DD-2214 form
8. Verification of public assistance

Students who have done any of the following are nonresidents for tuition purposes:

1. Voter registration in another state
2. Petitioner for divorce in another state
3. Attend an out-of-state institution as a resident of that state
4. Declare non-residency for state income tax purposes
5. Possess a driver's license and/or vehicle registration in another state
6. Residing in the U.S. with certain visas (See Residency staff for more information)

There are special residency rules which apply to specific circumstances. Active duty military attend at resident rates and spouses/dependents may be eligible for waivers. Please consult with the residency office on your campus for more information.

Residency Determination:

- Final determination of residency will be made by the college at the time of admission or readmission.
- Evidence will be required to prove physical presence in California and intent to make California the legal residence.
- Residence determination shall be made as of the day before the first day of the semester of application.
- All documents must be submitted in a timely manner for residency determination.

The information in this document has been extracted from California Education Code sections 68000 and after, and California Code of Regulation, Title 5, sections 54000 – 54072.

Contact the residency office on your campus for additional information

City College/ECC	619-388-3475
Mesa College	619-388-2688
Miramar College	619-388-7844