

Instructions: Independent Student Petition



This document is a resource intended to help students who want to submit an independent student petition. This is not the petition, but much of what you need to know is explained below.

When you are ready to submit your petition, here are the steps:

- Step One:** [Start](#) and submit your online questionnaire prior to the petition deadline.
- Step Two:** [Submit](#) your documents prior to the document deadline
- Step Three:** [Pay](#) the \$50 petition fee prior to the document deadline
- Deadlines:** Don't miss your [deadlines!](#)

Complete the steps in this order. Use this document and our web page: [HTTPS://STUDENTS.ASU.EDU/RESIDENCY](https://students.asu.edu/residency) if you need more information. **Contact the Residency Office** at either 480-965-7712 or residency@asu.edu if you don't find what you need here. The direct link to the residency petition dashboard is: <https://go.oasis.asu.edu/residencypetition/>

The Requirements

The Independent Student Petition requires you to meet all of the following:

1. **Continuous physical presence:** the student has been continuously physically present in Arizona for the 12 calendar months immediately preceding the last day of registration for the term which the student is seeking classification as an in-state resident for tuition purposes, as demonstrated by objective evidence.
2. **Arizona residency:** the student is an Arizona resident, and Arizona is the student's domicile as demonstrated by objective evidence. Evidence offered to establish Arizona residency and domicile must reflect that the student intended to establish residency and domicile in Arizona throughout the required 12-month period of continuous physical presence.
3. **Financial independence:** where applicable, the student is financially independent for the twelve months immediately preceding the last day of registration, as demonstrated by objective evidence.
4. **Student presumptions:** our review of the three requirements listed above begin with these four assumptions:
 - a. A non-resident student's presence in Arizona is primarily for the purpose of education and not to establish domicile;
 - b. An individual cannot establish residency or domicile while in Arizona primarily for the purposes of education;
 - c. An individual cannot establish residency for tuition purposes while attending an educational institution in Arizona as a full-time student;
 - d. Decisions of an individual as to the establishment of residency and domicile are generally made after the completion of an education, and not before.
5. **Visa Eligibility:** the student must not hold a visa that prohibits establishing domicile in Arizona.

Evaluation Criteria

The evidence you provide in support of your petition will be evaluated by the residency office using the following criteria:

1. **Weight, Truthfulness and Authenticity:** All information provided by the student shall be subject to the classification officer's or hearing review committee's decision as to the weight to be given to it, and such officer or committee shall be the sole judge of the authenticity or truthfulness of any material or statements submitted as supportive evidence.
2. **Absences:** if the student is absent from Arizona for more than 30 total days during the 12 months immediately preceding the last day of registration, this creates a rebuttable presumption that the student is not domiciled in or a resident of Arizona. A student may rebut this presumption with objective evidence that they retained their Arizona domicile and residence despite their absence(s).
3. **Domicile Year:** evidence offered to establish Arizona residency and domicile must reflect that the student intended to establish residency and domicile in Arizona throughout the required 12-month period of continuous physical presence. Acts or events occurring less than 12 months before the last day of registration for the term which the student is seeking classification as an in-state resident for tuition purposes may be considered evidence that residency or domicile has not been established.
4. **Intent:** a statement of intent by the student should be weighed in light of the fact that the student knows that the student will realize a substantial reduction in tuition by being classified as a resident for tuition purposes.
5. **Parent Domicile:** the domicile of an unemancipated person is that of the person's parent.

Required Documentation

A list of required documents will be given to you after you have completed the questionnaire portion of your petition. This list is generated based on how you answer certain questions – your list will be unique to your situation.

Documents that may be requested include the following:

- Bank or other financial records reflecting continuous presence in Arizona
- State and federal tax returns for student, spouse and/or parents (as applicable)
- Employment history, including dates, location, employer and year-to-date earnings
- W2 or 1099 for most recent tax year
- Current or most recent lease or rental agreement
- Warranty deed, mortgage statement or other document confirming property ownership
- Utility bills/records of continuous usage in Arizona
- Vehicle registration, including date, state and owner information.
- Driver's license, instructional permit or state identification card;
- Voter registration, including state, date of registration and voting history in Arizona
- Educational records from previous institutions, including other colleges/universities and high schools
- Account statements for any savings account, trust fund or other source used for school-related expenses.
- Applications for loans, scholarships, grants-in-aid, or other such financial assistance
- Documentation of all sources of financial/economic support
- Marriage certificate
- Employment history of spouse
- Birth certificate
- Selective service registration
- Permanent Resident Card or I-485 approval notice
- Visa and/or foreign passport
- Military records and/or veteran status

Other things to know:

- It would be impossible to tell you everything you might need to know. Do your homework, ask questions and don't assume anything related to your petition.
- We will review all facets of your academic career as we work through your petition – this includes your application for admission. financial aid awards and communications with our office.
- 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 doesn't ensure approval.
- To overcome the student presumption, you will need to provide compelling evidence that shows your educational pursuits are secondary to your other reasons for being in Arizona.
- Absences from the state of more than 30 days will require you to show objective evidence that you retained your Arizona domicile why you were away.
- Delaying (or not obtaining) the legal and customary indicators of intent are considered evidence of a lack of intent to be an Arizona resident (state law requires residents to do these things immediately).
- The term "resident for tuition purposes" differs from other definitions of Arizona residency. You can be a resident for other purposes and not be a resident for tuition purposes
- Students that are classified as residents are required to verify citizenship, lawful status or eligible visa types. Students that can't complete this verification will be classified as non-residents.
- Non-U.S. citizens that 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