

Instructions: Independent Student Petition



Use this guide to learn more about the requirements for this petition.

When you are ready to submit your petition:

- Step One:** [Submit](#) your petition online prior to the petition deadline
- Step Two:** [Upload](#) your documents prior to the document deadline
- Deadlines:** Don't miss your [deadlines!](#)

Web Links

- **Residency Navigator:** <https://registrar.asu.edu/residency>
- **Contact Residency:** <https://registrar.asu.edu/residency-classification-contact-us>
- **Residency Petition:** <https://go.oasis.asu.edu/residencypetition/>
- **Deadlines:** <https://registrar.asu.edu/residency-deadlines>

Requirements for the Independent Student Petition

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 in 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.

All students are required to provide objective evidence of meeting the above requirements. When your evidence is considered, we begin with four rebuttable **student presumptions:**

1. A non-resident student's presence in Arizona is primarily for the purpose of education and not to establish domicile;
2. An individual cannot establish residency or domicile while in Arizona primarily for the purposes of education;
3. An individual cannot establish residency for tuition purposes while attending an educational institution in Arizona as a full-time student;
4. Decisions of an individual as to the establishment of residency and domicile are generally made after the completion of an education, and not before.

Visa Eligibility: 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 Arizona.

Eligible Visa types: <https://registrar.asu.edu/forms/visa-types-and-residency-eligibility>

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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.

Definitions and Other Information

- "Domicile" or "Domiciled" means an individual's true, fixed and permanent home and place of habitation. It is the place where the individual lives, intends to remain, and to which the individual intends to return when leaving without intending to establish a new domicile elsewhere.
- "Objective Evidence" means documentation or information other than an individual's own statement(s) of intent.
- "Financial Independence" means the individual is capable of paying for the individual's living expenses (i.e., housing, utilities, transportation, insurance, groceries/food) and university tuition with funds earned by the individual or with funds that are the sole property of the individual, without receiving significant financial support from someone other than a spouse.
- [State law requires](#) that you obtain an Arizona vehicle registration and driver license, immediately if you are registered to vote in Arizona, you pay school tuition fees at the same rate as an Arizona resident or you place children in school without paying the tuition rate of a nonresident. Delaying (or not obtaining) these indicators are considered a lack of intent to establish domicile in Arizona.

Things to know

- These instructions are intended to guide you through this process; however, it would be impossible to cover everything you might need to know. Our advice to all students is to do their own research on residency requirements, ask questions, and avoid making assumptions about anything related to your petition.
- We will review all facets of your academic career in our review of your petition – this includes your application for admission, financial aid awards and any communications with the residency office or other ASU offices. We may verify or investigate the authenticity of any documents submitted.

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- The non-refundable fee for this petition is \$50. Your petition cannot be reviewed until this fee is paid.
- Your documentation must be uploaded to your petition (we can't accept documents in-person or via email). This page has lots of helpful information about submitting documents: <https://registrar.asu.edu/residency-petition-documentation>
- Missing or incomplete documentation will cause your petition to be denied or delayed. If there is something you can't provide, submit a short note of explanation instead.
- 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*.
- The domicile of an unemancipated person is that of the person's parent.
- Additional documentation may be requested by the Residency Office after our initial review of your petition and supporting documents. Please respond promptly to ensure your review can be completed.
- We will communicate with you via your @asu email address. It is your responsibility to check your email and respond in a timely manner.
- Any student found to have made a false or misleading statement concerning domicile or tuition status shall be subject to dismissal from the university and be held responsible for the payment of any tuition amounts that would have been charged but for the false or misleading statement.

Supporting Documentation

Your petition must be supported by objective and appropriate documentation. A list of required documents will be given to you after you have submitted your petition. Your list will be unique to your situation and based on how you answer specific questions. **Documents that may be requested include the following:**

- Complete bank statements for 12 months
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Permanent Resident Card or I-485 approval notice
- Visa and/or foreign passport
- Military records and/or veteran status