

## INFORMATION FOR RESIDENCY CLASSIFICATION

A Florida “resident for tuition purposes” is a person who has, or a dependent person whose parent or legal guardian has, established and maintained legal residence in Florida for at least the 12 previous consecutive months. To qualify as a Florida resident for tuition purposes, you must be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident alien, or legal alien granted indefinite stay by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Living in or attending school in Florida will not, in itself, establish legal residence. Students who depend on out-of-state parents for support are presumed to be legal residents of the same state as their parents. Residence in Florida must be for the purpose of establishing a permanent home and not merely incident to enrollment at an institution of higher education.

### DEPENDENT OR INDEPENDENT

**Step 1: Are you independent or dependent?** You are independent if you can answer yes to any of these. You will need to provide 2 documents in your own name that are at least 12 months old by your first day of class.

1. You are 24 years of age or older by the first day of class.
2. You are married. (Copy of marriage license is required.)
3. You have children or other dependents who receive more than half of their support from you. (Copy of most recent federal income tax return listing dependents is required.)
4. You are a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or are currently serving for purposes other than training. (Copy of DD214 or military orders is required.)
5. Both of your parents are deceased or you are or were a ward/dependent of the court. (Copy of parents’ death certificates or a court order or letter from Children and Family Services is required.)
6. You have established independent annual income of at least \$9,350 per year. (Copy of most recent federal income tax return and W2 form(s) required.)

You are DEPENDENT if you answered no to everything above. If you are DEPENDENT, your parent or legal guardian will need to provide proof of residency.

**Step 2: Provide two acceptable documents.** To qualify for in-state tuition you or your parent/guardian must provide two 12 month-old documents. One document must be from Tier One. The second document may be from Tier One or Tier Two. Both documents must be dated or issued at least 12 months prior to your first day of attendance.

#### **TIER ONE** (You must have one of these.)

- Florida Driver’s License
- State of Florida Identification Card
- Florida Voter Registration Card
- Florida Vehicle Registration
- Proof of permanent full-time employment in Florida (one or more jobs for at least 30 hours per week for a 12 month period – letter from employer or pay stubs required)
- Proof of a permanent home that is occupied as the primary residence (copy of Homestead Exemption or property appraiser website documents required)

#### **TIER TWO**

- Florida incorporation
- Utility bill and proof of 12 consecutive months of payments. Service must be current. No cell/mobile phone bills.
- Lease agreement and proof of 12 consecutive months of payments. (Lease must be current and payment must be verified for 12 consecutive months.)
- Florida professional or occupational license
- Declaration of Domicile (Must be certified by a County Clerk of Courts at least 12 months prior to the first day of attendance.)
- Benefit histories from Florida agencies or public assistance programs.

*Unacceptable Documents: Passport, Birth Certificate, Social Security Card, Library Card, Mail, Bank Statements, Shopping/Rental Club Cards, Hunting/Fishing Licenses, Concealed Weapons Permit*