

# Eligibility for “Alabama Resident” Tuition Rate

For the purposes of assessing tuition, applicants for admission shall be classified in one of the three categories as outlined below.

**RESIDENT STUDENT:** A Resident Student shall be charged the in-state tuition rate established by the Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees.

1. A Resident Student is an applicant for admission who is a citizen of the United States or a resident alien in the State of Alabama for at least 12 months immediately preceding application for admission, or whose non-estranged spouse has resided and had habitation, home and permanent abode in the State of Alabama for at least 12 months immediately preceding application for admission. Consequently, an out-of-state student cannot attain Resident Student status simply by attending school for twelve months in the State of Alabama.
2. In the case of minor dependents seeking admission, the parent(s) or legal guardian of such minor dependent must have resided in the State of Alabama for at least 12 months immediately preceding application for admission. If the parents are divorced, residence will be determined by the residency of the parent to whom the court has granted custody.

**MINOR:** An individual who because of age, lacks the capacity to contract under Alabama law. Under current law, this means a single individual under 19 years of age and a married individual under 18 years of age, but excludes an individual whose disabilities of non-age have been removed by a court of competent jurisdiction for a reason other than establishing a legal residence in Alabama. If current law changes, this definition shall change accordingly.

**SUPPORTING PERSON:** Either or both of the parents of the student, if the parents are living together, or if the parents are divorced or living separately, then either the parent having legal custody or, if different, the parent providing the greater amount of financial support. If both parents are deceased or if neither has legal custody, supporting person shall mean, in the following order: the legal custodian of the student, the guardian, and the conservator.

In determining Resident Student status for the purpose of charging tuition, the burden of proof lies with the applicant for admission.

A. An individual claiming to be a resident shall certify by a signed statement each of the following:

1. A specific address or location within the State of Alabama as his/her residence.
2. An intention to remain at this address indefinitely.
3. Possession of more substantial connections with the State of Alabama than with any other state.

Though certification of an address and an intent to remain in the state indefinitely shall be prerequisites to establishing status as a resident, ultimate determination of that status shall be made by the institution by evaluating the presence or absence of connections with the State of Alabama. This evaluation shall include the consideration of all of the following connections:

1. Consideration of the location of high school graduation.
2. Payment of Alabama state income taxes as a resident.
3. Ownership of a residence or other real property in the state and payment of state ad valorem taxes on the residence or property.
4. Full-time employment in the state.
5. Residence in the state of a spouse, parents, or children.
6. Previous periods of residency in the state continuing for one year or more.
7. Voter registration and voting in the state; more significantly, continuing voter registration in the state that initially occurred at least one year prior to the initial registration of the student in Alabama at a public institution of higher education
8. Possession of state or local licenses to do business or practice a profession in the state.
9. Ownership of personal property in the state, payment of state taxes on the property, and possession of state license plates.

10. Continuous physical presence in the state for a purpose other than attending school, except for temporary absences for travel, military service, and temporary employment.
11. Membership in religious, professional, business, civic, or social organizations in the state
12. Maintenance in the state of checking and saving accounts, safe deposit boxes, or investment accounts.
13. In-state address shown on selective service registration, driver's license, automobile title registration, hunting and fishing licenses, insurance policies, stock and bond registrations, last will and testament, annuities, or retirement plans.
14. Students determined to be eligible for resident tuition will maintain that eligibility upon re-enrollment within one full academic year of their most previous enrollment unless there is evidence that the student subsequently has abandoned resident status, for example, registering to vote in another state. Students failing to re-enroll within one full academic year must establish eligibility upon re-enrollment.