

Colorado Residency Information

Below is a general summary of Colorado residency regulations outlined in Colorado statutes and CCHE guidelines. Students must meet the Colorado residency guidelines in order to qualify for Colorado-funded financial aid, such as the College Opportunity Fund (COF), Colorado Student Employment, and Colorado Graduate Grant. The availability of Colorado-funded financial aid is subject to change at any time.

These regulations apply to parents of unemancipated minors and students who are at least 23 years of age, married, graduate students, or emancipated minors (see definition below*).

Colorado residency guidelines require that a person must decide that Colorado will be his or her legal, primary residence and take appropriate actions to document this fact for at least a one-year waiting period preceding the first day of classes. The term that is used for legal, primary residence is *domicile*.

- **Domicile** is defined as your true, fixed, and permanent home and place of habitation. Domicile is a legal characteristic that everyone has, and you can have only one domicile at any one time. Your domicile is your legal, primary residence.

During the one-year domicile period, students should comply with all legal obligations of a Colorado resident. A person who maintains domicile or legal residence in another state cannot also establish Colorado domicile at the same time.

One year domicile period- A *qualified person* must be residing in Colorado with **the present intention to reside permanently in Colorado** for 12 months before the first day of class. To demonstrate this intention, students should take all actions that would be expected of any permanent resident of Colorado in your circumstances. These actions include severing from your former state your voter registration, driver's license, vehicle registration, employment, and income tax filing, and establishing these connections in Colorado.

You may leave the state for vacations or for other temporary reasons and need not maintain a residence in Colorado during a temporary absence. To maintain Colorado domicile during a temporary absence, you should keep Colorado connections, particularly voter registration and declaration of any out-of-state income on your Colorado state income tax return. On any other state tax return, you must file as a nonresident. However, residing in your previous home state for a substantial period of time (including summer) is some evidence of continued domicile in that place, although *such residence does not by itself disqualify you for in-state status*.

To determine if you meet the requirements for Colorado Residency, continue on to the next page and then fill out the attached Colorado Residency Form.

* **Emancipation** requires that your parents cannot provide financial support of any nature for any purpose. Parental support includes funds your parents may have previously set aside for your current support even if those funds are in your name. Parents may provide reasonable incidental gifts but may not provide significant funds.

Colorado Residency Form Questionnaire

Dependency Status

If the answer is Yes to any of the questions below, the student is classified as an independent student and can fill out the Colorado Residency Form with their own information and with only their signature. Your selections will automatically direct you to the correct form.

Check any that apply in order to be directed to the correct form:

- | Yes | No | The student: |
|-----|----|---|
| | | is 23 years or older |
| | | is married |
| | | is enlisted in the military |
| | | is legally emancipated |
| | | is a graduate student |
| | | I answered No to all the above questions. |