

Residence Requirements

Each person applying for admission to, or enrolled in, a California Community College is classified for tuition purposes as either a “resident” or “non-resident” of the State of California. The right of a student to attend any public community college in California as a resident requires that he/she:

1. Be a citizen of the United States, or possess or be an applicant for a permanent-resident, amnesty or other visa status, for a minimum of one year and one day, that does not preclude establishing domicile in the United States and meeting certain requirements.
2. Be at least 19 years of age, and have lived in California one year and one day prior to the residency determination date: Fall 2011 - August 21, 2011; and Spring 2012 - January 22, 2012. (Note: A student, who has not been a resident of California for more than one year and who is the dependent child for income tax purposes of a California resident who has been a resident since the above-noted residence determination date, is entitled to resident classification. Submit documentation with application.)
3. Have parents or a guardian who have resided in California for one year and one day, if he/she is younger than 18 years of age.
4. Present evidence showing the student’s or the student’s parents’ (if under 19) intent to make California their permanent home.
5. Manifest residency intent if the student is 19 years of age or over by maintaining a home in California continuously for the last two years, unless there is contrary evidence of intent.
6. Manifest residency intent, if the student is under 19 years of age, by both the student and his/her parents maintaining a home in California continuously for the last two years, unless there is contrary evidence of intent.

If manifest intent cannot be shown within #5 and #6 above, then the student is required to provide evidence of intent to make California his or her permanent home. Objective manifestations of this intent include, but are not limited to:

1. Payment of California state income tax as a resident.
2. Registering to vote and voting in California.
3. Licensing from California for professional practice.
4. Presence of spouse and/or dependent children in the state.
5. Showing California as the home address on a federal income tax form.
6. Ownership of residential property or continuous occupancy of rented or leased property in California.
7. Possessing California motor vehicle license plates.
8. Possessing a California driver’s license.
9. Maintaining a permanent military address or home of record in California while in the armed services.
10. Establishing and maintaining active California bank accounts.
11. Being the petitioner for a divorce in California.

Military personnel on active duty in California, their spouses and dependent children qualify as immediate residents. (Submit documentation with application.)

Students on visas will be evaluated for residency based on the type of visa, visa issue date and expiration date, length of stay in California and intent to maintain California as their permanent home.

A student who cannot qualify as a resident of California must pay non-resident tuition, as stipulated by the Board of Trustees of the Santa Barbara Community College District.

Exemption from non-resident tuition is available to certain non-resident students who attended high school in California for at least three years and received a California high school diploma or its equivalent (per AB 540 statute). Contact Admissions & Records for information and an exemption request form or go to www.sbcc.edu/forms.

Non-resident students do not automatically become residents by being in California for one year. A student seeking reclassification from non-resident to resident status must complete and file a residency questionnaire and a statement of financial independence and must provide evidence of intent to establish permanent California residency no later than two weeks prior to the student's registration date. Deadline enforced.

The burden of proof is on the student to clearly demonstrate physical presence in California, intent to establish California residency and, in the case of students changing from non-resident to resident, financial independence from non-resident parents. The Supervisor of Admissions & Records shall determine residency of all applicants. Appeals of residency decisions shall be determined by the Executive Vice President, Educational Programs, or his designee.