



Admissions & Records
800 College Avenue, Weed, CA 96094
530-938-5217

Establishing California Residency

← For Tuition Purposes at College of the Siskiyous →

Each student shall be classified as a resident or non-resident for tuition purposes. To be classified as a resident, a student must have been a legal resident of the State of California for at least a year and one day immediately proceeding the term. Residence is determined by: **1) length of physical presence, and 2) intent to make California one's residence.***

Length of physical presence: A student must be physically present in California for a year and one day prior to the first day of the semester.

Intent: Objective manifestations of intent to establish California residency include but are not limited to:

- Possessing a California driver's license or California ID card.
- Possessing California motor vehicle license plates.
- Showing California as home address on federal income tax form.
- Payment of California state income tax as a resident.
- Registering to vote and voting in California.
- Ownership of residential property or continuous occupancy of rented or leased property in California.
- Establishing and maintaining active California bank accounts.
- Licensing from California for professional practice.
- Maintaining permanent military address or home of record in California while in armed forces.

To establish California residency, evidence of intent showing two or more of the above listed items must be presented. The burden is on the student to demonstrate clearly both physical continuous presence in California and the intent to establish California residence. All documents presented must be valid, readable, dated at least one year before the residence determination date, and be properly identified with respect to the student's name and address.

****Please Note: Students enrolled at College of the Siskiyous through the Southern Oregon University or Oregon Institute of Technology Exchange Programs are prohibited from establishing California residency. Refer to your copy of the Exchange Program Permit for further information.***

Residency FAQs

Can I establish California residency?

It is possible to establish resident status while attending College of the Siskiyous. You need to reside in California at least one year and a day preceding the term and demonstrate to us your true intent to become a California resident. You also need to have the legal capacity to establish residency.

How do I “demonstrate my intent” to be a California resident?

- Take “residential intent steps.” We don’t dictate what steps you should take, but some typical steps a student might take are: obtaining a California driver’s license or ID, employment in California, registering a vehicle, registering to vote and voting, signing a year-long lease, filing California income tax returns and opening bank accounts in California.
- Relinquish all residential ties to your old state. For example, if you have a driver’s license from your old state, don’t put off getting a California license just because your old license “hasn’t expired yet.” Likewise, if you have a vehicle registered in your old state, don’t delay in re-registering it in California “because it costs so much.”
- Don’t return to your old state for any significant length of time. Short visits are not a problem, but taking a summer job and living at your parent’s house “back home” would cause us to doubt your intent to really make California your permanent home.

When would I need to do these things?

The sooner the better. It takes one year to establish California residency for tuition purposes. Each term has its own, non-changing residence determination date; August 22, 2005 for fall semester, January 19, 2006 for spring semester (these dates change every year, check with Admissions & Records for actual dates each year). One year prior to the residence determination date of the semester you intend to be considered a California resident, you should have taken all your residential intent steps, including severing all ties to your prior state.

What does “you need to have legal capacity” mean?

You must be 19 by the residency determination date to establish your own residency; otherwise your residency is based on that of the parent with whom you last lived. If you are not a U.S citizen, your status may or may not allow you to establish California residency, please contact Admissions & Records for more specific information.

Once I’m a student at College of the Siskiyous, how do I ask for resident classification?

Let’s assume you attend College of the Siskiyous fall 2005 and spring 2006 as a non-resident and you are trying to establish residency for the fall 2006 semester. In May of 2006, you would pick up a “Supplemental Residency Questionnaire” form at the Admissions & Records Office. Fill it out and attach photocopies of all the residential steps you have taken. When we evaluate your request, we’ll be looking for residential steps you took prior to August 22, 2005 (Any steps taken after that date will not strongly support your claim for fall 2006 residency.) We’ll also be looking for any ties you still maintained after August 22, 2005 - these will be negative factors.

I have not resided in California for more than a year, but one of my parents is a California resident. Can I be considered a resident?

If this parent claims you as an income tax dependent or can demonstrate significant financial responsibility for you (such as court-ordered child support), and if this parent is determined to be a California resident, you might qualify as a California resident. We will make an official determination when you register at College of the Siskiyous or when you fill out a Supplemental Residency Questionnaire form. We will need residency information on the California parent and documentation of the significant financial responsibility.

Who do I contact for more information?

We cannot give you a personal residency evaluation over the phone or without the complete paperwork (Supplemental Residency Questionnaire form), but if you have a specific question about the residency rules, you can call us at (530) 938-5217 or email your questions to: winkelman@siskiyous.edu

NOTE: This summary of common questions and answers about residency is by no means a complete explanation of the residency regulations. Changes in the regulations may occur, and there are many additional rules. The laws governing residency determination for tuition purposes are set by the California Education Code and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, sections 54000-54072. A copy of the regulations is available at the College of the Siskiyous Admissions & Records Office.

OVER

Personal Residency Worksheet

(Keep for your own records)

Residential Intent Steps in California

Steps Taken

Date Taken

Residential Ties to Other States

Steps Taken

Date Relinquished
