

In-State Tuition: WICHE and Colorado Residency

WICHE

The Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) designates the department's program as a regional graduate program, and tuition is assessed according to the student's state of residence. For more information on WICHE/WRGP, see:

<http://www.wiche.edu/SEP/WRGP/handout06-08.pdf>

However, the WICHE program allows students from the following states to pay the same rates as Colorado residents:

Alaska	Nevada	Utah
Arizona	New Mexico	Washington
Hawaii	North Dakota	Wyoming
Idaho	Oregon	
Montana	South Dakota	

ESTABLISHING RESIDENCY IN COLORADO

This is a very involved process that takes 12 months to complete. ALL students MUST attend a mandatory 1-hour orientation, where they will receive a registration packet. Contact Student Financial Services at 970-491-6321 for orientation dates and times.

The Department of Journalism and Technical Communication does allow out-of-state students to qualify for in-state financial aid their second year in the program. All students need to have been living in Colorado a minimum of one year before they can apply. **Please note that students cannot claim both WICHE status and Colorado in-state residency.**

To apply, students will need to be a **qualified person** and establish **domicile** (intent to permanently live in Colorado).

QUALIFIED PERSON is a person who is eligible to establish their own domicile in Colorado for tuition classification purposes. A "qualified person" is considered to be:

- an adult (a person least 22 years of age at the beginning of the 12-month domicile period)
- a graduate student
- an emancipated minor
- a parent or court-appointed legal guardian for a student who is under 23 years of age

A student must be a qualified person before he/she can establish a domicile separate from the domicile of their parent or legal guardian. Please see <http://sfs.colostate.edu/I210000.cfm> for additional information on the definition of a qualified person.

Some military personnel and/or their dependents can establish domicile in Colorado, as can some international students. See pages 32 and 33 of the Graduate and Professional Bulletin at <http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/files/Bulletin/Tuition.pdf> for more information.

DOMICILE

In-state classification requires a domicile in Colorado for 12 months on or prior to the first day of classes of each semester. "Domicile" is the term used to describe the place where a person has chosen to make a permanent and fixed home. Domicile is made up of two components: **physical presence and evidence of intent**. Both physical presence and evidence of intent must be established to begin the domicile year.

A **domicile year** is 12 months on or prior to the first day of classes for each semester. To begin the domicile year, a **qualified person** must reside in Colorado, with the intent to permanently live in the state.

Physical presence is the actual place where a person has established a permanent legal residence. Proof of physical presence can be lease agreements, rent receipts, home ownership or a notarized statement from a landlord.

12-month Domicile Period

In-state classification requires domicile, or legal residence, in Colorado at least one year before the first day of class for the semester for which you are petitioning. Depending on if you meet the definition of a "qualified student", this 12-month period may apply either to you or to your parent(s). The only exception provided by statute to this 12-month domicile period is for active duty military personnel on permanent duty stationed in Colorado.

Semester	Domicile Year	Tax Years
Fall 2007	August 20, 2006 - August 20, 2007	2005 & 2006
Spring 2008	January 22, 2007 - January 22, 2008	2006 & 2007
Summer 2008	June 16, 2007 - June 16, 2008	2006 & 2007
Fall 2008	August 25, 2007 - August 25, 2008	2006 & 2007

Evidence of Intent to Establish a Domicile in Colorado

Your evidence of intent to be a resident of Colorado is demonstrated by the absence of ties to your former state of residence.

Actions used to indicate intent must be accomplished at the beginning of and maintained throughout the domicile year.

If implementation of these steps is delayed, the start of your one-year domicile period may be delayed. Evidence of intent must be demonstrated for one full year before resident status may be granted. It is the responsibility of the individual to provide as much information and documentation as appropriate to document intent. Several factors which are specified by law that will be considered as evidence of intent are:

- Colorado driver's license or valid Colorado ID
- Colorado motor vehicle registration
- Permanent, full-time, off-campus employment
- Colorado voter registration
- Change in permanent address on all pertinent records
- Payment of Colorado state income taxes as a resident
- Withholding of Colorado state taxes from wages
- Ownership of residential real property in Colorado
- Additional documents, as requested

The following are several factors specified by law that are considered evidence of domicile **outside** of Colorado:

- Failure to pay Colorado state income tax (if your income is sufficient to be required to do so) Filing a nonresident Colorado tax return is persuasive evidence of domicile outside Colorado
- Failure to comply with any Colorado laws imposed on Colorado residents.
- Maintenance of a home in another state
- Prolonged absence from Colorado
- Vehicle registration in another state
- Residing in another state when not enrolled as a student or between academic sessions
- Any other factor peculiar to the individual which tend to establish the act that his permanent home is in another state

Note: Because a domicile is defined as a true fixed and permanent home, individuals who are physically present in Colorado only on a temporary basis or here for school purposes only cannot establish a domicile merely by taking the above actions

Student Financial Services must receive completed petitions no later than the published deadline date for the semester for which you are petitioning. Petitions will not be accepted after the published deadline date and incomplete petitions will not be accepted and/or reviewed for that semester, and your tuition classification and tuition assessment will remain nonresident for that term. To obtain a copy of the deadline dates for any semester, contact Student Financial Services or look for information on the Student Financial Services Web site at www.sfs.colostate.edu.

For information about residency petitions and appealing your residency classification, see page 33 of the Graduate and Professional Bulletin at <http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/files/Bulletin/Tuition.pdf> or contact Student Financial Services.

*** INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT IS TAKEN FROM THE FOLLOWING WEB PAGES: ***

Western Regional Graduate Program 2006-2008 (WICHE) <http://www.wiche.edu/SEP/WRGP/handout06-08.pdf>
 Colorado Residency Documentation (Office of Admissions) <http://admissions.colostate.edu/AdmWRBlk.aspx?PgID=119>
 Tuition Classification Requirements (Student Financial Services) <http://sfs.colostate.edu/127000.cfm>
 Evidence of Domiciliary Intent (Student Financial Services) <http://sfs.colostate.edu/129000.cfm>
 Qualified Person/Emancipated Minor (Student Financial Services) <http://sfs.colostate.edu/1210000.cfm>
 "In-State Residency" for Tuition Classification Purposes <http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/files/Bulletin/Tuition.pdf>
 pages 32-33