

Tuition Classification for Nonresident Graduate Students

If you initially enroll with out-of-state tuition and you intend to request in-state tuition for your second year, you must take action now to complete the required steps so that you can demonstrate **12 months of Colorado domicile (residency)** prior to your second year.

All domestic non-resident graduate students (including permanent residents) must obtain Colorado in-state tuition classification prior to the start of their second year of employment as a graduate student. Failure to do so will result in ineligibility for tuition remission, starting with the following semester. As an example, a student who first starts working on a graduate appointment Fall 2024 should achieve resident classification for Fall 2025.

Residency Requirements

Tuition classification is governed by Colorado state law. Below are the requirements, which are also outlined in this [brief video](#).

You **must** have moved to Colorado no later than one year and one day prior to the term start.

- To qualify for Summer 2025, you must have moved to Colorado by May 11, 2024.
- To qualify for Fall 2025, you must have moved to Colorado by August 20, 2024.
- To qualify for Spring 2026, you must have moved to Colorado by January 7, 2025.
- To qualify for Summer 2026, you must have moved to Colorado by May 3, 2025.
- To qualify for Fall 2026, you must have moved to Colorado by August 19, 2025.

You **must** take action to establish legal ties to Colorado shortly after moving to the state by doing the following things:

- Get a Colorado driver's license or state ID within 120 days of moving to the state.
- Change your voter registration to Colorado if you are a registered voter.
- Register your vehicle in Colorado within 180 days of moving to the state.
- File income taxes as a Colorado resident.

Submit Your Adult Residency Petition

You **must** submit an [Adult Residency Petition](#) to prove that you qualify for a change to in-state tuition.

- Petitions for Summer 2025 will be accepted March 3, 2025 through May 2, 2025.
- Petitions for Fall 2025 will be accepted March 3, 2025 through July 18, 2025.
- Petitions for Spring 2026 will be accepted Oct. 1, 2025 through Dec. 12, 2025.
- Petitions for Summer 2026 will be accepted March 2, 2026 through May 1, 2026.
- Petitions for Fall 2026 will be accepted March 2, 2026 through July 10, 2026.

If you fail to take the required steps by the deadlines outlined above, your petition will be denied and you will be continue to be assessed out-of-state tuition.

If you maintain legal ties to another state, your petition will be denied and you will continue to be assessed out-of-state tuition.

Special Situations

International Students

Nonimmigrant aliens residing in Colorado for purposes other than education may qualify for in-state status after one year of Colorado residency. Qualified international students must complete the appropriate adult, parent or emancipation petition for a change in residency status. See www.colorado.edu/registrar/residency.

Nonimmigrants in the following categories **cannot** qualify for in-state tuition: F-1, F-2, H-3, H-4 (if the visa holder is the spouse or child of an H-3), J-1 or J-2 (if the J-1 visa holder is a student/trainee), M-1 and M-2.

Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP)

WRGP is a benefit for residents of certain U.S. states and territories that allows students in qualified programs outside their home state to pay resident tuition. View participating programs and states at www.wiche.edu/tuition-savings/wrgp.

Approved participating students are not eligible for the College Opportunity Fund stipend or Colorado resident financial aid. WRGP students must not attempt to become Colorado residents and cannot use any portion of time while participating in the program to begin Colorado domicile. See www.colorado.edu/registrar/exceptions.

Check Your Current Classification

If you're unsure whether you're classified as a resident or a nonresident, follow these steps:

1. Log in to Buff Portal (buffportal.colorado.edu).
2. Select your profile at the top right.
3. Select "Your Profile."
4. Your residency status will appear under "Residency for Tuition."