

## Chapter 3 - Admissions

**Residency Status:** For a residency application and information, visit: [www.suu.edu/you/residency.html](http://www.suu.edu/you/residency.html) Residency is determined by Utah law on domicile, and the following rules apply.

- Students who are classified as a non-resident of the State of Utah are required to pay non-resident tuition.
  - Students who believe they can qualify for resident status should file a petition with the director of admissions before registering. The deadline for filing the petition is 21 days following the first day of class of the semester for which residency is requested. Petition forms are available online at [www.suu.edu/you/residency.html](http://www.suu.edu/you/residency.html) or in the Admissions Office. Each petition will be considered in accordance with Utah law.
  - To guide students, the meaning of the word "resident" shall be determined by reference to the general law of the subject of domicile, except, that the following rules shall apply:
1. A person who has come to Utah and established residency for the purpose of attending an institution of higher education shall, prior to registration as a resident student:
    - Maintain continuous domicile in Utah for twelve (12) or more continuous months immediately preceding the term for which residency for tuition purposes is desired.
    - Maintain continuous Utah residency status while completing 60 semester credit hours at a regionally accredited Utah Higher Education institution or an equivalent number of applicable contact hours at a Utah College of Applied Technology;
    - Demonstrate by additional objective evidence, including Utah voter registration, Utah driver's license, Utah vehicle registration, employment in Utah, payment of Utah resident income taxes, and Utah banking connections, and the establishment of a domicile in Utah and that the student does not maintain a residence elsewhere.
  2. Personnel of the United States Armed Forces assigned to active duty in Utah, and the immediate members of their families residing with them in this state are entitled to resident status for tuition purposes. Upon the termination of active duty status, the military personnel and their family members are governed by the standards applicable to nonmilitary persons.
  3. Aliens who have been granted immigrant or permanent resident status in the United States are classified for purposes of resident status according to the same criteria applicable to citizens.
  4. Any American Indian who is enrolled on the tribal rolls of a tribe whose reservation or trust lands lie partly or wholly within Utah or whose border is at any point contiguous with the border of Utah, and any American Indian who is a member of a federally recognized or known Utah tribe and who has graduated from a high school in Utah, is entitled to resident student status.
  5. A prospective student whose credentials indicate out-of-state status is classified as a non-resident.
    - A change in residence status is not an automatic procedure.
    - Consult with the staff in the Admissions Office for more information.

The following information and flow chart (see Table 3.6) have been provided to assist students in understanding the residency law for tuition purposes. The Admissions office determines residency status for tuition purposes. Students are classified either resident or non-resident at the time the admission application is received. If there are questions regarding residency status, individuals are classified as non-residents.

Non-residents may have their status reclassified by meeting the state residency requirements and submitting a residency application along with the supporting documentation. Applications are accepted thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the semester for which residency is desired. The deadline date for submitting the application is twenty-one (21) days from the time classes begin. Students may obtain residency applications from the Admissions Office or on the web at

[www.suu.edu/you/admission/residency.html](http://www.suu.edu/you/admission/residency.html).

The University honors the residency status determined by other Utah colleges or universities unless the classification was obtained under false pretense. Applicants who are denied Utah residency for tuition purposes may file an appeal to be reviewed by the Residency Appeals Committee. Applicants are notified of the decision of the Appeals Committee in writing. Appeals must be filed within 21 days of the beginning of the classes for which residency is desired.

**To qualify as a resident student for tuition purposes an individual must:**

- be a U.S. citizen or have permanent resident status; **and**
- have lived in Utah for more than **twelve (12) continuous months; or**
- have lived in Utah while earning **60 semester hours** at a regionally accredited college or university in Utah or an equivalent number of applicable contact hours at the Utah College of Applied Technology; **or**
- obtain additional objective evidence such as a Utah Driver's license, Utah voter registration, Utah bank account, employment in Utah, and vehicle registration in Utah; **and**
- submit evidence of financial independence, (i.e. federal and/or state tax returns) if application is based on domicile in Utah for twelve or more continuous months.

**Individuals may also obtain residency status by:**

- marrying a Utah resident. Applicants are required to submit a marriage certificate, objective evidence listed above, and documentation that their spouse is a Utah resident.
- being a spouse or dependent of an individual who establishes his or her domicile in Utah to work on a full-time, permanent basis. Applicants must submit documentation of Utah resident status as outlined above for the applicant and spouse/parent/guardian.
- being U.S. military personnel on active duty in Utah and Utah military out of state. The spouse and dependents residing with such individual may also qualify for residency status. After terminating active duty, residence is determined using the same criteria for other students.
- being a client of a Social or Rehabilitation Service Agency in Utah. Individuals must provide Utah documentation of domiciliary intent.
- being American Indians who appear on the rolls of a tribe having at least some trust land within Utah or whose reservation or trust land has a border contiguous with Utah.

Please note: Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) recipients will not be eligible to apply for residency for tuition purposes using the time spent receiving the WUE. To view Utah Residency FAQ, see Table 3.5.

A change in residence status is not an automatic procedure. If you need more information, consult with the staff in the Admissions Office or see SUU's website:

[www.suu.edu/you/admission/residency.html](http://www.suu.edu/you/admission/residency.html).

### **Western Undergraduate Exchange(WUE)**

SUU participates in the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), a program of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and other western states. Through WUE, certain students who are not residents of Utah may enroll at SUU in designated programs, paying resident tuition plus 50 percent of that amount. WUE students do not pay the higher charge for non-resident tuition. The University has developed selection criteria to admit the most able applicants. Students who plan to pursue degrees in accounting, elementary education, general education, and nursing are not eligible to receive the WUE.

Because SUU participates in the WUE program, residents of Utah may enroll under the same terms in designated institutions and programs in other participating states. Students who are interested and would like more information may contact the

Admissions Office. Utah residents can also receive more information about WUE programs in other states from the WICHE/WUE Coordinator, Utah System of Higher Education, 60 South 400 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1284, (801) 321-7101 or from WICHE Student Exchange Programs, PO Box 9752, Boulder, CO 80301-9752, (303) 541-0200. There is also information available on the internet: <http://www.wiche.edu/SEP/WUE/index.asp>

**Table 3.5****Utah Residency FAQ****How does a student request residency status for tuition purposes?**

Students may complete a residency application and submit it along with the required documentation to the Admissions Office. The application will then be reviewed for compliance with Utah Code and the Utah State Board of Regents Policy and Procedures.

Information on these procedures can be found online:

<http://www.utahsbr.edu/policy/R512.htm>

**How long does a student have to live in Utah?**

Live in Utah for twelve (12) continuous months immediately preceding the term residency for tuition purposes is desired; OR while maintaining resident status, a student must complete 60 credit hours at a regionally Accredited Utah Higher Education institution or an equivalent number of applicable contact hours at the Utah College of Applied Technology prior to applying for residency

**If a student leaves the state of Utah, can he or she still be a resident when school starts for the next semester?**

If a student leaves the state of Utah for a short period of time without re-establishing ties in another state, he or she may not lose their Utah eligibility for tuition purposes.

**Are there other circumstances where residency can be earned?**

Yes. One of the following must apply:

- One or both of the student's parents have permanently moved to Utah and the student is their dependent, single and under age 24;
- The student marries a Utah resident;
- The student or parents are in the military and stationed in Utah or have declared Utah as Home of Record; or
- The student is an American Indian enrolled on the tribal rolls of a tribe whose reservation or trust lands

lie partly or wholly within Utah; or whose border is at any point contiguous with the border of Utah.

**If the student, or his or her parents, work in Utah but live in another state, would the student be considered a resident?**

The student must reside within the state, regardless of where the student or his or her parents work.

**What if the student was born in Utah but his or her family moved away?**

If residency is established in another state the student will no longer be a resident of Utah.

**If a student's family owns property and pays taxes in Utah, would the student be a Utah resident?**

The principal residency must be in the state of Utah, regardless of whether the student or his or her parents own property or pay taxes in the state.

**When can students apply for residency?**

A completed residency application can be submitted thirty (30) days prior to the first day of class and no later than 21 days following the first day of class.

**How long does it take for a decision to be made?**

A decision will be made within a few days of receipt of the completed application and required documentation.

**Where should students turn in their residency application?**

Students may return the application to the Admissions Office at Southern Utah University.

**May students register prior to obtaining residency?**

Students may register at any time they would like. If residency is granted, the students' records will be adjusted.

**Where can students obtain residency applications?**

Students may obtain residency applications from the Admissions Office or on SUU's website:

[www.suu.edu/you/admission/residency.html](http://www.suu.edu/you/admission/residency.html)

**Table 3.6  
Residency Flow Chart**

