

FAQs:

- Q. Where can I get the most accurate information regarding the residency application, process, and requirements?
- A. From the Admissions Office (Taggart Student Center, Room 102, phone: 435-797-1079, <http://www.usu.edu/admissions>)
- Q. How does the new residency law differ from the old law?
- A. Basically, the new law provides students the opportunity to achieve Utah residency within one year, instead of two. By default, this allows students to avoid being charged nonresident tuition after one year, instead of two.
- Q. How does the new residency law affect the nonresident tuition award?
- A. According to the Graduate Tuition Awards Policy, "For domestic nonresident students, the nonresident tuition award is limited to the number of credits earned during the first 12 months of their coursework" (<http://www.usu.edu/graduateschool/financial/tuitionwaiverpolicy.cfm>).
- Q. Why is the nonresident tuition award limited to paying for the first 12 months of my coursework?
- A. Because of the change to the residency law, the policy wording has been changed such that domestic nonresident "students may achieve residency after 40 credits or 12 continuous months (and, therefore, no longer require nonresident tuition)" (<http://www.usu.edu/graduateschool/financial/tuitionwaiverpolicy.cfm>).
- Q. What if I simply choose not to try to achieve residency?
- A. If a student is at the point where he or she is able to apply for residency, but choose not to do so, then by default, that student would also be choosing to cover the cost of the nonresident portion of tuition out-of-pocket or in some other way.
- Q. When did the new residency law go into effect?
- A. July 1, 2007.
- Q. How long, if at all, can I be outside the state of Utah during the 12 months that I am attempting to establish residency?
- A. Students may not leave the state for more than 30 days (total) during the 12 continuous months, or their 12-month count will start over.
- Q. Can I be considered for residency based on the number of credits I have taken, rather than how long I have been residing in the state?
- A. For students that began their program prior to fall 2007, there are two options for establishing residency: 1) Live in Utah for 12 continuous months, not be claimed as a dependent on tax returns by anyone that is not a Utah resident, and obtain a Utah driver license at least 3 months (90 days) prior to submitting an application for residency; or 2) Live in Utah while completing a minimum total of 40 semester credit hours (at the 5000 level and above) at a regionally accredited institution of higher education in Utah (Utah semester credits should not be broken by attendance at a school outside of Utah) and obtain a Utah driver license several months prior to submitting an application for residency. Option 2 may only benefit students that are never residing in the state for 12 continuous months.

- Q. If I started my program fall 2007 or thereafter, what options do I have for establishing residency?
A. Students that began fall 2007 or later have only one option, as follows: Live in Utah for 12 continuous months, not be claimed as a dependent on tax returns by anyone that is not a Utah resident, and obtain a Utah driver license at least 3 months (90 days) prior to submitting an application for residency.
- Q. If I have already established residency, how long can I be out of the state before losing my resident status?
A. Under the new law, if a Utah resident is gone from the state for more than 12 months, they lose Utah residency.
- Q. When should I begin applying for or establishing residency?
A. Domestic nonresident students are encouraged to become eligible for residency as soon as possible. A visit to the Admissions Office will give you all the information you will need to begin today.
- Q. What if I will be out of state conducting research? Will my time count toward my 12-month total?
A. If a student is out of state for internship/research/etc. *for their specific major*, this time can be counted toward their 12 continuous month's requirement, but they must provide a memo from their department confirming their project.
- Q. Why is the nonresident tuition award just now being affected by these changes if the new law went into effect on July 1, 2007?
A. The new law began July 1, 2007. However, this was the date when students could begin counting time toward their 12-month requirement. Therefore, the first residency applications that will be approved on the new law would be after July 1, 2008.
- Q. If I have a Green Card, how am I affected?
A. Students who have permanent residency (i.e., Green Card) are treated the same as domestic students. In other words, they can achieve Utah residency and will fall under the same restrictions as all other domestic nonresident students?
- Q. Is there an online source I can review to get more information about residency?
A. Please see the USU Residency Website (<http://www.usu.edu/admissions/information/residency.cfm>).