Chapter 250-18 WAC
RESIDENCY STATUS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

WAC 250-18-010 Purpose and applicability. This chapter is promulgated pursuant to RCW 28B.15.015 by the council to establish the necessary regulations for the administration of residency status in higher education. Institutions shall apply the provisions of the regulations specified in chapter 250-18 WAC for the uniform determination of a student's resident and nonresident status and for recovery of fees for improper classification of residency.

250-18-015 Definitions. (1) The term "institution" shall mean a public university, college, or community or technical college within the state of Washington.

(2) The term "domicile" shall denote a person's true, fixed, and permanent home and place of habitation. It is the place where the person intends to remain, and to which the person expects to return when the person leaves without intending to establish a new domicile elsewhere.

(3) The term "reside" shall mean the maintenance and occupancy of a primary residence in the state of Washington.

(4) The term "financially independent" shall be determined according to WAC 250-18-035.

(5) The term "financially dependent" shall mean a person who is not financially independent.

(6) The term "resident" for tuition and fee purposes shall be determined according to WAC 250-18-020.

(7) The term "nonresident" for tuition and fee purposes shall be determined according to WAC 250-18-020.

(8) The term "recovery of fees" shall apply to the amounts due to the institution or the student as a result of improper classification.

(9) The term "civil service" shall mean Washington state or federal government nonmilitary employment.

(10) The term "spouse" shall include individuals in state registered domestic partnerships as outlined in RCW 28B.15.980.

(11) The term "parent" shall include a person who becomes a stepparent through marriage or through a state registered domestic partnership.

(12) The term "legal guardian" shall include the court when an individual is a ward of the court.

(13) The terms "active military duty," "active duty service," and "uniformed services" shall be defined as outlined in RCW 28B.15.012 (7), (8), and (9).

(14) The term "calendar year" refers to January 1st through December 31st.

WAC 250-18-020 Student classification. (1) For a student to be classified as a "resident" for tuition and fee purposes, the student must prove by evidence of a sufficient quantity and quality to satisfy the institution that the student:

(a) Is financially independent and has maintained a bona fide domicile in the state of Washington primarily for purposes other than educational for at least one year immediately prior to commencement of the first day of the semester or quarter for which the student has registered at any institution; or

(b) Is financially dependent with at least one parent or legal guardian who has maintained a bona fide domicile in the state of Washington for at least one year immediately prior to commencement of the first day of the semester or quarter for which the student has registered at any institution; or

(c) Meets RCW 28B.15.012 (2)(c); or

(d) Has spent at least seventy-five percent of both junior and senior years in high school in this state, who has at least one parent or legal guardian who had been domiciled in the state for a period of at least one year within the five-year period before the student graduates from high school, and who has enrolled in an institution within six months of leaving high school. The student shall retain resident student status so long as the student remains continuously enrolled for three quarters or two semesters in any calendar year; or

(e) Has met all of the following:

(i) Has either:

(A) Completed the full senior year of high school at a Washington public or private high school approved under chapter 28A.195 RCW and obtained a high school diploma at a Washington public or private high school approved under chapter 28A.195 RCW; or

(B) Received the equivalent of a high school diploma;
(ii) Has resided in Washington at least thirty-six months immediately prior to receiving the diploma or equivalent;
(iii) Has resided continuously in Washington state after receiving the diploma or equivalent until the time of admittance to an institution; and
(iv) Has provided an affidavit to the institution indicating one of the following:
   (A) That the student will file an application to become a permanent resident at the earliest opportunity the student is eligible to do so and that the student is willing to engage in other activities necessary to acquire citizenship including, but not limited to, citizenship or civics review courses; or
   (B) That the student is a citizen or permanent resident of the United States; or
   (f) Has resided in Washington primarily for purposes other than educational for at least one year immediately prior to commencement of the first day of the semester or quarter for which the student has registered at any institution, and who has met any of the following:
      (i) Holds lawful nonimmigrant status pursuant to 8 U.S.C. Sec. (a)(15) (E)(iii), (H)(i), or (L);
      (ii) Holds lawful nonimmigrant status as the spouse or child of a person having nonimmigrant status under 8 U.S.C. Sec. (a)(15) (E)(iii), (H)(i), or (L); or
      (iii) Holds or previously held lawful nonimmigrant status pursuant to 8 U.S.C. Sec. (a)(15) (E)(iii), (H)(i), or (L) as a principal or derivative and has filed an application for adjustment of status pursuant to 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1255(a); or
      (g) Is on active military duty stationed in the state of Washington or is a member of the Washington national guard (Washington national guard member does not need to be on "active duty" status in order to qualify); or
      (h) Is on active military duty or a member of the Washington national guard and meets all of the following:
         (i) Entered service as a Washington resident;
         (ii) Has maintained a Washington domicile; and
         (iii) Is stationed out-of-state; or
         (i) Is the spouse or dependent of a person as defined in (h) of this subsection; or
         (j) Is the spouse or dependent of a person on active military duty stationed in the state of Washington. If the person on active military duty is reassigned out-of-state, the student shall retain resident student status so long as the student is continuously enrolled in a degree program; or
         (k) Resides in the state of Washington and is the spouse or dependent of a member of the Washington national guard; or
         (l)(i) Separated from the uniformed services with any period of honorable service after at least ninety days of active duty service and is eligible for benefits under the federal all-volunteer force educational assistance program (38 U.S.C. Sec. 3001 et seq.), the federal Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (38 U.S.C. Sec. 3301 et seq.), or any other federal law authorizing educational assistance benefits for veterans after separating (a student who has had a dishonorable discharge from the uniformed services qualifies if the student is receiving veterans administration educational assistance benefits); and
         (ii) Enters an institution within three years of the date of separation from the uniformed services (student shall retain resident student status for as long as student remains continuously enrolled at an institution, regardless of years after separation); or
         (m)(i) Is entitled to veterans administration educational assistance benefits based on the student's relationship as a spouse, former spouse, or child to an individual who has separated from the uniformed services with any period of honorable service after at least ninety days of active duty service (if the individual who separated from the uniformed services has had a dishonorable discharge from the uniformed services, the student qualifies if the student is receiving veterans administration educational assistance benefits); and
         (ii) Enters an institution within three years of the service member's date of separation (student shall retain resident student status for as long as student remains continuously enrolled at an institution, regardless of years after separation); or
         (n)(i) Is receiving or entitled to veterans administration educational assistance benefits based on the student's relationship with a deceased member of the uniformed services who completed at least ninety days of active duty service and died in the line of duty; and
         (ii) Enters an institution within three years of the service member's death (student shall retain resident student status for as long as student remains continuously enrolled at an institution, regardless of years after separation); or
         (o) Resides in Washington and is on active military duty stationed in the Oregon counties of Columbia, Gilliam, Hood River, Multnomah, Clatsop, Clackamas, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, or Washington; or
         (p) Resides in Washington and is the spouse or a dependent of a person as defined in (o) of this subsection. If the person on active military duty moves from Washington or is reassigned out of the Oregon counties identified in (o) of this subsection, the student shall retain resident student status so long as the student resides in Washington and is continuously enrolled in a degree program;
         (q) Is attending an institution pursuant to a home tuition agreement with an out-of-state institution of higher education under RCW 28B.15.725; or
         (r)(i) Was domiciled in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, or a combination of these states for one year immediately prior to enrollment at an institution; and
         (ii) Is a member of a federally recognized tribe whose traditional and customary tribal boundaries included portions of the state of Washington, or whose tribe was granted reserved lands within the state of Washington. (The official list of federally recognized Washington tribes maintained by the governor's office of Indian affairs shall be used to determine eligibility and will be made available by the council); or
         (s) Is a resident of Oregon residing in Columbia, Gilliam, Hood River, Multnomah, Clatsop, Clackamas, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, or Washington county; and who meets one of the following:
         (i) Is eligible to pay Oregon resident tuition rates under Oregon laws and has been domiciled in one or more of the designated Oregon counties for at least ninety days immediately prior to enrollment at Clark College, Columbia Basin College, Grays Harbor College, Lower Columbia College, and Walla Walla Community College; or
(ii) Is enrolled for eight credits or less at the Tri-Cities branch or Vancouver branch of Washington State University; or
(t) Meets all of the following:
(i) Is currently domiciled in Washington;
(ii) Relocated to Washington from one of the Oregon counties identified in (s) of this subsection within the previous twelve months;
(iii) Was domiciled in one or more of the Oregon counties identified in (s) of this subsection for at least ninety days immediately prior to relocating to Washington and was eligible to pay Oregon resident tuition rates under Oregon laws during that time; and
(iv) Enrolled at Clark College, Columbia Basin College, Grays Harbor College, Lower Columbia College, or Walla Walla Community College; or enrolled for eight credits or less at the Tri-Cities branch or Vancouver branch of Washington State University.

(2) A student shall be classified as a "nonresident" for tuition and fee purposes if the student does not qualify as a resident student under the provisions of subsection (1) of this section. A nonresident student shall include a student who:
(a) Attends an institution with financial assistance provided by another state or governmental unit or agency thereof wherein residency in that state is a continuing qualification for such financial assistance. Such financial assistance relates to that which is provided by another state, governmental unit or agency thereof for direct or indirect educational purposes and does not include retirements, pensions, or other noneducational related income. A student loan guaranteed by another state or governmental unit or agency thereof on the basis of eligibility as a resident of that state is included within the term "financial assistance." Nonresidency will continue for one year after the completion of the quarter or semester for which financial assistance was last provided. This subsection shall not apply to students who qualify for resident tuition under subsection (1)(q), (s), or (t) of this section; or
(b) Is not a citizen of the United States of America, unless such person meets one of the following:
(i) Holds permanent or temporary resident immigration status, "refugee - parolee" status, "conditional entrant" status, refugee status, asylee status, temporary protected status, withholding of removal status, or is otherwise permanently residing in the United States under color of law and further meets and complies with all applicable requirements of WAC 250-18-030 and 250-18-035; or
(ii) Fulfills the requirements outlined in subsection (1)(e) or (f) of this section.

(3) The one year waiting period for establishing domicile for individuals who hold one of the statuses outlined in subsection (2)(b)(i) of this section starts on the date of application for said status provided that the individual further meets and complies with all applicable requirements of WAC 250-18-030 and 250-18-035 on that date.

(4) A person does not lose a domicile in the state of Washington by reason of residency in any state or country while a member of the civil or military service of this state or of the United States, nor while engaged in the navigation of the waters of this state or of the United States or of the high seas if that person returns to the state of Washington within one year of discharge from said service with the intent to be domiciled in the state of Washington.

(5) Any financially dependent resident student who remains in this state when such student's parents or legal guardians, having theretofore been domiciled in this state for a period of at least one year immediately prior to commencement of the first day of the semester or quarter for which the student has registered at any institution, move from this state, shall retain resident student status so long as such student is continuously enrolled during the academic year.

WAC 250-18-025 Classification procedure. (1) After a student has registered at any institution, such student's residency classification shall remain unchanged in the absence of evidence of a sufficient quantity and quality to satisfy the institution to the contrary. The provision of such evidence to the contrary may be initiated by the student or the institution.

(2) Application for a change in classification shall be accepted up to the thirtieth calendar day following the first day of the instruction of the quarter or semester for which application is made. Applications made after that date in any quarter or semester shall be considered to have been filed as of the first day of the subsequent quarter or semester.

(3) Any change in classification, either nonresident to resident, or the reverse, shall be based upon written evidence maintained in the files of the institution.

(4) Approval of an application for resident status shall be made only after satisfaction that the requirements outlined in RCW 28B.15.012 and WAC 250-18-020, 250-18-030, and 250-18-035 have been met. Reclassification from nonresident to resident status preliminarily approved sixty days or more prior to the satisfaction of a one-year durational domicile shall be supplemented with additional documented proof of domicile if deemed necessary by the institution prior to final approval.

WAC 250-18-030 Establishment of a domicile. The domicile of any person shall be determined according to the individual's overall situation and circumstances and is not determined on the basis of a single factor, nor is a predetermined number of factors required. Institutions shall require evidence of a Washington domicile that is of sufficient quan-
Evidence of financial dependence or independence. (1) A student is financially independent if the student:

(a) Has not been claimed as a dependent exemption on an income tax return for the calendar year immediately prior to the year in which the student applies for resident status and will not be claimed as a dependent exemption on an income tax return for the calendar year in which the student applies for resident status; and

(b) Has not received and will not receive significant financial assistance in any form directly or indirectly from the student's parents, relatives, legal guardians, or others for the calendar year immediately prior to the year in which the student applies for resident status and for the calendar year in which the student applies for resident status.

(2) To consider a claim that a student is financially independent, the institution may require such documentation as deemed necessary including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) The student's sworn statement.

(b) A true and correct copy of the state and federal income tax returns of the student for the calendar year immediately prior to the year in which the student applies for resident status.

(c) A true and correct copy of the student's W-2 forms filed for the calendar year immediately prior to the year in which the student applies for resident status.

(d) Other documented financial resources, which may include but are not limited to the sale of personal or real property, inheritance, trust funds, state or financial assistance, gifts, loans, or statement of earnings of the student's spouse.

(e) A true and correct copy of the first and signature page of the state and federal tax returns of at least one of the student's parents or legal guardians for the calendar year immediately prior to the year in which the student applies for resident status.

The tax returns disclosure shall be limited to the listing of dependent exemptions and the signature of the taxpayer and shall not require disclosure of financial information contained in the returns.

(f) A student whose parents are deceased or who has been made an official ward of the court may be required to provide documentation attesting to the fact of such circumstances.

(g) Evidence of coverage for medical, life, automobile, and property insurance.

(3) To aid institutions in determining the financial independence of a student whose parents or legal guardians do not provide the documentation because of total separation or other reasons from the student, documentation clearly stating the student's status and relationship with the student's parents or legal guardians from a responsible third person, e.g., family physician, lawyer, or social worker may be submitted.

(4) To be considered financially independent, a student must demonstrate by evidence satisfactory to the institution that the student has met, through the student's personal income, living expenses for the calendar year immediately preceding the year in which application is made.

A nonresident student who is enrolled for more than six hours per semester or quarter shall be presumed to be in the state of Washington for primarily educational purposes. Such period of enrollment shall not be counted toward the establishment of a bona fide domicile of one year in this state unless such student proves that the student has, in fact, established a bona fide domicile in this state primarily for purposes other than educational. The burden of proof that a person has established a domicile in the state of Washington primarily for purposes other than educational lies with the student.

To aid the institutions in determining whether a person has established a bona fide domicile in the state of Washington primarily for purposes other than educational, factors such as those listed in subsections (1) through (14) of this section are to be considered. The weight assigned to any given factor should depend on the ease with which it might be established and the degree to which it demonstrates commitment to domicile as a matter of common sense and as part of the individual's overall circumstances. Factors include, but are not limited to:

(1) Location and duration of registration or payment of taxes or fees on any motor vehicle, mobile home, travel trailer, boat, or any other item or personal property owned or used by the person;

(2) State and duration of any driver's license for the previous one year;

(3) Location and duration of any continuous full-time employment of the previous one year;

(4) Address and other pertinent facts listed on a true and correct copy of federal and state income tax returns for the calendar year prior to the year in which application is made;

(5) Location and duration of any voter registration for the previous one year;

(6) Location and duration of primary residence, evidenced by title, lease agreement, or monthly rental receipts for the previous one year;

(7) Residence status in all secondary and postsecondary schools attended outside the state of Washington;

(8) Location and duration of any checking accounts, savings accounts, and/or safety deposit boxes for the previous one year;

(9) Address listed on selective service registration;

(10) Location of membership in professional, business, civic or other organizations;

(11) Receipt of benefits under a public assistance program;

(12) State claimed as residence for obtaining eligibility to hold a public office or for judicial actions;

(13) State claimed as residence for obtaining state hunting or fishing licenses;

(14) State in which a custodial parent or legal guardian has a child attending public schools.

prior to the year in which the student applies for resident status and for the calendar year in which the student applies for resident status. Living expenses include expenses associated with college tuition. Financial aid grants, scholarships and loans authorized by the financial aid office in the student's name may be considered as personal income. Personal loans, parent PLUS loans, gifts, and cash earnings shall not be counted as income in this calculation.

(5) A trust or other account available to the student shall be considered evidence of financial dependence. If the account was created before the student entered high school, there shall be a rebuttable presumption of dependence.

(6) Information submitted by the student to the institution on the financial aid form may be used to affirm the authenticity of information submitted on an application.

(7) In all cases, the burden of proof that a student is financially independent lies with the student.


**WAC 250-18-045 Administration of residency status.**

Administration of residency status shall be the responsibility of the institution's board of trustees or regents in compliance with RCW 28B.15.011 through 28B.15.014 and chapter 250-18 WAC.

Boards of trustees or regents shall designate an institutional official responsible for making decisions on resident and nonresident status of students, and for maintaining records and documentation in support of such decisions.

Institutions shall use a uniform statewide form consistent with the provisions of chapter 250-18 WAC for the determination of change in resident status.


**WAC 250-18-050 Appeals process.** Any final institutional determination of classification shall be considered a ruling on a contested case and shall be subject to court review only under procedures prescribed by chapter 34.05 RCW.


**WAC 250-18-055 Recovery of fees for improper classification of residency.** To aid the institutions in the determination of accuracy of statements made by a student, institutions shall require that a student affirm the authenticity of all information and supporting documentation provided by the student's signature thereon.

If erroneous, untrue, or incorrect information submitted results in an improper classification of resident or nonresident status, or if a final determination is reversed through a subsequent appeal, institutions shall recover from the student or refund to the student, as the case may be, an amount equal to the total difference in tuition and fees had the proper classification been made.