



establishing California residency

for Tuition Purposes at Humboldt State University

Can I establish California residency?

It is possible to establish resident status while attending Humboldt State University. You need to reside in California at least one continuous year and demonstrate to us your true intent to become a California resident. You also need to have the legal capacity to establish residency.

How do I “demonstrate my intent” to be a California resident?

- Take “residential intent steps.” We don’t dictate what steps you should take, but some typical steps a student might take are: obtaining a California driver’s license or ID, employment in California, registering a vehicle, registering to vote and voting, signing a year-long lease (a month-to-month rental agreement or a nine-month lease are not considered residential intent steps), filing California income tax returns and opening bank accounts in California.
- Relinquish all residential ties to your old state. For example, if you have a driver’s license from your old state, don’t put off getting a California license just because your old license “hasn’t expired yet.” Likewise, if you have a vehicle registered in your old state, don’t delay in re-registering it in California “because it costs so much.”
- Don’t return to your old state for any significant length of time. Short visits are not a problem, but taking a summer job and living at your parents’ house back “home” would cause us to doubt your intent to really make California your permanent home.

When would I need to do these things?

The sooner the better. It takes one year to establish California residency for tuition purposes. Each term has its own, non-changing residence determination date: September 20 for fall term; January 25 for spring term; June 1 for summer term. One year prior to the residence determination date of the term you intend to be considered a California resident, you should have taken all your residential intent steps, including severing all residential ties to your prior state.

What if my parents, who are not California residents, are helping support me financially while I’m attending Humboldt?

Financial independence is a mandatory requirement for all students seeking reclassification from nonresident to resident. In order to be considered financially independent, you must meet the following requirements for the current calendar year and the three preceding calendar years:

- You have not and will not be claimed as an exemption for state and federal tax purposes by your parent, and
- you have not and will not receive more than \$750 per year in financial assistance from your parent, and
- you have not or will not live for more than six weeks in the home of your parent.

What does “you need to have legal capacity” mean?

You must be 19 by the residency determination date to establish your own residency; otherwise your residency is based on that of the parent with whom you last lived. If you are not a US citizen, your status may or may not allow you to establish California residency—please contact us for more specific information.

Once I’m a student at Humboldt, how do I ask for resident reclassification?

Let’s assume you attend Humboldt fall 2009 and spring 2010 as a non-resident and you are trying to establish residency for the fall 2010 term. After February 1, 2010, you would pick up a reclassification packet at the Admissions Center in the Student Business Services Building. Fill out the Residence Reclassification Request Form and attach photocopies of all the residential steps you have taken.

When we evaluate your request, we’ll be looking for residential steps you took prior to September 20, 2009. (Any steps taken after that date will not strongly support your claim for fall 2010 residency.) We’ll also be looking for any ties to your old state you still maintained after September 20, 2009 – these will be negative factors. We might call you during the summer to verify your presence in California. In most cases, we will notify you by email of our residence determination before registration fees are due.

(more)

I have not resided in California for more than a year, but one of my parents is a California resident. Can I be considered a resident?

If this parent claims you as an income tax dependent or can demonstrate court-ordered child support, and if this parent is determined to be a California resident, you might qualify for California residency. We will make an official determination when you apply for admission to the University or when you fill out a Residence Reclassification Request Form. We will need residency information on the California parent and a copy of either the most recent tax return or the child support document.

Who do I contact for more information?

We cannot give you a personal residency evaluation over the phone or without the complete paperwork (either an application for admission or Residence Reclassification Request Form), but if you have a specific question about the residency rules you can call us at (707) 826-4402, or toll-free at (866) 850-9556, or e-mail your question to:

apply@humboldt.edu

Caution: This summary of common questions and answers about residency is by no means a complete explanation of the residency regulations. Changes in the regulations may occur, and there are many additional rules. The law governing residence determination for tuition purposes by the California State University is found in the California Education Code and in Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, sections 41900-41912. A copy of the statutes and regulations is available for inspection at Humboldt's Admissions Office.

Personal Residency Worksheet
(keep for your own records)

Residential Intent Steps in California

Step Taken	Date Taken
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Residential Ties to Other States

Step Taken	Date Relinquished
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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