



RHODE ISLAND

The following information was provided by the University of Rhode Island.

Type and Citation: Regulatory. The Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education determines residency regulations that apply to all RI public colleges and universities

Requirements for Resident Classification: Rhode Island regulations on residency state that emancipated students might achieve resident status by establishing and maintaining residency in the State for one year immediately preceding the first class day of the first term of their registration. Alternatively, at the time of emancipation, the student's parents' and/or permanent guardian's primary residence must have been the state of Rhode Island for one year immediately preceding that first registration. "*Emancipated students*" are defined as those who have attained the age of eighteen years, whose parents/guardians (a) have entirely surrendered the right to the care, custody, and earnings of such students, (b) have not claimed the students as dependents for tax purposes for two years and (c) whose income was not taken into account by any private or governmental agency furnishing financial assistance to the student, including scholarships, loans or otherwise. If any of the aforesaid tests are not met, or if students receive regular financial assistance from their parents/guardian, students are presumed to be unemancipated.

The residency of an unemancipated student, including one whose parents and/or guardians are divorced or legally separated, shall follow that of the parent or guardian who has legal custody or is responsible for the financial support of the student, whichever favors the student's request for resident student status. Students may claim the residence of legally appointed guardians as long as the guardianship was not created for conferring resident student status.

The residency status of spouses is generally determined independently.

Lawful permanent residents and immigrants are eligible to satisfy residency requirements on the same basis as U.S. citizens.

Evidence of Primary Residence, Including but not Limited to: Students from outside Rhode Island who are enrolled at RI public universities for more than six credits per semester are presumed to be in the state for educational purposes and will not be considered for resident status. After residing in Rhode Island for twelve months prior to enrollment, however, nonresidents aged 24 or older may be eligible to prove that they have become *bona fide* residents, as long as they have not been full-time students at any of the 3 state higher education institutions, if (1) they have acquired real or personal property in Rhode Island, (2) have paid municipal and state taxes in Rhode Island, and/or (3) have married a RI resident. These are only supportive factors, however, and will not alone establish *bona fide* residence in Rhode Island. Examples of other factors indicated by the University of Rhode Island include:



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(4) payment of Federal income tax using Rhode Island as a permanent address; (5) military home of record; (6) maintenance of state driver's license, automobile and voter's registration in the state.

Others Eligible for In-State Status: 1) Members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in Rhode Island, their spouses and dependent children, when the first day of class of a term falls within the time period of the members' orders; and 2) refugees who come to Rhode Island directly from a refugee facility or port of debarkation or come to the State one year prior to enrollment and have not established domicile elsewhere.

Temporary Absence from the State: Rhode Islanders who are away from the state temporarily must maintain RI residence during their absence, which is indicated by payment of property tax and state income tax, absentee voting, designation of Rhode Island as military Home of Record, and similar actions.

For specific institutional requirements, contact:

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