

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY
School of Marine Science/Virginia Institute of Marine Science

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR IN-STATE TUITION?

This general information will help clarify the requirements necessary to be eligible for in-state tuition rates in Virginia. It is not intended to cover all situations, but to give a basic understanding of the question of domicile.

DOMICILE

To be eligible for in-state tuition rates, you must be domiciled in Virginia for a minimum of one year before the first official day of classes. Domicile is defined as your “present, fixed home where you return following temporary absences and where you intend to stay indefinitely.” In essence, domicile has two parts, and you must meet both to qualify for in-state tuition. You must reside in Virginia, and you must intend to keep this as your home indefinitely.

As a minor, you have the same domicile as your parents. Once you become 18 years old, you can establish a domicile that is different from your parents. However, if you are over 18 and are financially dependent on your parents, normally your parents must be domiciled in Virginia before you will be eligible for in-state tuition benefits.

FACTORS USED TO DETERMINE DOMICILE

The school will review many factors when determining your domicile; for example:

1. Residence during the past year prior to the first official day of classes
2. State to which income taxes are filed or paid
3. Driver’s license
4. Motor vehicle registration
5. Voter registration
6. Employment
7. Property ownership
8. Sources of financial support
9. Location of checking or passbook savings account
10. Other social or economic ties with Virginia and other states

But, the presence of any or all of these factors does not automatically result in Virginia domicile. The factors used to support a case for in-state tuition benefits must have existed for the one year before the first official day of classes.

RESIDENCE OR PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN VIRGINIA PROMARILY TO ATTEND A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY DOES NOT ENTITLE YOU TO IN-STATE TUITION RATES. IF YOU ENTER AN INSTITUTION CLASSIFIED AS AN OUT-OF-STATE STUDENT, YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO GIVE CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE TO REBUT THE PRESUMPTION THAT YOU ARE IN THE STATE TO ATTEND SCHOOL BEFORE A CHANGE OF STATUS WILL BE GRANTED.

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

If you are a member of a military family, or you are employed full-time in Virginia, but live out of state, special provisions for determining eligibility for reduced tuition rates exist.

Eligibility is governed by section 23-7.4 of the Code of Virginia. The above is not exhaustive, but a general description.