CALIFORNIA RESIDENCY
FOR TUITION PURPOSES

WHO CAN ESTABLISH RESIDENCY?: In order to be eligible for California residency, you must be a United States (U.S.) citizen or hold a U.S. Immigration status that does not preclude you from establishing residency. Under California law, you may be considered a resident if you have both (a) lived in California continuously for at least one year and one day before the semester begins, and (b) proved you intend to make California your new permanent home of residence. Please be aware that there are certain visa types that cannot establish residency.

The following actions are considered as elements of establishing proof of your intent to become a California resident.

Two primary documents OR one primary and one secondary document must be presented to prove residency.

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**PRIMARY DOCUMENTS**

- A valid California Driver’s License OR California Identification Card (issue date must be, at a minimum, a year and a day before the start of the semester/term)
- First two pages of Federal AND California State tax returns (from most recent year unless otherwise stated)
- California Voter Registration (registration date must be, at a minimum, a year and a day before the start of the semester/term)
- Current California Vehicle Registration (must be dated, at a minimum, a year and a day before the start of the semester/term)

**SECONDARY DOCUMENTS**

- California employment pay stubs (one recent and one must be dated, at minimum, a year and a day before the start of the semester.)
- Ownership of residential property OR continuous occupancy of rented or leased property in California (the rental or lease agreement must list your name as either a renter/lessee or occupant)
- Bank Statements with a California address (one recent and one must be dated, at minimum, a year and a day before the start of the semester.)
- Utility bill with a California address (one recent and one must be dated, at minimum, a year and a day before the start of the semester.)
- Non-resident tuition bill for out of state institution
- California Professional License (issue date must be, at a minimum, a year and a day before the start of the semester/term)
- Petition of lawsuit OR divorce in California (petition date must be, at a minimum, a year and a day before the start of the semester/term)

IMPORTANT: Residency regulations are extremely complex. Please be aware that every residency case is different based on the individual’s situation; therefore, the SCC Admissions and Records Office maintains the right to request additional documentation than those listed below. California law stipulates that the burden of proof rests with the student and merely living in California for a year does not support a claim of residency for tuition purposes.