

## **North Carolina Residency Requirements for NC Reach**

### **1. Do I have to be a North Carolina legal resident to qualify for NC Reach?**

In order to be eligible to participate in the NC Reach program, you must be a legal resident of North Carolina. You also must have aged out of the North Carolina foster care program or been adopted out of it after the age of 12. In order to be eligible to participate in the NC Reach program, you must be a legal resident of North Carolina.

### **2. What does it mean to be a North Carolina legal resident to meet the requirements of the NC Reach program?**

You are a legal resident if you:

- can confirm that your parents or legal guardians are residents of North Carolina (a minor's legal residency is usually deemed to be the same as his/her parents or legal guardian). If they are deceased, their death certificates will indicate their residency status.
- have lived continuously in the state for a minimum of 12 months. This period of residency in North Carolina must occur immediately prior to enrolling in a North Carolina public school.
- can demonstrate that you intend to make North Carolina your permanent home in the future. You do this by (do all that apply to you and your situation):
  1. obtaining a North Carolina drivers license,
  2. registering your vehicle in North Carolina (if you have one),
  3. showing current wage earning statements with North Carolina taxes deducted (if you are or have been employed),
  4. showing your listing of personal property taxes, if applicable,
  5. showing student loan agreements and/or financial aid forms, if applicable,
  6. showing copies of your approval for permanent residence status if you are a non-US citizen. This contains the date of approval by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services,
  7. providing a permanent address for your domicile in North Carolina.

### **3. Can I still qualify for NC Reach if my adoptive family moved out of state, but I meet all other program requirements?**

Unfortunately, if you were adopted and moved out of North Carolina, you are no longer a legal North Carolina resident, both for in-state tuition purposes and for NC Reach eligibility. To restore your eligibility, you must reestablish yourself as a North Carolina resident. This takes a minimum of 12 months to achieve, during which you are not eligible for either NC Reach or in-state tuition rates. You must be able to show that you have established a permanent domicile, rather than just establishing a temporary residence for the purpose of acquiring in-state tuition rate eligibility.

### **4. How do I prove that I have established a permanent North Carolina Domicile?**

Individuals who have permanent residence in the state establish stronger “ties” to the state than is typically found with students who have established a temporary home in order to attend college and have no real intention of remaining in North Carolina upon the completion of their studies. The actions listed below are considered when making a determination of your legal residency status:

- What state have you listed as your residence for taxation (both income tax and property tax)?
- Where were you living prior to enrolling in college? How long were you there? non-U.S. citizens
- Where were you working prior to enrolling in college?
- Where do you hold memberships in professional associations, unions, or other organizations?
- Where are you establishing ties to the community?
- Where did you get a driver’s license and register your vehicle, if applicable?
- Where did you register to vote?

The determination of legal residency depends on no one fact, but upon the total accumulated evidence you provide. You must provide more proof than just a statement that you intend to permanently remain in North Carolina.

### **5. Can I appeal a determination that I am not a legal North Carolina resident?**

You may appeal your classification as a non-North Carolina legal resident for in-state tuition purposes by submitting a request to the State Residence Committee. Contact your college’s registrar for specific information on the appeals process.