

Texas Residency FAQs

What is required to prove Texas residency?

The documents required to establish Texas residency depend on how you are claiming domicile in the state. Our office may request any documentation that provides clear and convincing evidence that you (or your parent/spouse, if applicable) have established a permanent residence in Texas for purposes other than education.

To support your claim, our office may ask to submit as many of the following documents as apply to your situation:

Employment-Based Residency

- Verification of 12 months of non-student employment (e.g., employer letter with dates and hours worked, or 12 months of pay stubs)
- Spouse's or parent's employment verification (same documentation as above)

Housing and Property

- Lease agreements or utility bills covering the past 12 months
- Warranty deed for residential property owned in Texas

Education and Tax Records

- Texas high school transcript
- Federal income tax return (first page only; redact SSNs)
- Parent's federal income tax return (if applicable)

Legal and Government Documents

- Marriage certificate
- Unexpired Texas driver's license
- Texas voter registration card
- Military LES (Leave and Earnings Statement)
- Visa or Notice of Action for I-485 (for you or your parent)

Other Supporting Documents

Residency Affidavit (download at bealonghorn.utexas.edu/residency/downloads)

- Letter from employer verifying temporary job assignment outside Texas
- Statement from a Texas college or university confirming prior Texas residency classification

- Personal statement explaining your ties to Texas and intent to make it your permanent home

Note: This is not a comprehensive list, and you are not required to submit every document listed—only those that are relevant to your specific circumstances. However, the more applicable and detailed documentation you provide, the stronger your case for establishing Texas residency will be. Please keep in mind that our office may request additional documentation if your situation is complex or if further clarification is needed during the review process.

What is required to prove lawful presence?

Documents that may demonstrate lawful presence include:

- A valid United States passport
- An unexpired permanent resident card
- A current visa or similar documentation showing current legal status
- An unexpired Texas Driver's License or Identification Card (must be REAL ID-compliant)

Please be aware that submitting the above documentation does not guarantee that you will qualify for in-state tuition.

Why am I classified as a non-resident when I've lived in Texas for years? How can I update or correct my residency status?

Don't worry—some individual college or school admission applications do not require you to complete the Texas Residency section during the initial application process. As a result, you may be automatically classified as a non-resident until you submit the required residency information.

To reclassify your residency status, email a completed [core residency questionnaire](#) with the supporting documentation to admissionsdata@sfasu.edu no later than the first day of classes of the term in which you're seeking reclassification. Any residence status changes after the census day will apply to the following term.

How long does it take for residency status to be updated after submitting documents?

Processing times can vary, especially during peak periods. To help avoid delays, please ensure that all requested documentation is uploaded and clearly labeled to your mySFA portal.

If additional information is needed, our office will contact you directly.

Can I qualify for residency through my parents' employment or domicile?

Yes, you may qualify for residency through your parent(s) or legal guardian if you are claimed as a dependent on their federal income tax return. In this case, your parent or guardian must establish domicile in Texas for you to be eligible for in-state residency classification.

Establishing domicile typically means your parent or guardian lives and works in Texas for reasons other than education and intends to make Texas their permanent home.

Supporting documentation may be required to verify this status.

If your parent or legal guardian resides in another state and claims you as a dependent, you are not eligible to establish Texas residency—unless you qualify based on high school domicile in Texas or your parent is temporarily away from the state. However, if your parent or legal guardian resides in Texas and is eligible to claim you as a dependent, you may be eligible for Texas residency.

What if my parent is no longer employed – can I still qualify as a dependent resident?

Yes, it is still possible to qualify for Texas residency through your parent even if they are no longer employed, as long as they have established and maintained domicile in Texas.

To be considered a Texas resident as a dependent, your parent must:

- Have lived in Texas for at least 12 consecutive months, and
- Be able to show they've established a primary residence in Texas—this can include evidence such as property ownership, lease agreements, utility bills, or other documentation that demonstrates long-term intent to remain in the state.
- While employment is one way to establish domicile, it is not the only factor. The state considers a variety of indicators to determine whether someone has made Texas their permanent home.

If your parent meets these criteria and you are claimed as a dependent on their federal tax return, you may still be eligible for in-state residency classification.

Does my residency status affect financial aid or tuition rates?

Questions about how your residency status specifically affects your tuition bill or financial aid package should be directed to the appropriate offices:

Contact The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for [financial aid](#) questions. The office can provide the most accurate and up-to-date information based on your individual situation.

How do I know if my documents were received?

If you uploaded your documents through the residency portal or submitted them via UT Box as requested, rest assured they have been received. However, please note that a staff member must manually re-review your application to ensure all required documentation is complete.

We ask that you allow up to four weeks for this review process once your documents have been submitted. If additional information is needed, we will contact you directly.

Thank you for your patience as we carefully review your materials.

How do immigration or visa statuses (e.g., parolee, refugee) affect residency eligibility?

Certain immigration and visa statuses may allow non-U.S. citizens to establish domicile in Texas and qualify for in-state tuition. Eligibility depends on your specific status and whether you meet the state's requirements for establishing residency.

You may be eligible to establish domicile in Texas if you are:

- A Lawful Permanent Resident (green card holder)
- A person who has filed an I-485 application for permanent residency and received a receipt or Notice of Action (I-797) from USCIS
- A holder of an eligible nonimmigrant visa, such as:

- A, E, G, H-1B, I, K, L, N, NATO, or other qualifying categories

However, individuals on F-1/F-2, J-1/J-2, or TN/TD visas are not eligible to establish domicile for residency purposes.

If you are a refugee, asylee, or parolee, you may also be eligible depending on your documentation and ability to demonstrate intent to reside in Texas long-term.

To determine your eligibility, you'll need to submit the Residency Questionnaire along with supporting immigration documentation. Each case is reviewed individually.