How to establish yourself as an Iowa Resident

for tuition and fee purposes

The University of Iowa

You must:

• Live in Iowa, working 20 hours per week (average) to support yourself, for 12 consecutive months (a full year).

• Obtain your own Iowa documents—driver's license, voter registration, and register your vehicles (if any) in Iowa a month after arriving in Iowa.

• Enroll no more than half-time.

  Undergraduate students are limited to:
  Maximum 6 s.h. during Fall
  Maximum 6 s.h. during Spring
  Maximum 4 s.h. during Summer

  Graduate students are limited to:
  Maximum 5 s.h. during Fall
  Maximum 5 s.h. during Spring
  Maximum 4 s.h. during Summer

• Be sure that Iowa taxes are withheld from your pay and begin filing your own annual Iowa resident income tax returns. (Using an Iowa-based tax preparer is strongly recommended. Watch for the Tippie College of Business VITA group for free tax preparation help.)

• Cease being claimed as a dependent by your parents (or anyone else) on tax returns in any other state.

Submission dates for filing the Application for Resident Classification

New Fall residents—submit application by July 1.

New Spring residents—submit application by Nov. 1.

New Summer residents—submit application by Apr. 1.

It is to your advantage to submit your application at the times shown above.

Missing the suggested submission date means that you will initially receive a nonresident bill and be obligated to pay it. If you meet the deadline later and are determined to be eligible as a resident, a credit will be applied to your University account.

Applications for the current semester will NOT be accepted after the 15th day of class.

Although the process can be started at any time, the majority of individuals choose to begin working to establish residency around August 20 of a given year. In that case, they hope to be residents for the Fall semester of the following year and should submit their thoughtfully completed and signed Application for Resident Classification after the initial (part-year) tax returns have been filed—even before their 12 consecutive, qualifying months end. The earliest you could be eligible as a resident is the next semester after your 12 consecutive, qualifying months.

Additional helpful hints are available at: registrar.uiowa.edu/residency-helpful-hints

Mistakes that will disqualify you

Common mistakes resulting in denial of resident status include:

• Working in another state (for example, returning to your former state in mid-December and resuming your old job during the holiday season).

• Excessive absences or not being able to prove that you were living and working in Iowa for 12 consecutive months.

• Poor (or no) documentation: no lease, rent checks, or utility bills because you were living with a friend/relative, or no verifiable employment during summer or winter breaks, etc.

Remember, it is your responsibility to update your residing (local) address using ISIS within three days of moving.

Things to consider

Establishing yourself as an Iowan has tuition benefits. However, you and your family should consider:

• What it means to your family's finances if your parents can no longer claim you as a dependent on their income tax returns;

• The impact reduced (or no) enrollment will have for you in reaching your academic goals in a timely manner. For example, does your intended program or major admit students each semester or just once each year?

• The burden of establishing that you are in Iowa for reasons other than education falls on you. This means that you must keep good personal financial records. Keep copies of your lease(s), pay stubs, income tax returns, initial Iowa driver's license, etc. These documents or signed affidavits may be requested to support your Application for Resident Classification.

• A student who gives incorrect or misleading information to evade payment shall be subject to serious disciplinary action and must also repay the nonresident fees. (Iowa Administrative Code)