Things to Consider

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

*what it means to your parents’ finances to lose you as a dependent off their income tax returns; and

*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
### You must:

- Live and work in Iowa, supporting yourself for 12 consecutive months (a full year).
- A month after arriving in Iowa, obtain your own Iowa documents: driver’s license, voter registration and register your vehicles (if any) in Iowa.
- Enroll *no more than* half-time. For an undergraduate:
  - Maximum 6 s.h. during Fall,
  - Max. 6 s.h. during Spring,
  - Max. 4 s.h. during Summer. Graduate students are limited to no more than 5 sh (Fall), 5 sh (Spring) and 4 sh (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 Application for Resident Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Submission Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Summer residents</td>
<td>submit in late March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Fall residents</td>
<td>submit during the first week in June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Spring residents</td>
<td>submit during late October</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 would be applied to your University account.

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

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Although this process can be started at any time, the majority of individuals choose to begin working to establish their Iowa residency between August 1st and August 15th 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 during the first week in June of that following year – even before their 12 consecutive, qualifying months ends! The earliest you could be eligible as a Resident is the next semester after your 12 consecutive, qualifying months!

### 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 the entire 12 consecutive months. (You may visit family or friends for a long weekend or a week...certainly not multiple weeks!)
- Poor (or no) documentation: no lease because you were “couch-surfing,” no rent checks or utility bills because you were “living with a friend/relative,” no verifiable employment during Summer or Winter breaks, etc.
- Excessive enrollment during the 12 consecutive months necessary to qualify.

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