

Residency Information

The California Education Code states that all public institutions of higher education shall apply uniform rules in determining a student's residency classification. Therefore, each student applying for admission to Cypress College will be classified as a resident or nonresident of California. (California Education Code, Sections 68000-68084, 68120-68143, and 76140).

Tuition Fee for Nonresident Students

If you have not been living in California with intent to make it your permanent home for more than one year immediately before the residence determination date for each term in which you propose to attend the college, you must pay a nonresident tuition fee in addition to all other fees. The residence determination date is one year and one day before the first day of the applicable term.

Who is a Resident?

If you are an adult (other than an alien in a nonimmigrant status that precludes you from establishing domicile in the U.S., such as a B,C,D,F,H,J, or M visa) and you want to be classified as a resident for tuition purposes, you must have established residence in California more than one year immediately preceding the residence determination date for the term during which you propose to attend the college. You must also have given up any previous residence more than one year before the residence determination date, and you must present objective evidence that you have intended for more than one year before the residence determination date to make California your permanent home. You must demonstrate both presence and intent for one full year before the residence determination date. Physical presence within the state solely for educational purposes does not constitute the establishment of California residence, regardless of the length of your stay. Your residence cannot be derived from that of your spouse or your parents, if you are over 19 years of age.

Establishing Intent to Become a California Resident

Indications of your intent to make California your permanent residence can include the following: registering to vote and voting in California elections; designating California as your permanent address on all school and employment records, including military records if you are in the military service; maintaining a California driver's license, or if you do not drive, a California Identification Card; obtaining California vehicle registration; paying California income taxes as a resident, including taxes on income earned outside California from the date you establish residence; establishing a California residence in which you keep your personal belongings; and obtaining a license for professional practice in California. Documentary evidence is required and all relevant information will be considered in determining your classification.

General Rules Applying to Minors

If you are an unmarried minor (under age 18), the residence of the parent with whom you live is considered to be your residence. If you have a parent living, you cannot change your residence by your own act, by the appointment of a legal guardian, or by the relinquishment of your parent's right of control. If you lived with neither parent, your residence is that of the parent whom you last lived. Unless you are present in the U.S. under the terms of a nonimmigrant visa that precludes you from establishing domicile in the U.S. (see above), you may establish your own residence when both your parents are deceased and a legal guardian has not been appointed. If you derive California residence from a parent, that parent must satisfy the one-year duration residence requirements.

Exemptions from Nonresident Tuition

1. Member of the Military

If you are a member of the U.S. military stationed in California on active duty, unless you are assigned for educational purposes to a state-supported institution of higher education, you may be exempt from the nonresident tuition fee until you have lived in California long enough to become a resident under the regular procedure. You may be asked to provide a statement from your commanding officer or personnel officer stating that your assignment to active duty to California is not for educational purposes. The letter should include the dates of your assignment to the state.

2. Spouse or Other Dependents of Military Personnel

You are exempt from payment of the nonresident tuition fee if you are: a spouse, a natural or adopted child, or stepchild who is a dependent of a member of the U.S. military stationed in California on active duty. This exemption is available until you have lived in California long enough to become a resident under the regular procedure. You must petition for a waiver of the nonresident tuition fee each term you are eligible. If you are enrolled in an educational institution and the member of the military is transferred on military orders to a place outside California where he or she continues to serve in the armed forces, or the member of the military retires from active duty immediately after having served in California on active duty, you may retain this exemption until you have lived in California long enough to become a resident under the regular procedure.

Reclassification

You must petition in person at the Admissions and Records Office for a change of classification from nonresident to resident status. You must initiate the petition prior to the first day of classes for the semester for which you seek reclassification.

Inquiries and Appeals

Additional detailed resident information is included in the current college catalog, available for purchase in the college bookstore or for review in the college library or Admissions and Records Office. Inquiries regarding residence requirements should be directed to the Admissions and Records Office.

You are cautioned that this information is NOT a complete explanation of the law regarding residence. Please note that changes in the residence requirements may be made between the publication of this information and the relevant residence determination date.

