Tuition Classification

Regents’ Policies Governing Classification of Students for Tuition Purposes: Under the Constitution and the laws of Georgia, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia was created to govern, control, and manage a system of public institutions providing quality higher education for the Georgia citizens. The State, in turn, receives substantial benefit from individuals who are attending or who have attended these institutions through their contributions to the civic, political, economic and social advancement of the citizens of Georgia. Because of the overwhelming amount of financial support supplied by the citizens of Georgia, the determination of whether a student is a resident or a non-resident of Georgia is a significant matter. The tuition paid by in-state students covers about one-fourth of the total cost of their education in Georgia. Georgia taxpayers are therefore contributing 75 percent of the funds for quality education in the state. State colleges and universities often assign out-of-state students a higher tuition rate in an attempt to charge out-of-state students higher rates. The courts have consistently upheld the right of these institutions to charge out-of-state students higher rates. The courts have also upheld the institution’s right to adopt reasonable criteria for determining in-state status. Through the resident and non-resident fees, the taxpayers of Georgia are assured that they are not assuming the financial burden of educating non-permanent residents.

Verification of Lawful Presence

Each University System institution shall verify the lawful presence in the United States of every successfully admitted person applying for resident tuition status as defined in Section 7.3 of the University System of Georgia Board of Regents Policy Manual which can be found at http://www.usg.edu/policymanual/.

Institutions may use a number of different methods to verify the lawful presence of their students. The methods include the following:

- A Certified U.S. Birth Certificate showing the student was born in the U.S. or a U.S. territory. A photocopy is not acceptable.
- A U.S. Certificate of Naturalization (USCIS form N-550 or N-570).
- A U.S. Certificate of Citizenship (USCIS form N-560 or N-561).
- A U.S. Certificate of Birth Abroad issued by the Department of State (DS-1350) or a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (FS-240).
- A current U.S. Passport.
- A current Driver’s License issued by the State of Georgia after January 1, 2008 for a term greater than two years.
- A current ID issued by the State of Georgia after January 1, 2008.
- A current Military ID (service member only, not dependent). A photocopy is not acceptable.
- A current, valid Permanent Resident Card (USCIS form I-151 or I-551)

Due to the requirement that a person prove his/her intent to become a legal resident of Georgia, his/her petition may not be approved. The burden of proof is always on the student, and documentation is absolutely necessary to prove any claims. If his/her petition for legal residency for tuition purposes is denied, the student may appeal the decision to the Tuition Classification Committee.

TERM DEADLINES for submitting a Petition for Classification of Students for Tuition Purposes:
- Fall - August 1st
- Spring - November 1st
- Summer - April 1st

Student Responsibilities

1. Student Responsibility to Register under Proper Classification

- The responsibility of being classified under the proper tuition classification belongs to the student. If there is any question of his/her right to in-state tuition status, it is his/her obligation, within the deadlines set on the Residency website, to raise the question with the administrative officials of the institution in which he/she is registering and have it officially determined. The burden always rests with the student to submit information and documents necessary to
support his/her contention that he/she qualifies for a particular tuition classification under Regents' regulations.

2. **Official Change of Tuition Status** - Every student classified as a nonresident shall retain that status until he/she petitions for reclassification in the form prescribed by the institution and shall be officially reclassified in writing as an in-state student by the proper administrative officers. No more than one application may be filed for a given semester.

3. **Reclassification** - Every student who has been granted in-state tuition as a legal resident of Georgia shall be reclassified as an out-of-state student whenever he/she reports, or there have been found to exist, circumstances indicating a change in legal residence to another state.

### Out-of-State Tuition Waivers

An institution may waive out-of-state tuition and assess in-state tuition for:

1. **Academic Common Market**, Students selected to participate in a program offered through the Academic Common Market (http://www.usg.edu/academics/academic_common_market).

2. **International**, International students selected by the institutional president or an authorized representative, provided that the number of such waivers in effect does not exceed two percent of the equivalent full-time students enrolled at the institution in the fall term immediately preceding the term for which the out-of-state tuition is to be waived.

3. **University System Employees and Dependents**, Full-time employees of the University System, their spouses, and their dependent children.

4. **Full-Time Public School Employees**, Full-time employees in the public schools of Georgia or of the Technical College System of Georgia, their spouses, and their dependent children.

5. **Career Consular Officials**, Career consular officials, their spouses, and their dependent children who are citizens of the foreign nation that their consular office represents and who are stationed and living in Georgia under orders of their respective governments.

6. **Military Personnel**, Military personnel, their spouses, and their dependent children stationed in or assigned to Georgia and on active duty. The waiver can be retained by the military personnel, their spouses, and their dependent children if:
   a. The military sponsor is reassigned outside of Georgia, and the student remains continuously enrolled and the military sponsor remains on active military status;
   b. The military sponsor is reassigned out of state and the spouse and/or dependent children remain in Georgia and the sponsor remains on active military duty; or
   c. Active military personnel and his/her spouse and/or dependent children who are stationed in a state contiguous to the Georgia border and who live in Georgia.

7. **Border County Residents**, Residents of an out-of-state county bordering a Georgia county in which the reporting institution or a Board-approved external center of the University System is located may apply for a waiver of non-resident (out-of-state) tuition assessment. Georgia Southern University graduate students who live in an out-of-state county that borders Chatham County in Georgia, Jasper and Beaufort, SC and attend graduate classes at the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah are eligible for this waiver. Also, Georgia Southern University graduate students who attend the Augusta Center in Augusta, Georgia and are majoring in the Ed.D. Education Administration and who live in an out-of-state county that borders Richmond County in Georgia, (Aiken and Edgefield, SC) are eligible for this waiver.

8. **Georgia National Guard and U.S. Military Reservists**, Active members of the Georgia National Guard, stationed or assigned to Georgia or active members of a unit of the U.S. Military Reserves based in Georgia, and their spouses and their dependent children.

9. **International and Domestic Exchange Program**, Any student who enrolls in a University System institution as a participant in an international or domestic direct exchange program that provides reciprocal benefits to University System students.

10. **Economic Advantage**, As of the first day of classes for the term, an Economic Advantage waiver may be granted under the following conditions:
   - U.S. Citizens, Permanent Residents, and Other Eligible Non-Citizens
     i. **Dependent Students**
        - Dependent students providing clear and convincing evidence that the student’s parent or U.S. court-appointed legal guardian relocated to the state of Georgia to accept full-time, self-sustaining employment. The relocation must be for reasons other than enrolling in an institution of higher education and appropriate steps to establish domicile in the state must be taken. The employment upon which the relocation was based must be held at the time the waiver is awarded.
     ii. **Independent Students**
        - Independent students providing clear and convincing evidence that they, or their spouse, relocated to the state of Georgia to accept full-time, self-sustaining employment. The relocation to the state must be for reasons other than enrolling in an institution of higher education and appropriate steps to establish domicile in the state must be taken. The employment upon which the relocation was based must be held at the time the waiver is awarded.
     iii. **U.S. Refugees, Asylees, and Other Eligible Noncitizens**
        - The same consideration for the Economic Advantage waiver as citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States.

Waiver eligibility for the above qualifying students expires twelve (12) months from the date the waiver is awarded.

- **Non-Citizens**
  - i. **Dependent Students**
     - Non-citizen dependent students providing clear and convincing evidence that the student’s parent or U.S. court-appointed legal guardian relocated to the state of Georgia to accept full-time, self-sustaining employment and entered the state in a valid, employment-authorized status. The relocation must be for reasons other than enrolling in an institution of higher education and appropriate steps to establish domicile in the state must be taken. The employment upon which the relocation was based must be held at the time the waiver is awarded. Additionally, the non-citizen dependent student must provide clear evidence that the parent, or U.S. court-appointed legal guardian, is taking legally permissible steps to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the United States.
  - ii. **Independent Students**
     - Non-citizen independent students must provide clear and convincing evidence that they, or their spouse, relocated to the state of Georgia to accept full-time, self-sustaining employment and entered the state in a valid, employment-authorized status. The relocation must be for reasons other than enrolling in an institution of higher education and appropriate steps to establish domicile in the state must be taken. The employment upon which the relocation was based must be held at the time the waiver is awarded. Additionally, non-citizen independent students must provide clear evidence that they, or their spouse, are taking legally permissible steps to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the United States.
Eligibility:

three consecutive terms (one academic year).

waiver, the active duty military member will be awarded the waiver for
University System of Georgia institutions. If approved to receive the
This fee waiver eliminates the Special Institutional Fee charged by

Duty U.S. Military Students

Special Institutional Fee Waiver

Special Admission for Students Age 62 and Older.

See Special Admission for Students Age 62 and Older (http://
catalog.georgiasouthern.edu/archive/2016-2017/graduate/student-
services/graduate-admissions/special-admission-students-age-62-
older) in the Graduate Admissions section of the catalog.

Special Institutional Fee Waiver

Special Institutional Fee Waiver for Active Duty U.S. Military Students

This fee waiver eliminates the Special Institutional Fee charged by
University System of Georgia institutions. If approved to receive the
waiver, the active duty military member will be awarded the waiver for
three consecutive terms (one academic year).

Eligibility:

• Members of the United States Reserve Components serving on active
duty or full-time training duty.

• Members of the Georgia National Guard who are employed full-time
by the Georgia National Guard.

• Members of the Georgia National Guard who have been called into
active service by the Governor of the State of Georgia.

Waiver of Mandatory Fees

Waiver of Mandatory Fees for U.S. Military Reserve and Georgia National Guard Combat Veterans

1. Eligibility. Eligible participants must be Georgia residents who are
active members of the U.S. Military Reserve and/or the Georgia
National Guard and were deployed overseas for active service in a
location or locations designated by the U.S. Department of Defense
as combat zones on or after September 11, 2001 and served for a
consecutive period of 181 days, or who were evacuated due to severe
injuries as a result of injuries received in such combat zone, or were evacuated
from such combat zone due to severe injuries during any period of
time while on active service. Additionally, eligible participants must
meet the admissions requirements of the applicable USG institution
and be accepted for admission.

2. Benefits. Eligible participants shall receive a waiver of all mandatory
fees charged by USG institutions including, but not limited to,
termination fees, student health services fees, parking
and transportation (where such fees are mandated for all students),
technology fees, student activity fees, fees designated to support
leases on facilities such as recreation centers, parking decks, student
centers and similar facilities, and any other such mandatory fees for
which all students are required to make payment. Students receiving
this waiver shall be eligible to use the services and facilities these
fees are used to provide. This benefit shall not apply to housing, food
service, any other elective fees, special fees or other user fees and
charges (e.g., application fees).

An institution may waive mandatory fees, excluding technology fees, for:

1. Students who reside or study at another institution.

2. Students enrolled in practicum experiences (e.g., student teachers) or
internships located at least 50 miles from the institution.

3. Students enrolled in distance learning courses or programs who are
not also enrolled in on-campus courses nor residing on campus. If a
student is enrolled in courses from more than one institution during
the same term, only the home institution will charge the approved
technology fee to the student. Students who participate in distance
education offerings as transient students will not be charged a
technology fee by the transient institution. No separate technology
fee shall be established for collaborative distance learning courses or
programs.

4. Students enrolled at off-campus centers, except that the institution
shall be authorized to charge select fees to these students for special
services subject to approval by the Board of Regents.