

**Domicile**

**Policy Number:** 602

**Categorized:** [Student Services](#)

**Responsible Office:** VP Student Services

**Subject:** Policies and Procedures for Determining Eligibility for in-State Tuition

**Related Policies:** N/A

**Procedures:** [602P](#)

**Additional Information:**

**Effective Date:**

**Last Reviewed Date:** 04/27/2021

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**1. Scope**

This applies to all current and prospective students of Northern Virginia Community College.

**2. Policy Statement**

Students who have been legally domiciled in Virginia for at least one year prior to the first day of classes for a term are eligible to pay tuition at the in-state rate. Domicile means the present, fixed home of an individual who returns following temporary absences and at which he/she intends to stay indefinitely. Domicile is NOT the same thing as residence. A person may have residences in more than one state, but may have only one domicile.

With certain exceptions, students under the age of 24 are rebuttably presumed to have their parents' or legal guardians' domicile. All students are initially presumed to be out of state and must establish through clear and convincing evidence that they qualify for in-state tuition. The domicile determination made by one college is not binding on any other college the student may attend.

The following are eligible to establish domicile:

- a. All US citizens
- b. Permanent Residents (green card holders)
- c. Asylees
- d. Refugees
- e. Individuals under Temporary Protective Status
- f. Holders of certain nonimmigrant visas
- g. Individuals under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

In addition, there are special provisions for active duty military, veterans, and their families that allow them to pay in-state tuition without meeting normal domicile requirements.

### **3. Definitions**

Domicile: the present, fixed home of an individual who returns following temporary absences and at which he/she intends to stay indefinitely. Domicile is NOT the same thing as residence.

Independent student: A student under 24 who is a veteran or an active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces; is a graduate school or professional school student; is married; is a ward of the court or was a ward of the court until age 18; has no adoptive or legal guardian when both parents are deceased; has legal dependents other than a spouse; is able to present clear and convincing evidence of financial self-sufficiency; is the US citizen child of ineligible parents; or was approved for DACA at least one year before the first day of classes for the term.

### **4. Procedures**

See [602P](#).

### **5. Authority**

[State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Guidelines for Determining Domicile and Eligibility for In-State Tuition Rates](#)

[Code of Virginia, § 23.1-510](#)

VCCS Policy 6.1 Student Domicile

VCCS Policy 4.3 Student Charges