

# Military Service & Residency

in the Florida College System

## What is the Florida College System?

The Florida College System is a network of 28 community colleges, colleges and state colleges serving nearly a million Floridians.

It is the primary access point to higher education for Floridians, offering an array of programs designed to prepare students for entry into the workforce or opportunities to continue their education.

[Find a college near you!](#)

## > What do I need to know about Florida residency for tuition purposes?

Students who are classified as Florida residents for tuition purposes pay a lower cost per credit hour than students who are non-residents. Residents may also have access to scholarships and grants that are not available for non-residents.

The Florida legislature establishes the requirements for [Florida residency for tuition purposes](#). Based on the law, each Florida college is required to make residency determinations based on the documentation provided by the student.

## > How does my status as an active duty member of the military affect my residency status?

Active duty members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, any current reservists, and active Florida National Guard are afforded some residency protections under Florida law.

The following military personnel are classified as residents for tuition purposes:

- Active duty members of the Armed Services of the United States residing or stationed in Florida (and spouse/dependent children) and active drilling members of the Florida National Guard.
- Military personnel (and spouse/dependent children) not stationed in Florida whose home of record or state of legal residence certificate is Florida (as noted on an approved DD Form 2058, State of Legal Residence Certificate, or a Leave and Earning Statement, also called an LES or the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Form 702).
  - An individual shall not lose his or her resident status solely by reason of his/her service or, if the individual is a dependent child, his/her parent's service in the Armed Forces outside this state.
- Active duty members of the Armed Services of the United States and their spouses/dependent children attending a public community college or university within 50 miles of the military establishment where they are stationed, if such military establishment is within a county contiguous to Florida, shall be classified as residents.

## > I am currently assigned to a military base in Florida but I have not lived here for 12 months. Am I still eligible to be considered a resident for tuition purposes?

Yes. Under Florida law you are considered a Florida resident for tuition purposes.

### > I am currently assigned to a military base in Florida, but I am living across the border in a different state. Am I eligible for residency status for tuition purposes?

Maybe. If you attend Florida college within 50 miles of the military establishment where you are stationed that is within a county that borders Florida, you are eligible to be considered a Florida resident for tuition purposes.

### > I am a resident of Florida but I have been assigned to duty in a different state/country. Am I eligible to be considered a Florida resident for tuition purposes?

Yes. If your home of record or state of legal residence on your military forms is certified as Florida, you are considered a Florida resident for tuition purposes.

Here are some forms you could use to verify your Florida residency:

- DD Form 2058
- State of Legal Residency Certificate
- Leave and Earning Statement (LES)
- Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Form 702

### > Are my family members eligible for residency status as well?

Yes, your spouse or dependents are eligible for all the same protections described above under Florida law.

### > I am a veteran of the armed services. Does this mean that I am eligible to be considered a resident for tuition purposes?

Veterans must meet the same residency requirements as other students who are not automatically considered Florida residents for tuition purposes. However, a recently-discharged veteran may be eligible for residency if his or hers home of record is Florida.

Residency is important because the Veterans Administration and GI Bill only provide support for in-state tuition and fee costs at public institutions. [Find out more information on the post-9/11 GI Bill and the Yellow Ribbon Program.](#)

#### More Resources

> [New GI Bill](#)

> [Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs \(FDVA\)](#)

> [Veteran Diploma Program](#)

> [Service to Scholars Program](#)

> [Veterans Information](#)

> [Deferral of Fees](#)