

## **Independent/Dependent for Residency for Tuition Purposes**

**Independent**—a student who meets any one of the following criteria shall be classified as an independent student for the determination of Residency for Tuition Purposes (students who are 24 years of age or older by the first day of classes of the term for which residency status is sought at a Florida institution will automatically be considered independent—copy of Florida Driver's License is required to show proof of age):

1. The student provides 50% or more of the cost of attendance for independent, in-state students as defined by the financial aid office of the institution
  - a. Copy of student's tax return showing income
  - b. Indication/proof that no one else can claim the student as their dependent or copy of parent or legal guardian's tax return (step-parent tax returns are not acceptable)
2. The student is married; provide copy of one of the following:
  - a. Marriage certificate/license
  - b. Insurance information showing marital status
  - c. Most recent tax return showing marital status
3. The student has children who receive more than half of their support from the student
  - a. Copy of tax returns showing support of children who live with and receive more than half of their support from the student (black out social security numbers and income figures)
4. The student has other dependents who live with and receive more than half of their support from the student
  - a. Copy of tax returns showing support of other dependents who live with and receive more than half of their support from the student (black out social security numbers and income figures)
5. The student is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces or is currently serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces for purposes other than training
  - a. Copy of military orders or discharge papers
6. Both of the student's parents are deceased or the student is or was (until age 18) a ward/dependent of the court
  - a. Copies of legal documents showing student is/was a ward/dependent of the courts
7. The student is working on a master's or doctoral degree during the term for which residency status is sought at a Florida institution
  - a. Official transcript from institution where student is pursuing the degree
8. The student is classified as an independent by the financial aid office at the institution

**Dependent**—All other students who do not meet the above definition of an independent student shall be classified as dependent students for the determination of residency for tuition purposes.

**Note: Tax returns are used to determine dependence and independence only. For dependent students, parent/guardian tax returns must have income information and social security number information blacked out. For independent students, please do not black out income information as verification of minimum income required is needed.**