

MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

**FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
Section 708**

SUBJECT: QUALIFICATION FOR IN-STATE TUITION RATE

PURPOSE: To define residency status for tuition assessment

A. Introduction

This policy defines the category of students and/or student applicants (hereinafter collectively “students”) who qualify for the MCCA in-state tuition rate.

B. Policy

The following students qualify for the MCCA in-state tuition rate.

1. Students who have established a Maine residence within the meaning of this policy.
 - a. For purposes of this policy, a student has established a “Maine residence” if the student established a primary residence in Maine for at least the 12 consecutive months immediately prior to the date of admission (not application, registration or enrollment). For purposes of this policy, “primary residence” means the student’s primary physical presence, degree of settled connections and sincere regard for that domicile as home.
 - b. All factors and circumstances relating to determination of residency are considered on a case-by-case basis. The burden is on the student to prove primary residency in Maine. Evidence of such residence includes, but is not limited to, driver’s license, voter registration, marriage license or domestic registration, signed residential lease, mortgage, property taxes, utility bills, state or federal income tax filing, or letter on letter head from a nonprofit entity or government agency attesting that the student resides in Maine.
2. Students who are claimed as dependents for tax purposes by a parent or other guardian, provided such claimant(s) are themselves residents within the meaning of this policy.
3. Students who are:
 - a. Members of the Armed Forces during their period of active duty in Maine, or who are claimed as dependents by members of the Armed Forces during such member’s period of active duty in Maine.

- b. A spouse or dependent child of an Armed Forces member on active duty who is assigned to duty out of Maine immediately following assignment to duty in Maine as long as the student is continuously enrolled at a community college.
4. Students who are married to, or domestically registered with, a person who is a resident within the meaning of this policy, provided that the student intends to establish and maintain a domicile in Maine.
5. Students who qualify through a special MCCA program that otherwise grants in-state rate access.
6. Students who for other compelling reasons are determined by the college president to qualify for the in-state rate.

Students, other than New Brunswick Community College students for whom there is specific agreement, who are not legal citizens or legal residents of the United States do not qualify for the MCCA in-state tuition rate.

C. Mid-Semester Change in Status

A student's classification for resident or non-resident tuition shall apply for the entire semester for which the classification was made and shall not be changed once a semester commences, provided that erroneous classifications may be reviewed and addressed as a college determines is appropriate.

D. Temporary Absence from the State

Maine residents who are absent from the State for military or full-time educational purposes will normally remain eligible for in-state tuition, provided such persons continue during such period of temporary absence to claim Maine as their state of residency on all official documents and declare income earned out-of-state on Maine income tax returns.

REFERENCES: 20-A M.R.S.A. §12706(7); 20-A M.R.S.A. §10010-A

DATE ADOPTED: June 24, 2009

DATE(S) AMENDED: June 22, 2011; November 29, 2012; January 24, 2018; November 17, 2021