

St. Mary's College of Maryland
Policy on Student Residency Classification
for Admission, Tuition Charge, and Differential Purposes

I. POLICY

A. Purpose

To extend the benefits of its system of higher education while encouraging the economical use of the State's resources, it is the policy of the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) to recognize the tuition categories of in-state and out-of-state students for the purpose of admission and assessing tuition at SMCM.

B. Burden of Proof

The person seeking in-state status shall have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that he or she satisfies the requirements and standards set forth in this Policy. Assignment of in-state or out-of-state status will be made by SMCM upon a review of the totality of facts known or presented to it.

C. In-state Status

To qualify for in-state tuition, a student must demonstrate that, for at least twelve (12) consecutive months immediately prior to and including the last date available to register for courses in the semester/term for which the student seeks in-state tuition status, the student had the continuous intent to:

1. Make Maryland his or her permanent home; and
2. Abandon his or her former home state; and
3. Reside in Maryland indefinitely; and
4. Reside in Maryland primarily for a purpose other than that of attending an educational institution in Maryland.

Satisfying all of the requirements in Section II (and Section III, when applicable) of this policy demonstrates continuous intent and qualifies a student for in-state tuition.

Students not entitled to in-state status under this policy shall be assigned out-of-state status for admission and tuition purposes.

D. Presumption

Either of the following circumstances raises a presumption that the student is residing in the State of Maryland primarily for the purpose of attending an educational institution and therefore, does not qualify for in-state status under this policy:

1. A student is attending school or living outside Maryland at the time of application for admission to SMCM, or
2. A student is financially dependent on a person who is not a resident of Maryland.

This presumption may be rebutted. The student bears the burden of rebutting the presumption. See "III. Rebuttal Evidence" below.

II. REQUIREMENTS

Before a request for classification to in-state status will be considered, a student must comply with all of the following requirements for a period of at least twelve (12) consecutive months immediately prior to and including the last date available to register for courses in the semester/term for which the student seeks in-state tuition status. The student must demonstrate he or she:

- A. Owns or possesses, and has continuously occupied, including during weekends, breaks and vacations, living quarters in Maryland. The student must provide evidence of a genuine deed or lease and documentation of rent payments made. In lieu of a deed or lease, a notarized affidavit from a landlord showing the address, name of the student as occupant, term of residence, and history of rent payments made will be considered. As an alternative, a student may demonstrate that he or she shares living quarters in Maryland which are owned or rented and occupied by a parent, legal guardian or spouse.
- B. Has substantially all of his or her personal property, such as household effects, furniture and pets in Maryland.
- C. Has paid Maryland income tax on all taxable income including all taxable income earned outside the State and has filed a Maryland tax return.
- D. Has registered all owned or leased motor vehicles in Maryland.
- E. Possesses a valid Maryland driver's license, if licensed.
- F. Is registered to vote in Maryland, if registered to vote.
- G. Receives no public assistance from a state other than the State of Maryland or from a city, county or municipal agency other than one in Maryland.
- H. Has a legal ability under Federal and Maryland law to live permanently without interruption in Maryland.
- I. Has rebutted the presumption that he or she is in Maryland primarily to attend an educational institution, if the student's circumstances have raised the presumption.

III. REBUTTAL EVIDENCE

Satisfying the requirements listed in paragraphs 1-8 of Section II, does not rebut the presumption that a student is in Maryland primarily to attend an educational institution. To overcome the presumption, a student must present additional evidence.

To determine a student's intent, SMCM will evaluate evidence of a student's objectively verifiable conduct. Evidence that does not document a period of at least twelve (12) consecutive months immediately prior to and including the last date available to register for courses in the semester/term for which the student seeks in-state tuition status is generally considered an unfavorable factor under this policy. Evidence of intent must be clear and convincing and will be evaluated not only by the amount presented but also based upon the reliability, authenticity, credibility and relevance of the evidence.

The absence of objective, relevant evidence is generally considered an unfavorable factor. A student's statement of intent to remain in Maryland in the future is generally not considered to be objective evidence under this policy.

Additional evidence that will be considered includes, but is not limited to, the following:

A. Source of financial support:

1. Maryland employment and earnings history through sources beyond those incident to enrollment as a student in an educational institution (e.g., beyond support provided by work study, scholarships, grants, stipends, aid, student loans, etc.), or
2. Evidence the student is financially dependent upon a person who is a resident of Maryland.

B. Substantial participation as a member of a professional, social, community, civic, political, athletic or religious organization in Maryland that is not University-related or otherwise incident to enrollment as a student in an educational institution.

C. Registration as a Maryland resident with the Selective Service, if male.

D. Evidence showing the student uses his or her Maryland address as his or her sole address of record for all purposes including on health and auto insurance records, bank accounts, tax records, loan and scholarship records, school records, military records, leases, etc.

E. An affidavit from a person unrelated to the student that provides objective, relevant evidence of a student's conduct demonstrating the student's intent to live permanently in Maryland.

IV. NON-RESIDENTS WHO MAY TEMPORARILY QUALIFY FOR IN-STATE STATUS

In addition, persons with the following status shall be accorded the benefits of in-state status for the period in which they hold such status:

A. A full-time or part-time (at least 50 percent time) regular employee of SMCM.

B. The spouse or financially dependent child of a full-time or part-time (at least 50 percent time) regular employee of SMCM.

C. An active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the spouse or a financially dependent child of such an active duty member.

D. A veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who provides documentation that he or she was honorably discharged and currently resides or is domiciled in Maryland.

E. A veteran who resides in Maryland (regardless of his/her formal State of residence) and is pursuing a course of education with educational assistance under 38 U.S.C. §3001 or 38 U.S.C. §3301.

F. An individual using educational assistance under chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) who lives in the State of Maryland while attending a school located in the State of Maryland (regardless of his/her formal State of residence).

G. An spouse or child using transferred benefits, provided that:

1. the individual is entitled to and pursuing a course of education with the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, 38 U.S.C. §3319; and
 2. the individual currently resides in Maryland, regardless of his/her formal State of residence.
- H. Anyone using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (38 U.S.C. § 3311(b)(9)) who lives in Maryland while attending school (regardless of his/her formal State of residence).
- I. A member of the Maryland National Guard, as defined in the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, who joined or subsequently serves in the Maryland National Guard to: (i) provide a critical military occupational skill; or (ii) be a member of the Air Force Specialty Code as determined by the National Guard.
- J. Anyone using transferred Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits (38 U.S.C. § 3319) who lives in Maryland (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) while attending school and the transferor is a member of the uniformed service who is serving on active duty.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. An initial determination of in-state status will be made at the time of admission. The determination made at that time, and any determination made thereafter, shall prevail for each semester/term until the determination is successfully challenged in a timely manner.
- B. A change in status must be requested by submitting a "Petition for Change in Classification for Tuition" to SMCM. A student applying for a change to in-state status must furnish all evidence that the student wishes SMCM to consider at the time the petition is due. The due date the last published date to register for the forthcoming semester/term for which the change in classification is sought.
- C. The student shall notify SMCM in writing within fifteen (15) days of any change in circumstances which may alter in-state status.
- D. In the event incomplete, false, or misleading information is presented, SMCM may, at its discretion, revoke in-state status and take disciplinary action provided for by the institution's policy. Such action may include suspension or expulsion. If in-state status is gained due to false or misleading information, the institution reserves the right to retroactively assess all out-of-state charges for each semester/term affected.
- E. SMCM shall develop and publish additional procedures to implement this Policy. Procedures shall provide that on written request the institution President or designee has the authority to waive any requirement set forth in Section II if it is determined that the application of the requirements creates an unjust result. These procedures shall be filed with the Office of the President.

VI. DEFINITIONS

- A. Financially Dependent: For the purposes of this policy, a financially dependent student is one who is claimed as a dependent for tax purposes.
- B. Parent: A parent may be a natural parent, or, if established by a court order recognized under the law of the State of Maryland, an adoptive parent.
- C. Guardian: A guardian is a person so appointed by a court order recognized under the law of the State of Maryland.
- D. Spouse: A spouse is a partner in a legally contracted marriage.
- E. Child: A child is a natural child or a child legally adopted pursuant to a court order recognized under the law of Maryland.
- F. Regular Employee: A regular employee is a person employed by SMCM who is assigned to a State budget line or who is otherwise eligible to enroll in a State retirement system. Examples of categories NOT considered regular employees are graduate students, contingent employees, and independent contractors.
- G. Continuous Enrollment:
 - 1. Undergraduate Student - An undergraduate student who is enrolled at SMCM for consecutive fall and spring semesters, until completion of the student's current degree program or unless on an approved leave of absence or participating in an approved program off-campus.
 - 2. Graduate and Professional - Continuous enrollment for a graduate or professional student is defined by the institution in accordance with program requirements.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION

This policy as amended by the Board of Trustees on October 16, 2021 shall be applied to all student tuition classification decisions made on or after this date.