

Residency Classification Scenarios

Example 1 – Reclassification by Marriage

At the time she applied to the UTHSC Doctor of Dental Science (DDS) program, Judy lived in Missouri. As a result, she was classified as an out-of-state resident for tuition/fee purposes. Between the time of her application and of her acceptance into the DDS program, Judy married Brad, a Tennessee resident, and moved to Memphis to reside with him. Judy contacted the Office of Enrollment Services and explained her situation.

- Resolution: Judy’s Admissions Counselor classified her as an out-of-state resident based on the information provided in her application¹. In this case, Judy’s residency status can be changed to in-state without her having to go through a formal appeal process. Judy was asked to provide copies of her marriage license, her Tennessee driver’s license, and her Tennessee leasing agreement to the Office of Enrollment Services. Once these have been received and processed, Judy will be reclassified as a Tennessee resident and will be expected to pay in-state tuition.

Example 2 – Recent Move to Tennessee

After receiving the news that he had been classified as a non-resident (Louisiana having been listed as his state of “permanent residence”), Frank contacted the UTHSC Admissions Counselor and informed her that he lives in Memphis and that he moved here six months prior to his expected enrollment date in July. Frank also explained that since he lives here now and plans to live here indefinitely, even after he completes school, he expects to be classified as an in-state resident for tuition/fee purposes.

- Resolution: Since Frank applied to the UTHSC before moving to Memphis, his residency classification will be based on his Louisiana address. As such, Frank will not be reclassified as an in-state resident for tuition/fee purposes. UT Residence Guidelines do not allow reclassification of individuals from out-of-state to in-state for tuition/fee purposes if the move to Tennessee was made for the purpose of attending school here. Frank will be discouraged from submitting a Residency Application.

Example 3 – Parents’ Change of Address

After receiving the news that she had been classified as a non-resident, Cassandra contacted a UTHSC Admissions Counselor and explained her situation. Having grown up in Johnson City, TN, Cassandra had for the last four years attended the University of Tennessee-Knoxville as a full-time, in-state student. However, during her time at UTK, her parents had moved to Mississippi for employment reasons. Although she listed her parent’s address as her “permanent address,” Cassandra had never actually lived in Mississippi.

- Resolution: Cassandra’s residency status will be changed to in-state by the Admissions Counselor. No further action by Cassandra is required.

¹ The applicant’s permanent address at the time of application is the key, initial residency qualifier, provided that the individual is a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or has a J1 Visa.

Example 4 – Former Tennessean from Georgia

When she learned that she had been classified as an out-of-state student for tuition/fee purposes as the result of her Georgia residency at the time of application, LaTanya was surprised and disappointed. Although she had lived and worked in Atlanta since her UT-Chattanooga college graduation two years earlier, LaTanya had grown up in Franklin, Tennessee. She explained that while she is no longer a dependent, her parents still live in her hometown of Franklin and that she considers herself a Tennessean.

- Resolution: LaTanya’s residency classification status will remain out-of-state. Emancipated students are classified on the basis of their residency at the time of application. Since LaTanya was a wage-earning Georgia resident at the time of her application, she was classified as out-of-state for tuition/fee purposes.

Example 5 – International Student Living in Tennessee

Since he had a pending *green card* application (I-485) and had lived in Nashville with relatives for two years prior to making application to the UTHSC, Hassan expected to be classified as an in-state student for tuition/fee purposes when he had applied for the PhD program in the College of Graduate Health Sciences. However, since Hassan’s application states that he is a citizen of Lebanon and since he does not yet have a *green card* (i.e., permanent residency status), a UTHSC Admissions Counselor classified Hassan as out-of-state for tuition/fee purposes.

- Resolution: Hassan was advised that his status would remain out-of-state for tuition/fee purposes until he obtains permanent residency in the U.S. Once he has his *green card*, he can then work with the Office of Enrollment Services, beginning with an Admissions Counselor, to be reclassified as in-state based on his Nashville residence. In the meantime, Hassan would be counseled not to submit a Residency Application to the UTHSC.

Example 6 – Spouse of Visa Holder

Rama’s husband works at St. Jude and holds an H1-B Visa. She is considering applying to the MS in Epidemiology program in the College of Graduate Health Sciences. If accepted, Rama plans to attend on a part-time basis. Since her residency classification will impact the amount of tuition and fees she will be expected to pay, Rama decides to contact the Office of Enrollment Services before applying.

- Resolution: The Guidelines seem somewhat inconsistent in this situation. As the spouse of an individual holding an H1-B Visa (or a J-1 Visa) working full-time in Tennessee, Rama will be classified as in-state for tuition/fee purposes, provided that she attends the UTHSC on a part-time basis. However, were she to decide to become a full-time student, she would be reclassified as out-of-state for tuition/fee purposes.

Example 7 – Residency Bordering Tennessee

Megan has lived in Olive Branch, MS, for several years. During the interview process, while talking with a couple of current UTHSC students, Megan “heard” that “some out-of-state students from counties near Memphis” had been classified as in-state residents at the UTHSC for tuition/fee purposes. Megan was disappointed when she received notification from the Office of Admissions that she had been classified as out-of-state for tuition/fee purposes. Based on the informal information she had received from some of her peers and the noteworthy

difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition rates, Megan made up her mind that she would do whatever it took to be granted in-state classification.

- Resolution: Megan will not be reclassified as an in-state student. While residency classification guidelines at some state schools, including the University of Memphis, allow students from nearby counties to be classified as in-state for tuition/fee purposes, UT System guidelines do not². Megan will be discouraged from submitting a Residency Application.

Example 8 – One Year at UTHSC

Russell is an excellent student who grew up and attended undergraduate school in Arkansas. While he was understandably classified as an out-of-state student when he was accepted at the UTHSC, Russell “thought” that once he was a full-time UTHSC student and had lived in Tennessee for a full year he would be reclassified as an in-state student beginning in year 2 of his 4-year curriculum. When that did not happen, Russell decided to contact the Office of Enrollment Services and find out the facts.

- Resolution: Russell’s residency classification will remain out-of-state. UT System Guidelines make no provision for becoming a Tennessee resident for tuition/fee purposes while enrolled in a UT System school as a full-time student. Russell will be discouraged from submitting a Residency Application.

Example 9 – Tennessee Employment

Cindy lives in West Memphis, AR, but works full-time across the bridge in Memphis as she has for several years. While she was aware that her almost-in-Tennessee “permanent address” was not enough for her to be granted in-state classification at the UTHSC, she thought that her nearby address combined with her Tennessee working career might. Before applying, Cindy decided to contact the Office of Enrollment Services for clarification.

- Resolution: Cindy’s official residency classification status will be out-of-state, but as a full-time Tennessee employee she will be expected to pay tuition/fees as if she were a Tennessee resident as long as she attends the UTHSC on a part-time basis. Interestingly, if she decides to become a full-time UTHSC student at some point, she will be expected to pay out-of-state tuition and fees.

Example 10 – Military Personnel

David is a permanent resident of North Carolina, but is on active duty with the U.S. Navy and stationed in Millington, just north of Memphis. David is aware that his “permanent address” is not in Tennessee, but thought that his active military status and Navy deployment in Tennessee would result in an in-state classification. After applying to the UTHSC, David was disappointed when he received notification that he had been classified as out-of-state and decided to contact the Office of Enrollment Services for clarification.

- Resolution: David’s residency classification will remain out-of-state. However, his active military status and Tennessee deployment are sufficient for him to be granted in-state status for tuition/fee purposes³.

² Rationale for decisions such as this one occurs as part of the political process, outside the walls of academia.

³ UT System Resident Classification Guidelines, paragraph 4, #5: *“Military personnel and their spouses stationed in the State of Tennessee who should be classified out-of-state in accordance with other provisions of these regulations will be classified out-of-state but shall not be required to pay out-of-state tuition.”*

David will be asked to provide proof of his current military deployment orders, after which the Office of Enrollment Services will reclassify him as in-state for tuition/fee purposes.

Example 11 – Established Residency

A lifelong Texas resident and University of Texas graduate, Chris moved to Memphis and began working at a local restaurant after meeting his sister's former roommate, who happened to live in Memphis. After moving to Tennessee, Chris leased an apartment, obtained a Tennessee driver's license, registered his car, and registered to vote. Six months later, Chris applied to the UTHSC's Clinical Nurse Leader program. After applying, Chris received notification that he had been classified as an in-state student.

- Resolution: None needed. Chris was pleased to learn that his short time in Tennessee was sufficient to establish in-state residency status at the UTHSC. Since Chris moved to Tennessee prior to applying to the college/program of his choice, he was granted in-state status for tuition/fee purposes without the need for additional documentation.

Example 12 – Subsequent Move

Having been a Tennessee resident for several years, Kate began the four-year UTHSC Doctor of Pharmacy program with an in-state classification. Midway through her second year, Kate and several of her closest friends moved to an apartment complex in Olive Branch, MS. After the move, Kate realized she had moved outside Tennessee and feared this move might result in her being reclassified as out-of-state for tuition and fee purposes. Before officially changing her mailing address, Kate decided to contact Enrollment Services and ask her question "hypothetically."

- Resolution: Kate need not have worried. Since she was classified as in-state based on her permanent residence at the time of application, Kate will retain that classification for the duration of her DPharm program studies. (Note: If Kate continues to live in Olive Branch after her graduation from Pharmacy school and, as an "emancipated" student, later decides to apply for another UTHSC program, she will be classified as out-of-state for tuition and fee purposes.)