In-State Tuition Classification Status

General Information

The State of Colorado partially subsidizes the cost of tuition for all students whose domicile, or permanent legal residence, is in Colorado. Each Mines student is classified as either an “in-state resident” or a “non-resident” at the time of matriculation. These classifications, which are governed by Colorado law, are based upon information furnished by each student on his or her application for admission to Mines. A student who willfully furnishes incorrect information to Mines to evade payment of non-resident tuition shall be subject to serious disciplinary action.

It is in the interest of each graduate student who is a U.S. citizen and who is supported on an assistantship or fellowship to become a legal resident of Colorado at the earliest opportunity. Typically, tuition at the non-resident rate will be paid by Mines for these students during their first year of study only. After the first year of study, these students may be responsible for paying the difference between resident and non-resident tuition.

Requirements for Establishing In-State Residency

The specific requirements for establishing residency for tuition classification purposes are prescribed by state law (Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 23, Article 7). Because Colorado residency status is governed solely by Colorado law, the fact that a student might not qualify for in-state status in any other state does not guarantee in-state status in Colorado. The tuition classification statute places the burden of proof on the student to provide clear and convincing evidence of eligibility.

In-state or resident status generally requires domicile in Colorado for the year immediately preceding the beginning of the semester in which in-state status is sought. “Domicile” is “a person’s true, fixed and permanent home and place of habitation.” An unemancipated minor is eligible for in-state status if at least one parent (or his or her court-appointed guardian) has been domiciled in Colorado for at least one year. If neither of the student’s parents are domiciliaries of Colorado, the student must be a qualified person to begin the one-year domiciliary period. A “qualified person” is someone who is at least twenty-two years old, married, or emancipated. A student may prove emancipation if:

1. The student’s parents have entirely surrendered the right to the student’s custody and earnings;
2. The student’s parents are no longer under any duty to financially support the student; and
3. The student’s parents have made no provision for the continuing support of the student.

To begin the one-year domiciliary period, a qualified person must be living in Colorado with the present intention to reside permanently in Colorado. Although none of the following indicia are determinative, voter registration, driver’s license, vehicle registration, state income tax filings, real property interests, and permanent employment (or acceptance of future employment) in Colorado will be considered in determining whether a student has the requisite intention to permanently reside in Colorado. Once a student’s legal residence has been permanently established in Colorado, he or she may continue to be classified as a resident student so long as such residence is maintained, even though circumstances may require extended temporary absences from Colorado.

For more information about the requirements for establishing in-state residency, please contact the Registrar’s Office.

Petitioning for In-State Tuition Classification

A continuing, non-resident student who believes that he or she has become eligible for in-state resident tuition due to events that have occurred subsequent to his or her initial enrollment may file a Petition for In-State Tuition Classification with the Registrar’s Office. This petition is due in the Registrar’s Office no later than the first day of the semester for which the student is requesting in-state resident status. Upon receipt of the petition, the Registrar will initially decide whether the student should be granted in-state residency status. The Registrar’s decision may be appealed by petition to the Tuition Classification Review Committee. For more information about this process, please contact the Registrar’s Office (http://inside.mines.edu/Petitioning-for-In-State-Tuition-Classification).

In-State Tuition Classification for WICHE Program Participants

WICHE, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, promotes the sharing of higher education resources among the participating western states. Under this program, residents of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming who are enrolled in qualifying graduate programs may be eligible for in-state tuition classification. Current qualifying programs include:

- Applied Chemistry (Ph.D.)
- Chemistry (M.S.)
- Engineering Systems (M.S. and Ph.D.)
- Environmental Science & Engineering (M.S. and Ph.D.)
- Geochemistry (M.S. and Ph.D.)
- Geological Engineering (M.S., M.E., and Ph.D.)
- Hydrology (M.S. and Ph.D.)
- Mineral Economics (M.S. and Ph.D.)
- Mining and Earth Systems Engineering (M.S. and Ph.D.)
- Petroleum Engineering (M.S. and Ph.D.)

Contact the Office of Graduate Studies (http://inside.mines.edu/Graduate_School) for more information about WICHE.