**TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID**

**Introduction**

Penn State participates in the major federal and state grant, loan and work-study programs. These funding sources make up the majority of all student aid funding with education loans the largest program. Eligibility is determined based on information on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (https://fafsa.gov). Student aid funds are awarded based on each applicant’s relative financial need until all funds are exhausted. Program regulations limit the University’s ability to make exceptions to the eligibility criteria.

**Student Aid and Scholarships Policy**

As a public university, Penn State receives limited support from the state.

Undergraduate enrollment across all Penn State campuses exceeds 90,000 a year. An outstanding academic experience for our students comes at a cost, and the University recognizes that Penn State may not be affordable to all who wish to enroll.

While Penn State continues to build its scholarship endowment, available funds do not yet reach all deserving students. Student aid, including education loans, can help defray some costs, but students and parents have the primary responsibility of paying educational expenses. Students and their families are encouraged to devise a financial plan for this important investment and to determine the level of education loan debt that both student and families are willing to incur.

**Tuition and Costs**

To view the most current costs for attending Penn State, including tuition and associated expenses, visit the Office of Student Aid (https://studentaid.psu.edu) website.

MORE INFORMATION (https://studentaid.psu.edu/tuition-costs)

**Residency Classification for Tuition Purposes**

**Effective March 1, 2015**

**Pennsylvania Classification**

A student shall be classified as a Pennsylvania resident for tuition purposes if that student has a Pennsylvania domicile and that student’s presence in Pennsylvania is not primarily for educational purposes. Domicile is a person’s existing and intended fixed, permanent, and principal place of residence. A student whose presence in the Commonwealth is primarily for educational purposes shall be presumed to be a non-Pennsylvania resident for tuition purposes. Thus, most non-residents who come to Pennsylvania for the primary purpose of attending the University will ordinarily continue to be classified as non-residents for purposes of tuition throughout their attendance at the University. The following are considerations that may be used by the University in determining whether a student is a resident for tuition purposes:

1. A student under the age of 21 is presumed to have the domicile of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s), unless the student has maintained continuous residence in the Commonwealth for other than educational purposes for a period of at least 12 months immediately prior to his/her initial enrollment at The Pennsylvania State University, and, the student continues to maintain such separate residence.
2. A student who has resided in the Commonwealth for other than educational purposes for at least a period of 12 months immediately preceding his/her initial enrollment at The Pennsylvania State University is presumed to have a Pennsylvania domicile.
3. A student who has not resided continually in Pennsylvania for a period of 12 months immediately preceding his/her initial enrollment at The Pennsylvania State University is presumed to have a non-Pennsylvania domicile.
4. A student requesting to be classified as a Pennsylvania resident for tuition purposes must be a citizen of the United States or a permanent resident. Permanent residents must have received the I-551 stamp approving their permanent resident status. An individual in a nonimmigrant status with the USCIS is not eligible for classification as a Pennsylvania resident for tuition purposes. Other extraordinary circumstances, which may qualify a student as a Pennsylvania resident for tuition purposes, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
5. A United States government employee or member of the armed forces who was a resident of Pennsylvania immediately preceding his/her entry into government service and who has continuously maintained Pennsylvania as his/her domicile will be presumed to have a Pennsylvania domicile.
6. Military personnel and their dependents who are assigned to an active duty station in Pennsylvania and who reside in Pennsylvania shall be charged in-state tuition rates.
7. A student receiving a scholarship, guaranteed loan, grant, or other form of financial assistance dependent upon residence in a state other than Pennsylvania is not a Pennsylvania resident for tuition purposes.

**Reclassification as Pennsylvania Resident**

A student requesting reclassification as a Pennsylvania resident for tuition purposes must demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that his/her domicile is in Pennsylvania, and that his/her presence in Pennsylvania is not primarily for educational purposes. Each request shall be decided individually on the basis of all facts submitted by the petitioner. Accordingly, it is not possible to list a specific combination of factors or set of circumstances which, if met, would ensure reclassification for tuition purposes.

**Reclassification Procedure**

1. A student may challenge his/her residence classification by filing a written petition with the person or committee designated to consider such challenges at the University. Such person or committee shall consider such petition and render a timely decision that shall constitute an exhaustion of administrative remedies.
   a. The University reserves the right to require transcripts of tax filings from the Internal Revenue Service or Commonwealth of Pennsylvania rather than taxpayers’ copies of those returns and also to require notarized statements as needed.
2. Any reclassification resulting from a student’s challenge or appeal shall be effective at the beginning of the semester or session during which the challenge or appeal was filed or at the beginning of the following semester or session. The decision as to which semester or session becomes the effective date shall rest with the person or committee rendering the decision on reclassification.
3. A student who changes his/her place of residence from Pennsylvania to another state is required to give prompt written notice of this...
change to the University and shall be considered for reclassification as a non-Pennsylvanian for tuition purposes effective with the date of such change.

4. A dependent resident student whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) move outside of the Commonwealth may remain a Pennsylvania resident for tuition purposes if he/she continues to maintain a separate domicile within the Commonwealth.

**Nonresident Student Classification**

1. A student is initially classified as a nonresident based on information provided by the student when applying for admission to the University. The initial classification is made as follows:
   1. Undergraduate Student
      1. Penn State Harrisburg — Penn State Harrisburg Academic Services Officer
      2. All other locations — Undergraduate Admissions Office, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16804-3000
   2. Graduate Student
      1. Penn State Harrisburg — Penn State Harrisburg Academic Services Officer
      2. All other locations — Dean of the Graduate School
   3. Medical Student
      1. Office of Student Affairs, The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center

2. A student may challenge his/her residency classification by filing a written petition as follows:
   1. Undergraduate Student
      1. Penn State Harrisburg — Penn State Harrisburg Financial Officer
      2. All other locations — Residency Appeal Officer, University Park
   2. Graduate Student
      1. Penn State Harrisburg — Penn State Harrisburg Financial Officer
      2. All other locations — Residency Appeal Officer, University Park
   3. Medical Student
      1. Controller, The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center

3. The appropriate University official reviews the student’s petition and makes a decision.

4. The student may appeal that officer’s residency decision to the University Appeals Committee on Residence Classification having representation from the Corporate Controller’s Office, Undergraduate Admissions Office, and the Graduate School. The committee’s decision on appeal shall be final.

**False Statements**

Any student who provides false or misleading information or deliberately conceals or omits relevant facts in connection with a residency application or appeal will be subject to disciplinary action. In addition, such students will be subject to retroactive reclassification as a non-residents and will be responsible for the payment of non-resident tuition and fees for the period during which he/she was classified as a resident.

**Please Note:** A page of frequently asked questions concerning residency classification for tuition purposes can be found on the Office of the Bursar website (http://www.bursar.psu.edu/faq.cfm). Type the word “Residency” on the Search FAQ box.

How to Apply for Financial Aid

Submission of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (https://fafsa.ed.gov) is the only action required to apply for most financial aid at Penn State, however, some private scholarships and Penn State scholarships require separate applications.