Regulations for Classifying Students
In-State and Out-of-State
For The Purpose of Paying College or University Fees and Tuition and for Admission Purposes
TBR Policy No. 3:05:01:00

PARAGRAPH 1. Intent.
It is the intent that the public institutions of higher education in the State of Tennessee shall apply uniform rules, as described in these regulations and not otherwise, in determining whether students shall be classified "in-state" or "out-of-state" for fees and tuition purposes and for admission purposes.

PARAGRAPH 2. Definitions.
Wherever used in these regulations:

1) "Public higher educational institution" shall mean a university or community college supported by appropriations made by the Legislature of this State.

2) "Residence" shall mean continuous physical presence and maintenance of a dwelling place within this State, provided that absence from the State for short periods of time shall not affect the establishment of a residence.

3) "Domicile" shall mean a person's true, fixed, and permanent home and place of habitation; it is the place where he or she intends to remain, and to which he or she expects to return when he or she leaves without intending to establish a new domicile elsewhere.

4) "Emancipated person" shall mean a person who has attained the age of eighteen years, and whose parents have entirely surrendered the right to the care, custody, and earnings of such person and who no longer are under any legal obligation to support or maintain such deemed "emancipated person."

5) "Parent" shall mean a person's father or mother. If there is a non-parental guardian or legal custodian of an unemancipated person, then "parent" shall mean such guardian or legal custodian; provided, that there are not circumstances indicating that such guardianship or custodianship: was created primarily for the purpose of conferring the status of an in-state student on such unemancipated person.

6) "Continuous enrollment" shall mean enrollment at a public higher educational institution or institution of this State as a full-time student, as such term is defined by the governing body of said public higher educational institution or institutions, for a normal academic year or years or the appropriate portion or portions thereof since the beginning of the period for which continuous enrollment is claimed. Such person need not enroll during summer sessions or other such intersession beyond the normal academic year in order that Iris or her enrollment be deemed "continuous" notwithstanding lapses in enrollment occasioned solely by the scheduling of the commencement and/or termination of the academic years, or appropriate portion thereof, of the public higher educational institutions in which such person enrolls.


1) Every person having his or her domicile in this State shall be classified "in-state" for fee and tuition purposes and for admission purposes.

2) Every person not having his or her domicile in this State shall be classified "out-of-state" for said purposes.

3) The domicile of an unemancipated person is that of his or her parent. Unemancipated students of divorced parents shall be classified "in-state" when one parent, regardless of custodial status, is domiciled in Tennessee.

4) The spouse of a student classified, as "in-state" shall also be classified "in-state."

PARAGRAPH 4. Out-of-State Students who are not required to pay Out-of-State Tuition.

1) An unemancipated, currently enrolled student shall be reclassified out-of-state should his or her parent, having theretofore been domiciled in the State, remove from the State. However, such student shall not be required to pay out-of-state tuition nor be treated as an out-of-state student for admission purposes so long as his or her enrollment at a public higher educational institution or institutions shall be continuous.
Dependent children who qualify and are selected to receive a scholarship under the Dependent Children Scholarship Act (TCA 49-4-704) because their parent is a law enforcement officer, fireman, or emergency medical service technician who was killed or totally and permanently disabled while performing duties within the scope of their employment shall not be required to pay out-of-state tuition.

Students who are selected to participate in the institutions' Honors programs.

Active-duty military personnel who begin working on a college degree at a TBR institution while stationed in Tennessee or at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and who are transferred or deployed prior to completing their degrees, can continue to completion of the degrees at the same institution without being required to pay out-of-state tuition, as long as he/she completes at least one (1) course per credit each twelve (12) month period after the transfer or deployment. Exceptions may be made in cases where the service member is deployed to an area of armed conflict for periods exceeding twelve (12) months.

Students who participate in a study abroad program, when the course/courses in the study abroad program is/are the only course/courses for which the student is registered during that term, shall not be required to pay out-of-state tuition.

Students who are awarded tuition waiver scholarships for participation in bona fide campus performance-based programs, according to established guidelines, shall not be required to pay out-of-state tuition.

PARAGRAPH 5. Presumption.

Unless the contrary appears from clear and convincing evidence, it shall be presumed that an emancipated person does not acquire domicile in this State while enrolled as a full-time student at any public or private higher educational institution in this State, as such status is defined by such institution.

PARAGRAPH 6. Evidence to be Considered for Establishment of Domicile.

If a person asserts that he or she has established domicile in this State he or she has the burden of proving that he or she had done so. Such a person is entitled to provide to the public higher education institution by which he seeks to be classified or reclassified in-state, any and all evidence which he or she believes will sustain his or her burden of proof. Said institution will consider any and all evidence provided to it concerning such claim of domicile but will not treat any particular type or item of such evidence as conclusive evidence that domicile has or has not been established.

PARAGRAPH 7. Appeal.

The classification officer of each public higher education institution shall be responsible for initially classifying students "in-state" or "out-of-state." Appropriate procedures shall be established by each such institution by which a student may appeal his or her initial classification.

PARAGRAPH 8. Effective Date of Reclassification.

If a student classified out-of-state applies for in-state classification and is subsequently so classified, his or her in-state classification shall be effective as of the date on which reclassification was sought. However, out-of-state tuition will be charged for any quarter or semester during which reclassification is sought and obtained unless application for reclassification is made to the admissions officer on or before the last day of registration of that quarter or semester.

PARAGRAPH 9. Effective Date.

These regulations supersede all regulations concerning classification of persons for fees and tuition and admissions purposes previously adopted by the Tennessee Board of Regents, and having been approved by the Governor, become effective July 1, 1983, or upon their becoming effective pursuant to the provisions of T.C.A. Section 4-5-101 et. seq. as amended.

TBR Policy No. 5:01:04:10
Classification of Employees, Their Spouses and Children, and Graduate Assistants for Purposes of Fees and Tuition.

The following policies shall be applicable to all regular full-time employees, their spouses and children, and graduate assistants at institutions in the State University and Community College System for classification for purposes of fees and tuition:

(1) All regular full-time employees, their spouses and children, shall be classified as in-state students for purposes of fees and tuition when enrolled in courses at any institution in the State University and Community College System.