



## 2025-2026 Establishing/Maintaining Residency for State Grants

The State of North Carolina determines residency for purposes of state financial aid through its Residency Determination Service (RDS) website (<https://www.ncresidency.org>). You must be determined to be a resident of North Carolina via RDS before you may be considered for any financial aid from the state.

Before answering the questions, you may need some of the information below:

**Driver’s License identification number**

**Federal/state tax returns Status**

**Voter Registration**

**NC License Plate Number**

Immigration Court Order

Permanent Resident card

Information about any government assistance program (Medicaid, SNAP, Free or Reduced Lunch, TANF, or WIC)

Military Leave and Earning Statement (LES)

I-797 Notice of Approval from USCIS

Places of employment

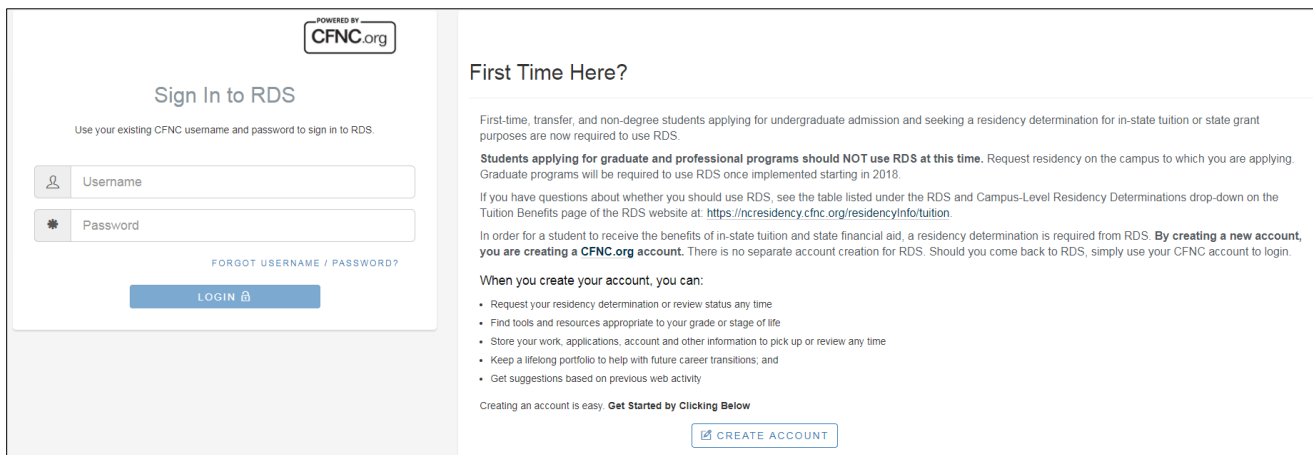
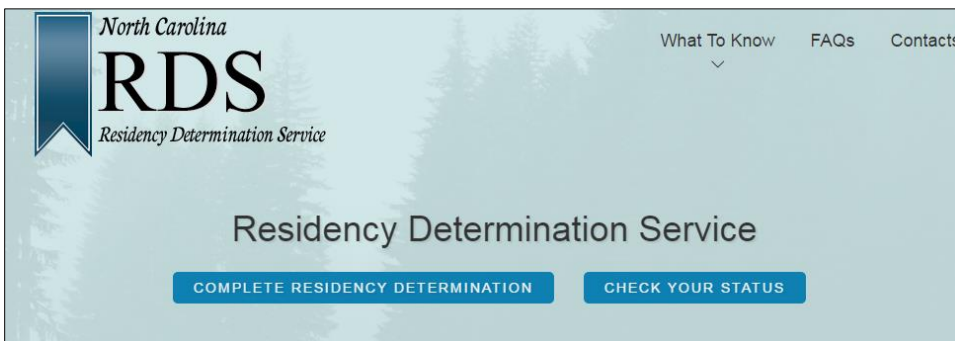
Conditional Green Card

Housing status

Marriage certificate

### PLEASE FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW TO COMPLETE:

1. Access [www.NCresidency.org](http://www.NCresidency.org) and select “Complete Residency Determination.” Enter in your login information, which is the same login information you used from the College for North Carolina (CFNC). If you do not have an account, please click on “Create an Account.”



2. Read the “Tips for Completing Your Residency Determination” and check the box of understanding the helpful hints when ready. Then read the “Consent and Authorization,” check the box of agreement and click to start the request.

## TIPS FOR COMPLETING YOUR RESIDENCY DETERMINATION

You are about to begin a new North Carolina residency determination request. Tips for completing your residency request include:

- The average interview takes 10-12 minutes to complete. [Click here](#) for information about data and documentation you may need to gather before starting the interview.
- Do NOT use your browser Back and Forward navigation arrows. Use only the Continue or Make Changes buttons on the interview page. You will be able to review and make changes to your request.
- You may exit your residency request and resume later. The information you enter will be saved after each section you complete. You have 25 days to complete your request. If you do not complete your request within 25 days, you will need to start a new request.
- RDS works best with the latest versions of Google Chrome, Internet Explorer and Firefox browsers. Use of other browsers may affect functionality.

I understand the helpful hints

### CONSENT AND AUTHORIZATION

North Carolina General Statute section 116-143.1 sets forth the specific standards for determining resident status for tuition purposes. Session Law 2015-241 authorized the State Education Board to coordinate and centralize the process to apply the criteria in G.S. §116-143.1 and directed the state college and university systems to take the necessary actions to facilitate an orderly and centralized process.

I understand that the Residency Determination Service ("RDS") will validate the information that I provide. The validation process supports the determination of residency and helps to ensure that my classification is complete. If validation of my information fails, my residency status will be "non-resident" and "out-of-state" tuition rate will apply.

I understand and acknowledge that the Residency Determination Service may require me to submit my own personal information and personal information from my parent(s), legal guardian(s), or spouse. I have obtained each and all of their individual consents and authorizations to disclose this information.

I certify that before I submit any information from my parent(s), legal guardian(s), or spouse, I have obtained each and all of their individual consents and authorizations to disclose this information.

I Agree

[CLICK HERE TO START REQUEST](#)

3. Review your profile information and click agree if the information is correct. If it is not correct, please click on "Edit Profile" before continuing.

4. Continue through each screen answering the questions carefully. Commonly asked questions may include:

- Do you live in your parent's home?
- Where were, or are, you permanently employed?
- Where are you registered to vote?
- What are your sources of financial support?
- Where have you registered your vehicle?
- Which state issued your current driver's license or state I.D. card?
- Where do you own a home or other real estate that serves as your primary residence?
- Where did you file state income tax returns?
- Where did you last attend high school?

5. Your determination status is completed when you receive a Residency Certification Number (RCN) **and ALL** of your pending documents have been submitted by the deadline given.

**\* THIS MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM THE FIRST DAY OF THE SEMESTER ENROLLED. If you do not submit the pending documents by the deadline given, your determination will be changed to non-resident. \***

**\*\* You cannot make changes until the interview process is completed in its entirety. You have 25 days after starting to finish the interview questions. After 25 days or an incomplete interview, you must start again. \*\***

If you do not agree with your classification you may request a reconsideration or RDS Appeal. For reconsideration or appeal, click "Need to Update your Determination for your campus" to begin the process again. **There is a 10 calendar day deadline to request an appeal from the day that you start the interview.**

**If you are having trouble, please contact the North Carolina Residency Determination Service by using one of the methods below:**

**Toll-free Number (844) 319-3640**

**Local Number (919) 835-2290**

**Email [rdsinfo@ncresidency.org](mailto:rdsinfo@ncresidency.org)**