

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Statement of Legal Residence (SLR)?

The Statement of Legal Residence (SLR) is an online questioner that asks a series of questions to determine if a student pays in-state or out-of-state tuition and fees.

Who must complete the Statement of Legal Residence (SLR)?

New undergraduate and graduate students attending UC Merced for the first time, as well as undergraduate and graduate students returning from an absence of one or more semesters.

How do I complete the Statement of Legal Residence (SLR)?

Many new students will have completed this requirement based on how they responded to the questions in their UC application. If the Statement of Legal Residence (SLR) is listed on your checklist, you should complete the online questioner as soon as possible. This process can be completed before you submit your SIR.

If you are a continuing student and have been classified as a nonresident, review [‘How to change your nonresident status to resident’](#) section.

What should I do if my residence classification is not determined by the fee payment deadline?

If your request to change residency classification is not approved by the time tuition is due, you are responsible for paying the outstanding balance on your student account including non-resident tuition and fees. Note that failure to pay the tuition by the due date will result in late payment fees and risk of being dropped from your courses.

How long does it take to make a determination of my resident status?

The Statement of Legal Residence (SLR) application and documentation are processed in the order that they are received. During peak times, reviewing your Statement of Legal Residence (SLR) may take 4-6 weeks before you see an update. If required documentation is missing, or if additional documentation is required due to unclear information, it will further delay our ability to make a residency determination. You may check the status of your Statement of Legal Residence (SLR) on your student checklist or visit the [Registrar Announcements](#) for overall processing updates.

What are the requirements for establishing California residency for tuition purposes?

Requirements: Dependent Students

An undergraduate student who has not reached age 24 is considered to be a dependent student. Dependent students and parents must concurrently satisfy the Residency Requirements.

1. **Physical Presence:** The student and parent must be continuously physically present in California for more than one year (366 days) immediately prior to the [residence determination date](#) of the term for which you request resident status.
2. **Intent to remain in California:** The student and parent must establish their intent to make California their home one year prior to the residence determination date of the term for which you request resident status.
3. **Immigration status for student:** The student must have the legal ability to establish a permanent domicile in the United States, meaning that you must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States or hold a valid, qualifying nonimmigrant visa.

Immigration status for parent(s): Any California resident who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the U.S, whose parent is undocumented or out of status but has otherwise been physically present in California with concurrent intent to remain in California for 366 days, will be eligible for resident classification.

*If you are a dependent student who wishes to qualify as an Independent student, you must demonstrate that you have been fully self-supporting for one-year prior to the residence determination date. Supporting documentation will be required.

Requirements: Independent Students

A student who is deemed to be an Independent Student based on of one the requirements in the [UC Residency Policy](#) may satisfy the requirements without regard to a parent. Independent students must satisfy the Residency Requirements.

1. **Physical Presence:** The student must be continuously physically present in California for more than one year (366 days) immediately prior to the residence determination date of the term for which you request resident status.
2. **Intent to remain in California:** The student must establish their intent to make California their home one year prior to the residence determination date of the term for which you request resident status.
3. **Immigration status for student:** The student must have the legal ability to establish a permanent domicile in the United States, meaning that you must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States or hold a valid, qualifying nonimmigrant visa.

Residence Determination Dates at UC Merced

- **Fall 2020:** August 26, 2020
- **Spring 2021:** January 19, 2021
- **Fall 2021:** August 25, 2021
- **Spring 2022:** January 18, 2022

Can I obtain residency if I am not a U.S Citizen, Permanent Resident, DACA or qualifying visa holder? If so, how?

If you attended high school in California for at least three years and graduated from a California high school, you might be eligible for an [AB 540 nonresident exemption](#).

Can I tell you my circumstances and have you tell me if I will qualify for residency?

We will not make a residency determination without reviewing a completed Statement of Legal Residence (SLR) application and supportive documentation.