

COLLEGE BOUND

Helpful tips for getting into college and the smartest ways to pay for it.

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Can my Child Move to Virginia and Get In-State Tuition?

This is a question we get a lot. Here are the rules.

So, your neighbor or your cousin or your cousin's neighbor told you it's possible for your student to:

- Declare her independence
- Move to Virginia/North Carolina/Florida/California or fill-in-the-blank other state, and
- Save 50% or more off the college bill by qualifying for in-state tuition

And you want to know: Where do I sign?

Well, friends, I'm afraid it's not quite that easy.

The logistics differ from state to state, but all require time spent in the state by a parent of the student prior to attending college. Here's how it works.

Who decides?

In each state, the Board of Higher Education establishes residency



University of Virginia

requirements. Each college or university is required to enforce the requirements. It's up to the college to determine which students qualify as in-state residents. Schools usually have a specific administrator on staff who reviews the documentation and decides. The administrator's decision is binding only to that specific school.

Dependent Students

Generally if your student is unmarried, under the age of 24, and relying on you to pay the bulk of the college bill, s/he is going to be considered a 'Dependent' student. By definition, a dependent student can't be "independent" and therefore cannot establish residency separate from

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Spotlight On Syracuse University



Location: Syracuse, NY

Undergraduates: 14,671

Male/Female: 44%/56%

Acceptance Rate: 49.4%

SAT Math Avg: 595

SAT CR Avg: 565

SAT Writing Avg: 575

ACT Composite: 26

Cost of Attendance: \$57,450

Average High School GPA: 3.6

First-year students returning: 91.7%

Students graduating within 4 years: 71.6%

Fun Facts:

- All students are allowed to take classes at the school's campus in Florence, Italy. Freshmen enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences can even spend their first semester studying abroad through the Discover Florence program.
- Syracuse's sports teams are known simply as The Orange. They play in NCAA Division I and are cheered on by school mascot Otto the Orange. The football team plays in the Carrier Dome, famed as the only domed stadium in the Northeast.
- The campus sits on University Hill, above the sprawling city of Syracuse in central New York state. With about 100 inches of snowfall each year, the white winters give students plenty of opportunities for skiing, snowboarding, and sledding on nearby mountains.
- Notable alumni include U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, actor Jerry Stiller, football player Donovan McNabb, and former Miss America Vanessa Williams.

Continued from pg. 1...

his/her supporting parent(s).

Most states require state residency for one year of at least one parent prior to matriculation of the student. It does not have to be the parent that claims the student for tax purposes, but does have to be a financially contributing parent.

However, some schools may question in-state status if a student receives substantial financial support from a parent located elsewhere — for example, if an out-of-state parent takes out a PLUS loan to assist in paying for school.

In cases of divorce, the residency of the custodial parent is most often considered the state of residency for the student.

Independent Students

For those students classified as 'Independent', the general requirements are that the student or their spouse resides in the state for at least one year prior to the first day of coursework. There are states, California being one, where the required time is two years before classes start.

Also, several states require the student to prove self-sufficiency and include a minimum age regulation. Other states, like Minnesota, require a full calendar year of residency before being able to receive in-state tuition prices.

Evidence Needed

In order for the college or university to make a determination, several documents and means of evidence are required. This typically includes two or more forms of government-issued identification cards that demonstrate state residency, such as a voter registration card and driver's license.

Evidence that would support residency status includes registering with the Selective Service, filing a state income tax return, and attending secondary school in the state. Other documents that might help show residency include registering a

vehicle in the state, opening a local bank account, or obtaining a local library card.

Being employed locally or owning a home in the state would also be an advantage in the determination process. Participating in local clubs and organizations also helps.

Specifics of Top Destinations

Among the top choices for out-of-state students are Virginia, North Carolina and California. Besides the University of Virginia, Virginia state schools include William & Mary, VCU, Virginia Tech, VMI, George Mason and James Madison. So it's no wonder parents want to be considered in-state residents.

In Virginia, the student bears the burden of "establishing, by clear and convincing evidence, that the student is U.S. resident or eligible visitor and has, for at least a one-year period prior to the claimed entitlement, established and maintained his domicile in the Commonwealth of Virginia."

Requirements in North Carolina mandate that only those who can demonstrate 12 months of uninterrupted domicile in North Carolina are eligible for in-state tuition. Yet, a 12-month presence in North Carolina, even when coupled with a declaration of intent to remain permanently, does not, in and of itself, entitle an applicant to in-state tuition. Campuses still must evaluate evidence of "domiciliary acts" and make an independent determination of whether a bona fide domicile has been established.

To obtain state residency in California, the student and/or parent must have established a primary and permanent domicile in California and relinquished all ties to their past place of residence for more than one year, at least 366 days. The 366 days must immediately precede the residence determination date of the term the student proposes to attend the school. Also, students may have to demonstrate financial independence, which is not practical or possible for most.

College Visits With a Twist

News You Can Use



Every year, high school students across the country visit colleges in hope of finding the perfect institution. The traditional campus tours become repetitive and hard to differentiate, often focusing more on selling the school rather than showing the school. InsiderVisit was launched to help high school students delve deep into the college experience and personally connect with universities.

InsiderVisit pairs high school students who do not have personal contacts at a given campus with Insiders, college students who serve as friends for the day. These Insiders offer video chats, personalized tours, classroom visits and meals in the cafeteria to show high school students what campus life is really like and help them determine if they are a fit for a particular school.

“When I was visiting colleges, the tours felt generic. I got a much better sense of the campus from personal friends who could share their experiences one-on-one,” says InsiderVisit founder Eric Saunders. “I wanted to provide that same level of personalization and comfort for others. If you do not know anyone on campus, an Insider can be your friend.”

InsiderVisit’s most distinguishing feature is the personalization of the Visit. A brief survey will help the Chief Insider at the selected university find an Insider who is similar to the visitor, thus giving the prospective student a vision of the school from a familiar point of view.

Three options are currently offered for visitors. Visit 101 offers a \$25, 30 minute “anything goes” question and answer session through web chat for those unable to make the trip in person. The best seller, Visit 201, is a \$45, 60 minute Visit on campus dictated by what is most important to the visitor. And Visit 301 is the deluxe package for \$75, with details personally arranged before arrival.

According to US News, as many as one in three first year students do not return for a second year. Although there are a variety of reasons why, InsiderVisit aims at bringing this statistic to a lower number. So far InsiderVisit has helped many high school students feel certain and comfortable about their college decisions.

InsiderVisit serves as a supplement to the traditional campus tour. It currently has 35 universities on its roster, including Binghamton, Emory, Northwestern, Penn State, Syracuse and The College of New Jersey, among others.

In addition, the business has created new jobs for entrepreneurial college students. Chief Insiders need every type of college student to be readily available to offer Visits and are currently looking to employ more. InsiderVisit hopes to expand to every college in the country and beyond, with new schools being added daily.

For additional information, visit www.InsiderVisit.com.

Graduate and Get a Job

There’s no shortage of websites, magazine, and pundits willing to tell you the best colleges. But what do the companies who hire new college graduates think? What colleges and universities do they frequent when looking for their next hire?

A recent report in the *Wall Street Journal* listed the Top 25 schools whose graduates were rated tops by recruiters. Below is the list. Notice how there’s only one Ivy League school on the list. Interesting.

And 15 state schools. Doubly interesting. Here’s the list:

1. Pennsylvania State University
2. Texas A&M University
3. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
4. Purdue University
5. Arizona State University
6. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
7. Georgia Institute of Technology
8. University of Maryland, College Park
9. University of Florida
10. Carnegie Mellon University
11. Brigham Young University
12. Ohio State University
13. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
14. Cornell University
15. University of California - Berkeley
16. University of Wisconsin, Madison
17. University of California, Los Angeles
18. Texas Tech
19. North Carolina State University, Raleigh
20. University of Virginia
21. Rutgers University, New Brunswick
22. University of Notre Dame
23. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
24. University of Southern California
25. Washington State University



Ask the Professor

Q: What's the difference between a subsidized student loan and an unsubsidized loan?

A: With a subsidized loan, the government pays the interest on your loan while you're in college. Repayment begins 6 months after you graduate. With an unsubsidized loan, interest starts accruing while you're attending college.

Did You Know?



✓ If you ever end up on a waitlist, or ever consider transferring colleges, every college will request your final high school transcript.

✓ This is why it's dangerous to develop an acute case of senioritis.

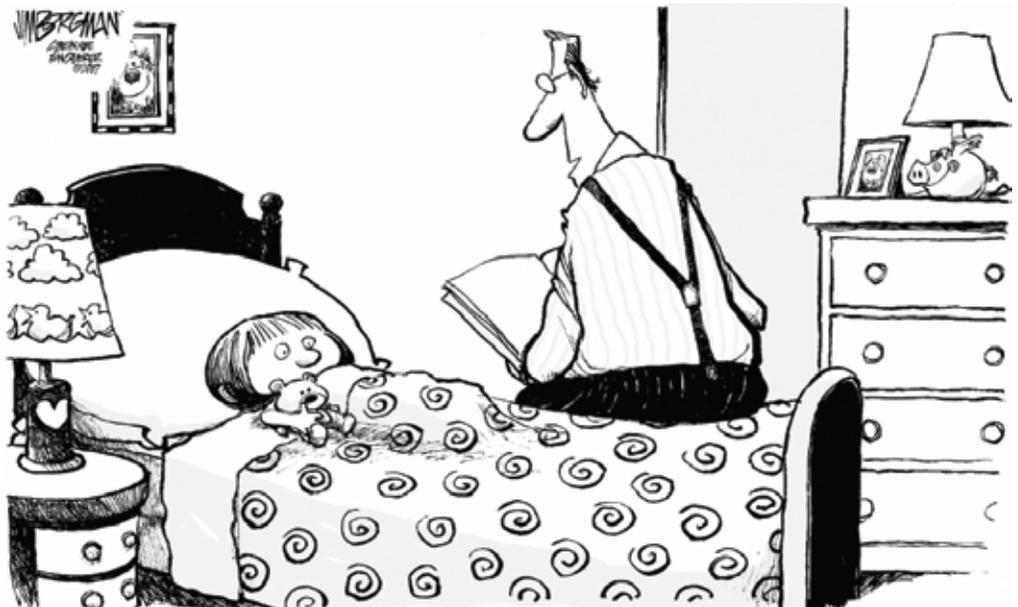
College Match Game



Which college did comedienne Amy Poehler attend?

- A) Brown
- B) Boston College
- C) University of Chicago
- D) Louisville

Answer: Raised in nearby Burlington, MA, Poehler attended Boston College.



"THE U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT GUIDE TO AMERICA'S TOP 500 COLLEGES... CHAPTER ONE..."

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