

Border State Out-of-State Tuition Waivers Frequently Asked Questions

With a recent decision by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, Columbus State University is now able to offer in-state tuition to **all** residents of Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee who come to Columbus State University as an undergraduate student. The [Application For Out of State Tuition Waiver Border State / County Residents](#) is available online. Below are some questions and answers about this new benefit to border residents.

Who qualifies for a border state Out-of-State Tuition Waiver?

Undergraduate students who have established and maintained domicile in the Border State for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the start of the term.

Who qualifies for the Lee, Russell or Chambers County Out-of-State Tuition Waiver?

Students who have established and maintained domicile in Chambers County, Lee County, or Russell County, Alabama for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the start of the term.

I already have a Border County Waiver; can I keep the waiver?

Yes, students that currently receive Border County Waivers are still eligible to keep those waivers.

How do I apply for the Border State/Border County Waiver?

Eligible students should complete the [Border State/Border County Waiver form](#) located online.

I am a border state resident and currently pay out-of-state tuition; can I apply for the Border State Waiver?

Yes, current undergraduate students may be eligible for the Border State Residents waiver, effective fall term 2022. (Please note: This waiver only available for Alabama State/County students prior to fall 2022).

Do graduate students qualify for the Border State Waiver?

Unfortunately, graduate students from other Alabama counties **do not qualify** for the waiver.

What are the requirements for a dependent student to be eligible for the Border State/Border County Residents waiver?

A dependent student must provide clear and convincing evidence that their parent(s) or U.S. court-appointed legal guardian has established and maintained domicile in Alabama for at least the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the first day of classes for the term the waiver is requested. In addition, the dependent student must either have graduated from a high school in Alabama or be claimed as a dependent by their Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina or Tennessee state domiciled parent or U.S. court- appointed legal guardian on their federal or state income tax return filed for the most recent tax year.

What are the requirements for an independent student to be eligible for the Border State/Border County Residents waiver?

An independent student must provide clear and convincing evidence that he or she has established and maintained domicile in Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, or Tennessee for at least the 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the first day of classes for the term the waiver is requested.

Once a student is determined to be eligible for the waiver, does he or she have to reapply for the waiver to continue to receive it?

No, once a student has been determined to be eligible for the Border State/Border County Residents Waiver, they are not required to reapply for the waiver provided continuous enrollment is maintained.

Can a transient student be eligible for the State of Alabama Residents waiver?

Students that reside in the counties of Chamber, Lee, and Russell are the only students that could qualify for the waiver. All other students must be undergraduate, degree-seeking students.

Are reentry/returning/readmit students eligible for the Alabama State Residents Waivers?

Yes, reentry/returning/readmit students are eligible to be considered for the Border State Residents Waiver.

Can a student receiving the Border State/Border County Residents Waiver continue to receive the waiver if they transfer to a USG institution not authorized to grant the waiver?

No, the Border State Residents Waiver may only be granted by those institutions approved by the Chancellor to award the waiver.

Are students required to be lawfully present in the United States to be eligible for the State of Alabama State Residents Waiver?

Yes, per Board of Regents policy, no student may be classified as in-state or be granted an out-of-state tuition waiver until their lawful presence in the United States has been verified using one of the approved methods found on our [Lawful Presence page](#).

If the information a student provides on their Border State/Border County Residents Waiver application is sufficient to determine eligibility, is it necessary for supporting documentation to be submitted? Supporting documentation may be requested if the information the student list on the Border State waiver form isn't sufficient enough to determine eligibility or doesn't provide a clear indication of residency in the border State.

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