

VERIFICATION OF LAWFUL PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES

Effective January 1, 2012, Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 50-36-1) requires all students applying for in-state tuition to provide validation of lawful presence in the United States. The following documents will serve as proof of lawful presence in the United States, and documentation will be required before you are eligible for consideration of in-state tuition:

- current Driver's License issued by the State of Georgia after January 1, 2008
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- current Driver's License or ID from:
 - ◊ **Alabama** - issued after August 1, 2000
 - ◊ **Florida** - issued after January 1, 2010
 - ◊ **South Carolina** - issued after November 1, 2008
 - ◊ **Tennessee** - issued after May 29, 2004
- certified United States Birth Certificate showing the student was born in the United States or a United States territory (a photocopy is not acceptable)
- approved, completed FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for the current financial aid year
- current, valid Permanent Resident Card (USCIS form I-151 or I-551)
- current, valid military identification card for active duty soldiers or veterans
- United States Certificate of Birth Abroad issued by the Department of State (DS-1350) or a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (FS-240)
- current United States Passport
- United States Certificate of Citizenship (USCIS form N-560 or N-561)
- United States Certificate of Naturalization (USCIS form N-550 or N-570)

Any student who cannot be verified as lawfully present in the United States is not eligible to be considered for in-state or out-of-state tuition, regardless of how long he or she has lived in Georgia. In addition to being lawfully present in the United States, students must meet the in-state tuition requirements as outlined in Technical College System of Georgia Board Policy and Procedure V.B.3 to warrant an in-state classification. Students initially classified as out-of-state who successfully petition to have their residency changed to in-state must also meet the Lawful Presence verification requirement.

PROOF OF GEORGIA RESIDENCY

Dependent student (under age 24 and claimed by parent/guardian on the most recent tax return)

Student must provide:

A copy of the parent's/legal guardian's Georgia Tax Form 500 showing that he/she claimed the student on his/her taxes for the previous twelve months. (Financial information can be deleted or redacted.)

OR

at least one (1) of the following items to prove Georgia residency for the past twelve consecutive months of the parent or guardian who claimed the student on the most recent tax return:

- Georgia automobile registration, Georgia voter registration, or Georgia Driver's License
- Notarized letter on company letterhead indicating lease status
- Proof of ownership of primary residence in Georgia (mortgage, tax bill)
- Utility bill/bank statement*

Independent Student (over age 24 or under age 24 and not claimed by a parent/guardian on most recent tax return)

Student must provide:

At least one (1) of the following items to prove Georgia residency for the past twelve consecutive months:

- Georgia State Income Tax Form 500
- Georgia automobile registration, Georgia voter registration, or Georgia driver's license
- Notarized letter on company letterhead indicating lease status
- Proof of ownership of primary residence in Georgia (mortgage, tax bill)
- Utility bill/bank statement *

*May be used to supplement alternate forms of proof.