

Exceptions to 12-Month South Carolina Residency Requirement

The following 12-month exceptions may **expedite** an applicant’s qualification for South Carolina residency eligibility **or waive** the steps an independent person must take to establish residency in South Carolina, which are listed in Section 62-605 of the regulation entitled “Establishing the Requisite Intent to Become a South Carolina Domiciliary”. Please refer to requirements below to determine which is applicable and/or consult a University residency official.

Residents with Full-Time Employment and their Dependents (Expedite)

Persons who reside, are domiciled, and are full time employed with an employer that is physically located in the State and who continue to work full time until they meet the twelve-month residency requirement (and their dependents) are eligible to pay in state tuition and fees, provided that they have taken the requisite steps to establish permanent residency in the State. To request a 12-month residency exception on the basis of full-time employment* in South Carolina, the following documents **are required in addition to the applicable resident application and ALL supporting documentation from the associated checklist**. Applications approved under this exception are conditional and require full-time employment* to be maintained until the 12-month residency requirement has been fully satisfied. Failure to maintain full-time employment* during the establishment period will result in loss of in-state tuition benefit for ALL conditionally approved terms.

- Letter on employer’s letterhead/stationery or notarized (if self-employed*) that details the following:
 1. the effective date of your employment in South Carolina
 2. your employment status (full-time, part-time, varied, seasonal)
 3. the number of hours you consistently work per week
 4. your eligibility for full-time benefits
- Your most recent paystub

*Full time employment is defined as employment that consists of at least thirty-seven- and one-half hours a week on a single job in a full-time status, with gross earnings of at least minimum wage. A person who works less than thirty-seven- and one-half hours a week but receives or is entitled to receive full time employee benefits shall be considered to be employed full time if such status is verified by the employer. A person who meets the eligibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act must present acceptable evidence (from a physician) that they satisfy their prescribed employment specifications in order to qualify as having full time employment.

Note: Persons who are self-employed should provide a notarized statement certifying the foregoing information and attach a photocopy of their South Carolina business license and proof of income in accordance with the full-time employment definition.

Retired Persons and their Dependents (Expedite)

Retired persons who are receiving a pension or annuity who reside in South Carolina and have been domiciled in South Carolina as prescribed in the Statute for less than a year may be eligible for in state rates if they maintain residence and domicile in this State. Persons on terminal leave may also be considered under this exception, if they present documentation from their employer showing their terminal leave status, including the beginning and ending dates for their terminal leave period and proof that they will receive a pension or annuity when they retire.

If you are requesting an exception to the 12-month residency requirement on the basis of retirement to South Carolina, the following documents **are required in addition to the applicable resident application and ALL supporting documentation from the associated checklist**:

- Retirement statement or employer letter verifying retirement and reflecting South Carolina address
- Proof of pension or annuity payment/direct deposit, including withholdings of *applicable* SC state tax

Faculty and Administrative Employees with Full Time Employment and their Dependents (Waive)

Full-time faculty or administrative employees requesting an exception to the 12-month residency requirement on the basis of employment at a state-supported college or university in South Carolina, who does not intend to become a permanent resident of the state*, must submit the same information detailed in the “Residents with Full-Time Employment” section above from the Human Resource department of their respective college or university, along with a current pay stub/voucher.

** Approvals made under the “Full-Time Faculty and Administrative Employees” exception must be repeatedly verified prior to each eligible enrollment period. Full-time employees of state-supported colleges or universities in South Carolina who intend to become permanent residents of the state are encouraged to apply for resident classification under the “Residents with Full-Time Employment and their Dependents” exception.*

Military Personnel and their Dependents (Waive)

Members of the United States Armed Forces who are permanently assigned in South Carolina on active duty and their dependents are eligible to pay in state tuition and fees. When such personnel are transferred from the State, their dependents may continue to pay in state tuition and fees as long as they are continuously enrolled or transfer to an eligible institution during the term or semester, excluding summer terms, immediately following their enrollment at the previous institution. In the event of a transfer, the receiving institution shall verify the decision made by the student’s previous institution in order to certify the student’s eligibility for in-state tuition rates. It is the responsibility of the transferring student to ensure that all documents required to verify both the previous and present residency decisions are provided to the institution. Members of the United States Armed Forces who are permanently assigned in South Carolina on active duty (and their dependents) may also be eligible to pay in state tuition and fees as long as they are continuously enrolled after their discharge from the military, provided they have demonstrated an intent to establish a permanent home in South Carolina and they have resided in South Carolina for a period of at least twelve months immediately preceding their discharge. Military personnel who are not stationed in South Carolina and/or former military personnel who intend to establish South Carolina residency must fulfill the twelve month “physical presence” requirement for them or their dependents to qualify to pay in state tuition and fees.

Please submit the [South Carolina Resident Application - Military](#) and required supporting documentation to the Office of Admissions and Merit Awards.

Covered Individuals Receiving Specific Education Benefits* (Waive)

Covered individuals living in South Carolina, who are enrolled in a public institution of higher education and receiving educational assistance under Chapter 30, Chapter 31, and Chapter 33, Title 38 of the United States Code, are entitled to pay in-state tuition and fees without regard to the length of time the covered individual has resided in this State. For purposes of this subsection, a covered individual is defined as:

- (a) a veteran who served ninety days or longer on active duty in the Uniformed Service of the United States, their respective Reserve forces, or the National Guard;
- (b) a person who is entitled to and receiving assistance under Section 3319, Title 38 of the United States Code by virtue of the person's relationship to the veteran described in subitem;
- (c) a person using transferred benefits under Section 3319, Title 38 of the United States Code while the transferor is on active duty in the Uniformed Service of the United States, their respective Reserve forces, or the National Guard;
- (d) a person who is entitled to and receiving assistance under Section 3311(b)(9), Title 38 of the United States Code; or
- (e) a person who is entitled to and is receiving assistance under Section 3102(a), Title 38 of the United States Code.

A covered individual shall remain eligible for in-state rates as long as he remains continuously enrolled in an in-state institution or transfers to another in-state institution during the term or semester, excluding summer terms, immediately following his enrollment at the previous in-state institution.

*Applicants seeking approval under this category will work with Military and Veteran Services (coastal.edu/services/militaryandveteranservices/) to verify their eligibility. If approved, students will be classified as out-of-state veterans and charged rates equivalent to in-state.