

UAMS Academic Affairs Policy - 3.2.1A



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

Policy: University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Division of Academic Affairs

Subject: Residency Classification Scenarios

Number: 3.2.1A

Example 1 –Marriage to an Arkansas Resident

At the time she applied to the UAMS Doctor of Pharmacy program through the PharmCAS (centralized application service), Karen lived in Wisconsin. As a result, she was classified as an out-of-state resident for tuition/fee purposes. Between the time of her application and her acceptance into the DDS program, Karen married George, a legal Arkansas resident, and moved to Fort Smith where she resided with him.

Conclusion: While Karen’s initial classification as an out-of-state resident was correct, in between the time between she applied and the time she was ready to pay tuition to enroll, Karen’s situation had changed. Karen provided copies of her Arkansas marriage license and the leasing agreement to the apartment she and George were living in to her college registrar. Once these documents had been received and processed, Karen was reclassified as an Arkansas resident and will pay in-state tuition.

Example 2 – Spouse Established Residency

Paul and his wife Beatrice moved to Arkansas from Wisconsin in February 2011 when Paul got accepted to the College of Medicine and Beatrice found a job at QualChoice. Paul enrolled in the Fall of 2012 for year one of his studies. In the meantime, the couple bought a condo and changed their permanent residence to their Little Rock address along with their voter registration, vehicle registration and driver’s license.

Conclusion: After twelve months in the state (February 2012) as a wage-earner who would file and pay Arkansas taxes, and who exhibited every indication that her intent was to remain an Arkansas resident indefinitely, Paul’s wife established herself as an Arkansas resident, per the UAMS policy on resident status. At that point, Paul was married to an Arkansas resident and could claim residency himself through his wife. Paul completed the reclassification application, submitted it to the Student Residency Reclassification Committee and was reclassified as a resident for the

UAMS Academic Affairs Policy - 3.2.1A

beginning of the next academic year. (For colleges other than College of Medicine, the student may be reclassified for the beginning of the subsequent term).

Example 3 – Moved to Arkansas more than 12 months ago

On his application to the UAMS College of Public Health in April 2012, Allan listed his state of "permanent residence" as Texas, and was consequently informed he was classified as an out-of-state student. However, Allan had moved to Arkansas in March 2011, 13 months prior to submitting his application to the COPH.

Conclusion: Allan provided a copy of his leasing agreement dated March 2011 and his Arkansas driver's license to the COPH Registrar, who reclassified him as an in-state student.

Example 4 – Parents Move Out of State

Becky grew up in DeQueen, Arkansas and had attended Central Arkansas University for the four years prior to completing an application to UAMS' College of Nursing. However, during her senior year, her parents moved to Missouri for employment reasons. On her application, she listed her parent's new address in St. Louis as her "permanent address," since it was her understanding that a "permanent address" meant an address where she could be contacted after leaving UCA. Further, Becky never actually lived in St. Louis at her parents' new home.

Conclusion: Becky's residency status will be changed to in-state by the College Registrar. No further action by Becky is required.

Example 5 – Counties Bordering Arkansas

Courtney grew up in Vermont but her parents moved to Texarkana, Texas while she was in High School. She and her friend Enid, from Greenville, MS applied to the College of Health Professions Dental Hygiene program. Courtney was classified as an out-of-state student but was charged the in-state tuition rate, while her friend Enid was expected to pay the full out-of-state tuition.

Conclusion: UAMS recognizes only one border county agreement¹, and that is for residents of Bowie County, Texas and Texarkana Texas. Since Courtney was a Texarkana, Texas resident she qualified for a waiver of out-of-state tuition. Enid cannot receive a similar exemption because there is no UA or UAMS policy awarding Clark County, MS residents in-state status with respect to tuition.

Example 6 – U.S. Military Personnel Stationed in Arkansas

Christopher is a permanent resident of Nevada, but is on active duty with the U.S. Air Force and is stationed at Little Rock Air Force Base. Christopher received notification that even though he gave

¹ University of Arkansas Board policy 520.10.

UAMS Academic Affairs Policy - 3.2.1A

Nevada as the state of his permanent address, he would only be charged the in-state rate for tuition because UA policy waives out-of-state tuition for active military personnel stationed in Arkansas.²

Conclusion: While Christopher's residency classification will remain out-of-state, he will be awarded a waiver for out of state tuition by the College Registrar, and does not need to complete a reclassification application.

Example 7 – Established Residency Prior to Applying for Admission

Benjamin, a lifelong Illinois resident, graduated from the University of Chicago and followed his girlfriend Marena to Little Rock, where both began working in local companies and were full-time Arkansas wage-earners. Thirteen months later, Ben applied to a PhD program in the UAMS' Graduate School and was notified that he had been classified as an in-state student.

Conclusion: Since Benjamin moved to Arkansas prior to applying to the UAMS Graduate School and had lived and worked in the state for thirteen months prior to applying to UAMS, he had established legal residency in the state. Therefore, he was granted in-state status by the Admissions Officer for tuition/fee purposes.

Example 8 – Move to Arkansas for Reasons Not Related to Attending College

Sarah and her husband Ronald were lifelong Minnesota residents who were transferred by a private assisted living company to new jobs in Little Rock. Sarah, an RN, applied to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program in the College of Nursing at UAMS. She indicated on her application that she had just moved to the state three months earlier. Sarah also provided documentation to the Admissions Officer that she was transferred by her company to work in Arkansas, that she and her husband had bought a home, changed their voter registration and been issued Arkansas driver's licenses.

Conclusion: UA Board Policy allows immediate residency to be established when the primary purpose of relocating to Arkansas is for employment and not education. The reason for Sarah's move to Arkansas was a job transfer and not for the purpose of pursuing a degree, so Sarah was classified as an Arkansas resident by the CON Admissions Officer.

Example 9 – In-state Student Moves Out of State

Having been an Arkansas resident for several years, Lucinda began her UAMS program with an in-state classification. Beginning the second term for her MNSc program, Lucinda changed her official residence to a condo in Memphis, Tennessee (she worked part-time at St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis). After the move, Lucinda realized the move outside Arkansas might jeopardize her status as an in-state student.

Conclusion: Since she was classified as in-state based on her permanent residence at the time of *application*, Lucinda will retain that classification for the duration of her MNSc studies at UAMS. (Note: If Lucinda applies to UAMS for the Ph.D. in Nursing degree, while she continues to live in

² University of Arkansas Board policy 520.8.

UAMS Academic Affairs Policy - 3.2.1A

Memphis, however, she will be classified as an out-of-state student who will pay out-of-state tuition).

Examples of Applicants Who Cannot be Reclassified

Example 10 – Classification or Waivers at Other Arkansas Institutions

Seth graduated at the top of his class at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Seth attended UA Fayetteville because he was awarded a “New Arkansan Scholarship” from the University which allowed him to pay in-state tuition in spite of the fact that he was a lifelong resident of Massachusetts. Seth enjoyed the waiver for the four years he attended UA-Fayetteville and expected to continue receiving the same waiver of out-of-state tuition when he applied to the UAMS Graduate School, a different campus within the University of Arkansas System.

Conclusion: After receiving his acceptance letter classifying him as a non-resident, Seth completed an application to be reclassified as a resident and submitted it to the Graduate School Admissions Officer. Seth was informed by the Admissions Officer that UAMS is not bound by the decision of any other college or university to award a waiver or scholarship to offset tuition owed by a student. Board policy directs each campus to make develop its own guidelines on what constitutes residency (“articulate standards which will be applied in making the determination of residence”), and also authorizes executives on each campus to set its own rules governing the tuition for education programs.

Example 11 – Former Arkansan Who is No Longer a Dependent

Channing grew up in Helena, Arkansas and graduated with an AS degree from Phillips County College of the University of Arkansas. She then moved to Memphis, Tennessee where she lived independently and worked for two years before applying to the UAMS College of Health Professions. Channing believed that since she grew up in Arkansas and her parents were permanent residents that she would be classified as a resident as well. However, since she left the state to work (establishing that she was no longer a dependent of her parents), her residency had to be established using her legal residence of Tennessee and not that of her parents.

Conclusion: Channing’s residency classification status will remain out-of-state. Emancipated students like Channing are classified on the basis of their own residency. The state of residence of parents is no longer applicable. Since she was a wage-earning Tennessee resident at the time of her application, she was correctly classified by the COPH Registrar as a non-resident student.

Example 12 – International Student Living in Arkansas

Since he had a pending green card application (I-485) and had lived in Little Rock with relatives for three years prior to making application to UAMS’ College of Medicine, Hassan expected to be classified as an in-state student for tuition/fee purposes. However, since Hassan's application states

UAMS Academic Affairs Policy - 3.2.1A

that he is not a U.S. Citizen and does not yet have a green card (i.e., permanent residency status); Hassan was classified as an out-of-state student for tuition/fee purposes.

Conclusion: Hassan was informed that his status would remain out-of-state for tuition/fee purposes until he obtains permanent residency in the U.S. per a valid green card AND until he can document that he meets all resident status standards. The time necessary to establish residency (12 months) can begin only after permanent residency is granted. At the end of twelve months as a permanent resident, and when all other requirements are met, Hassan may complete an application for reclassification as a resident. It will be reviewed by the Student Resident Reclassification Committee, and assuming all criteria are met, the application will be approved. Hassan's reclassification to become effective in the Fall term following his application.

Example 13 – Spouse of International Student, Visa Holder

Rama's husband holds an H1-B Visa and is a resident in the UAMS Department of Internal Medicine. Rama is applying to the MPH program in the College of Public Health and believes that since her husband is an Arkansas wage earner (medical residents at UAMS are considered employees), and since both have lived in Arkansas for two years, she should only be required to pay the in-state rate for tuition.

Conclusion: Because neither Rama nor her husband are U.S. Citizens, and are living and working in Arkansas on the basis of an H-1 B non-immigrant work visa, then neither are eligible to be reclassified as in-state residents or to pay the tuition at the in-state rate.

Example 14 – Spouse of an International Employee Granted Permanent Status

Abdul's wife Raisah was granted permanent residency status (green card) after working seven years at the UAMS Department of Neurosurgery. Abdul had applied for permanent residency as well, but his application had not yet been approved. After Raisah was granted residency status in the U.S., Abdul applied to the Pharm.D. program at UAMS and expected to pay in-state tuition because of his wife's resident status.

Conclusion: Even though his wife has been granted permanent residency, because Abdul is still under international status (as a worker or visitor), he cannot receive an in-state resident classification. He can only be classified as in-state and pay the resident tuition and fee rates when he has also been granted permanent resident status.

Example 15 – After one year at UAMS

Kevin is an excellent student who grew up and attended undergraduate school in Oklahoma. He understood that he would be classified as an out-of-state student when he began his studies at UAMS. However, at the beginning of his second year Kevin thought that by completing his first

UAMS Academic Affairs Policy - 3.2.1A

year satisfactorily and by living in Little Rock for a full year he would automatically be reclassified as an in-state student for the second year of his program.

Conclusion: Kevin's residency classification will remain out-of-state. While there is a pathway for UAMS to achieve in-state residency, it is not automatic. The student must initiate a reclassification from out-of-state (non-resident) to in-state (resident) status, and must meet all requirements outlined in the UAMS resident status policy. He must prove that he/she has made a permanent move to the state; has a true, fixed residence in Arkansas; must be an Arkansas wage-earner; and that he intends to remain in the state after graduation.

In order to be reclassified, Kevin must also submit a notarized, completed application with necessary documentation by the annual deadline for reclassifications, April 30.