

## **Establishing a Bona Fide Domicile (Residency Requirements)**

To establish domicile in the state of Washington, students must provide documentation showing that they meet the following guidelines:

1. Students must prove that they have not come to Washington State primarily for educational purposes. Current guidelines require students who are enrolled for 7 credits or more a quarter must be employed at least 30 hours per week at a non-student job to overcome presumption of educational purposes.
2. Live in the state for at least 12 consecutive months as legal residents.
3. Establish legal ties:
  - ▶ Employment (if taking more than 6 credits a quarter during the first year of being present in Washington State).
  - ▶ Driver's license/state ID within 30 days of arrival. Students who do not possess a drivers license must obtain a Washington State Identification Card.
  - ▶ Vehicle registration within 30 days of arrival.
  - ▶ Voter registration within 30 days of arrival.
  - ▶ Establish a bank account in Washington .
4. Be financially independent for the current and prior calendar years. \*Students who are not 25 years or older must submit their parents' most recent tax returns.

Once the individual is in full compliance with all of Washington's requirements for residency, then he/she has established domicile. Once domicile is established, the student is eligible for in-state tuition 12 months from the date of arrival if all legal ties are in place.

Examples of other factors that may help students establish proof of domicile include: disposition of property in the former state of residence, relocation of household members, participation in local community organizations, and generally becoming involved in activities that will help prove their intent to make Washington their official place of residence.