



North Carolina Residency Determination Service (RDS) JUST THE BASICS

1. WHY DO RDS?

NC LAW REQUIRES RDS TO:

- QUALIFY FOR In-state TUITION at NC public colleges and universities
- BE ELIGIBLE FOR NC state GRANT consideration at all NC colleges and universities

2. WHAT IS RDS?

RDS, established by the NC Legislature to centralized service for determining residency for students, has two parts:

- **RDS Online Interview** (for Initial Considerations and Reconsiderations)
- **RDS Appeal process** where RDS specialists work one-on-one with students or parents to provide additional information, documentation, and to ask and answer questions of RDS to reach a residency determination.

3. WHEN SHOULD I DO RDS?

- **DO RDS FIRST** – Before you do your College Admission Applications
 - **NC Community Colleges** -- require your RCN before you can submit an admission application
 - **University of North Carolina** -- campuses ask for your RCN as part of their admission process
 - **NC Independent Colleges and Universities** -- check your residency for NC State Grant eligibility

4. WHERE DO I FIND RDS?

GO TO: www.NCresidency.org

- **Who can help me?** Call RDS toll-free: **844-319-3640**

5. WHAT INFORMATION WILL I NEED FOR RDS:

Social Security Number -- SSN (or other identity number), NC tax filing, vehicle registration, driver's license, voter registration, and other information about residency in North Carolina (**in most cases – see a & b below**)

- a) **DACA:** By North Carolina policy, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients do not qualify for in-state tuition. When asked in RDS Online Interview, do NOT claim residency. You will receive an RCN, be determined a non-resident and can complete college admission applications (using your RCN).
- b) **Undocumented Parent(s)** Some students may have special circumstances that prevent the RDS system from determining your residency status. If you believe the student should be considered a resident of North Carolina, the student may appeal the RDS determination, and the student will have the opportunity to show RDS additional documents and proof of residency in North Carolina.

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- c) **24 or older:** for **yourself**
- d) **Younger than 24:** for your **parent/legal guardian** (in most cases see a & b above)(NC law requires RDS to ask for parent information)
- e) **On your own & <24:** **PROVE** you are financially independent from your parent/legal guardian
 - W2s, 1099s or paystubs to prove income for the last 18 months
 - Proof of address and living continuously in NC the last 12 months
 - other information about residency in North Carolina

6. REMEMBER:

- **USE CFNC LOGIN** RDS uses your CFNC login. Don't have one? Create a new RDS account and login.
- **SUBMIT DOCS** RDS shows if you need documents and which ones – not everyone does **NOT** done without required documents (you have 25 days)
- **YOUR RCN** **NOTE AND KEEP YOUR RCN** -- Residency Certification Number