

RDS Basics for Parents

RDS suggests that high school students who apply for admissions to college, complete the RDS interview online with your parents while doing the FAFSA, because a lot of the information needed for FAFSA and RDS is the same.

The initial consideration is the first step in the residency process. Most students will be complete with the residency process after this step. Students can access RDS in three different ways:

- Directly on the RDS website at www.ncresidency.org
- Through the CFNC application for admissions
- Through applications for admission for a third party that UNC universities can use – a link to RDS is included in the applications for admissions.

Students should be prepared to provide information such as: student and parent Social Security numbers (or other identifiable number), residence information, tax return information, vehicle registration, driver's license, and other specific residence information.

Once initiated, students have 25 days to complete the application; After 25 days, the request is canceled and the student will have to start a new application.

The information that the student provides in the online application is validated; Students must enter the information honestly and correctly. Submitting false answers could result in a non-resident classification.

Immediately after completing the initial application, the student is presented with a "Determination Screen."

This screen provides 3 important facts:

1. The determination screen shows the Residence Certification Number (RCN). The RCN is a unique identifier and it will never change.
2. The determination screen gives most students a residence classification (resident or not resident)
3. The determination screen shows all the necessary documentation that RDS needs as part of the Residency application. Not all students must present documentation. If necessary, a list of the documents are shown and in the order for which they should be presented.

The student has 25 days to submit documentation for initial consideration (not all students will be asked to submit documentation); if the student does not present the documentation within 25 days, the Student's determination will change to non-resident.

The student has 10 days from the date of the determination to request an appeal.

Students can log in to RDS at any time to review their status, residency classification, and any pending documentation requirement.

The free RDS Student helpline is 844-319-3640.