

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS Section 705

SUBJECT: QUALIFICATION FOR IN-STATE TUITION RATE

PURPOSE: To define residency status for tuition assessment

A. Introduction

This policy defines the category of students and/or student applicants (hereinafter collectively “students”) who qualify for the Maine Maritime Academy in-state tuition rate.

B. Policy

Only the following students qualify for the Academy in-state tuition rate.

1. Students who have established and maintained a primary domicile in Maine for at least the 24 consecutive months immediately preceding admission, and who have established and maintained such primary domicile in Maine for reasons other than attending the Academy.

The student has the burden to prove the student has established and maintained such a primary domicile, and has done so for reasons other than attending the Academy. Such proof will describe the student’s primary physical presence, degree of settled connections and sincere regard for that domicile as home, all as judged by the evidence referenced in section C below. Absent such proof, a student will be determined to be in Maine not to establish a primary domicile, but to get an education, and will therefore not be eligible for in-state tuition.

A residence established for the purpose of attending the Academy shall not by itself constitute domicile. Students who do not qualify for in-state tuition at the time of admission cannot subsequently qualify for in-state tuition by reason of their residence for Academy attendance, or by reason of a change in their dependent status with a parent or other guardian.

2. Students who are claimed as dependents for tax purposes by a parent or other guardian, provided such claimant(s) are themselves residents within the meaning of this policy.
3. Students who are members of the Armed Forces during their period of active duty in Maine, or who are claimed as dependents by members of the Armed Forces during such member’s period of active duty in Maine.

4. Students who are married to, or domestically registered with, a person who is a resident within the meaning of this policy, provided that the student intends to establish and maintain a domicile in Maine.
5. Students who qualify through a special Academy program that otherwise grants in-state rate access.

C. Evidence of Residence

There are several factors that are considered in determining residency for in-state tuition purposes. No one factor is used to determine residency; rather, all relevant facts and circumstances are considered on a case-by-case basis. A domicile or residency classification assigned by a public or private authority neither qualifies nor disqualifies a student for Maine Maritime Academy in-state status. The burden is on the student to prove establishment of Maine residence for other than educational purposes. Examples of factors considered include: signed residential lease, filing of Maine resident state income tax; Maine address on latest federal income tax return; home ownership and payment of property taxes in Maine; driver's license; voter registration; marriage license or domestic registration; and/or military home of record in Maine.

D. Process of Determinations

Eligibility for in-state tuition for matriculated or degree-program students will be determined at the time of acceptance. Eligibility for in-state tuition for non-matriculated or non-degree-program students will be determined at the time of registration.

Eligibility for all students will first be determined by the Registrar based upon information provided by the student or otherwise available to the Academy. A student may appeal the Registrar's decision to the Chief Financial Officer or designee. A student may appeal the Chief Financial Officer's or designee's decision to the Academy President, whose decision shall be final. At each stage, the student bears the burden to prove each requirement of the in-state test, and any appeal shall be filed in writing within 30 days of the decision being appealed.

If a student later seeks to change status based on new facts or circumstances, the student must file a "Request for In State/Regional Tuition" with the Registrar on or before the first day of classes for the summer session, fall or spring semester for which residency is requested. Such requests shall not be retroactive, and the appeal rules noted above shall apply.

In the event that the Academy acquires information that a student's qualification for in-state tuition has changed, the Registrar shall notify the student and give the student and opportunity to respond. The appeal rules noted above shall also apply in the instances.

E. Temporary Absence from the State

Maine residents who are absent from the State for military or full-time educational purposes will normally remain eligible for in-state tuition, provided such persons continue during such period of temporary absence to claim Maine as their state of residency on all official documents and declare income earned out-of-state on Maine income tax returns.

F. Other

Students who are not legal citizens or legal residents of the United States do not qualify for the Academy in-state tuition rate.

REFERENCES: P. & S.L. 1941, ch. 37, §2 as amended

DATE ADOPTED: April 9, 2014

DATE(S) AMENDED: