



SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.

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UPDATE ON SC RESIDENCY DETERMINATION FOR TUITION GRANTS PURPOSES

As discussed during the June 17, 2025, Commission Meeting, Commission Staff requested the State Residency Determination policy used by each of the participating colleges and universities, to review and ensure consistency in determining residency for South Carolina Tuition Grants Recipients. This thorough review enabled Commission Staff to identify areas of needed improvement to align with State Statute, R.62-600 – R.62-612 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations (“Residency Regulations”) promulgated by the SC Commission on Higher Education, and the Tuition Grants Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

During this review period, the Commission on Higher Education, separately, began developing proposed regulatory revisions with a final draft being circulated in fall 2025 with the anticipation of being adopted into the Code of Regulations during this legislative cycle. Tuition Grants Commission staff used the proposed changes, while ensuring compliance with the current regulations, to develop a model residency determination policy and form which each participating college and university could adopt as-is or incorporate the language within existing policies. These documents, along with the initial request with the stated deadline to submit an updated policy, were sent on November 10, 2025, with a due date of March 2, 2026.

All but one institution met the required deadline, with a notification of non-compliance having been sent to said college’s President on March 3, notifying them of the missed deadline. This college successfully submitted the necessary documentation for review and approval shortly after intervention from their President. As of the close of business on March 3, 2026, all twenty-one participating colleges and universities have submitted and received approval of their residency determination policies for South Carolina Tuition Grants purposes, effective with the 2026-2027 award year.

Commission staff recognize the challenges of implementing new policies, which led to the development of a model policy and form, and we thank each financial aid office for their support and partnership. As a State Agency administering taxpayer funds, ensuring compliance with State Statute, applicable regulations, and Tuition Grants Program Policies and Procedures protects the integrity of the Tuition Grants Program and mitigates risk for both our partnering institutions and the Commission.