



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. Do I NEED TO DO RDS?

HS or Adult Students applying to college and/or wanting a state grant in college
College students transferring to, or wanting to take courses at, another college

4. 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

5. WHERE DO I FIND RDS?

GO TO: www.NCresidency.org

Who can help me?

- Counselors at your high school OR Admissions staff at the college(s) you want to attend
- Call RDS toll-free: **844-319-3640**

6. 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

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

7. REMEMBER:

- USE CFNC LOGIN RDS uses your CFNC login. Don't have one? Create a new RDS account and login.
- BE ACCURATE Mistakes cause BIG problems
- FINISH RDS Online Interview cancelled, if NOT complete in 25 days
- DON'T GUESS Guessing = **NON-resident**; RDS checks your answers with NC State Agencies
- 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