

2020-21 SFA Workshops

WASFA

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Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)

What is the WASFA?

Awarding Guidance

Accessing the WASFA

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Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)

What is the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)?

- The WASFA is for students who don't qualify for Federal Financial Assistance because of their immigration status.
- Colleges use the WASFA to determine state and institutional need-based aid awarding.



Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA)

- Like the FAFSA, students complete a new application each year.
- Available beginning October 1 of each year.
- Students access the WASFA at:
<http://readysetgrad.org/wasfa>
- **WSAC is committed to protecting the confidentiality of the information and privacy of students and families.**



WASFA Data and Privacy

- Data collected on the WASFA can only be used for the sole purpose of determining eligibility for state financial aid programs.
- The privacy statement for applicants can be found at www.readysetgrad.org/wasfa and on the WASFA registration page.

WASFA Privacy Statement

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) administers state financial aid including the Washington College Grant (formerly known as the State Need Grant), the College Bound Scholarship, and the Washington Application for State Financial Aid, or WASFA, for undocumented individuals. The Council is committed to providing opportunities and support to ensure every Washington student is able to pursue education beyond high school.

Regarding concerns that students, parents, and other partners may have about the confidentiality of information submitted on the WASFA, the purpose of the application is to provide eligibility information to colleges and universities in Washington that offer the Washington College Grant (formerly known as the State Need Grant) and the College Bound Scholarship. WSAC shares application information with campuses listed by the student so those schools may determine eligibility for resident tuition and financial aid. Campuses are not permitted to use the information for other purposes or share the data with other parties.

WSAC is committed to protecting the confidentiality of the information and privacy of students and families. Washington is a state committed to providing opportunities to students and protecting the rights of families.



WASFA Application Statistics

- Application counts are up since 2016-17.
- Number of WASFA students served in WCG (SNG) and CBS increasing each year.

Year	App Count 6 months	App Count Full Cycle	WCG Awards	CBS Awards
2020-21	3,085	N/A	N/A	N/A
2019-20	3,287	N/A	N/A	N/A
2018-19	3,120	4,946	2,194	919
2017-18	2,948	4,614	1,972	694
2016-17	2,832	4,708	1,832	531

Awards based on Final Interim Reports

AWARDING GUIDANCE





WASFA Guidance

- WASFA runs parallel to the FAFSA.
- To ensure “Equitable Opportunity,” students who apply using the WASFA must be given the same consideration as students filing the FAFSA.
 - Award utilizing the same process.



WASFA Guidance

- Colleges determine student residency status at the time of admission.
 - Contact your Residency Officer if you find conflicting information
 - Affidavit is part of the WASFA and campus coordination is necessary.
 - Residency information is viewable in the CSAW portal



WASFA Guidance

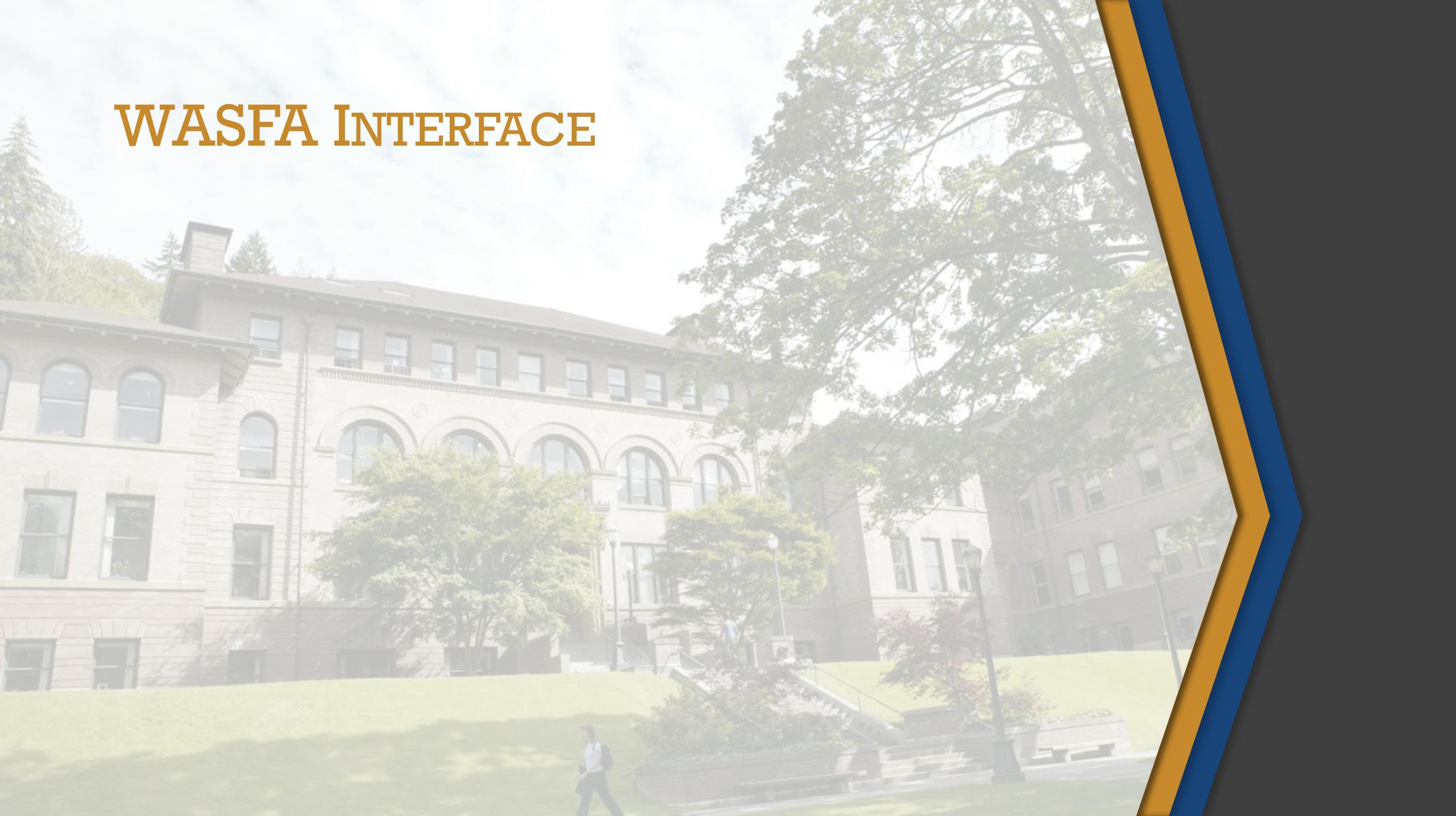
- Students applying using a WASFA are to be verified in a similar manner to students applying with the FAFSA.
 - If you find conflicting information, you will need to verify with the student.
 - Unlike the FAFSA, there is no automatic verification process.
- Also (unlike the FAFSA) students filing the WASFA are not required to file tax returns.
 - Evaluate the same as you would non-tax filers.



WASFA Guidance

- Funding for students who complete a WASFA
 - CBS scholars that complete a WASFA and meet eligibility must be awarded CBS
 - All students who meet eligibility and have need must be awarded WCG

WASFA INTERFACE





Accessing Student WASFA

- Use the WASFA interface in the [WSAC Portal](#) to access your institution's WASFA applicants.
 - Contact your institutional administrator if you need WASFA permissions.
- Applicant information is available in the WSAC interface the day after student submits WASFA.
 - You will only be able to see a student's WASFA if they added your school.



WASFA Interface

- View results onscreen or download results in .csv or ISIR format.
- Option to select all applicants for a particular year and/or only new transactions.
 - Transactions are considered new until downloaded in ISIR format.
- Many ways to search for individual students:
 - SSN/DACA/ITIN, WASFA ID, Name, DOB, etc.
 - Can download Residency information on students



WASFA Interface Search Options



Home | Programs | WASFA

Search WASFA Applications

Academic Year

2020-2021

School

Last Name

First Name

Email

SSN/DACA ⓘ

Applicant ID ⓘ

Date Of Birth

MM/dd/yyyy

Only show new transactions*

*Transactions are considered **NEW** until downloaded in ISIR format

Transaction Date - from

MM/dd/yyyy

to

MM/dd/yyyy

search

CSV

ISIR

page size:

All Data

Residency Data Only

Must Select
Academic Year

Show New
transactions only

ISIR or .csv
download option

Search Tips:

- Leave fields blank to search for all applicants
- When searching, ensure you have correct Academic Year selected



WASFA Residency Report

On the WASFA Interface, select the Residency Data Only radio button, click search:

The screenshot shows the WASFA Residency Report interface. At the top is the Washington Student Achievement Council logo with the tagline 'EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS'. Below the logo is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Programs', and 'WASFA'. The main heading is 'Search WASFA Applications'. There are several search filters: 'Academic Year' (2020-2021), 'School' (Bates Technical College), 'Last Name', 'First Name', 'Email', 'SSN/DACA', 'Applicant ID', and 'Date Of Birth' (MM/dd/yyyy). Below the filters is a checkbox for 'Only show new transactions*' and a note: '*Transactions are considered new until downloaded in ISIR format'. There is a search button, a CSV download button, and a 'page size' dropdown. Two radio buttons are present: 'All Data' and 'Residency Data Only' (which is selected). A red warning message states: 'The data in this report reflects student application responses. All residency determinations should be completed, and verified if necessary, at the institution.' Below this, it says 'Showing 1-3 of 3 results' and a pagination control with 'First', 'Previous', '1', 'Next', and 'Last'. A table displays the results with columns: Year, HS Diploma, Will Apply US Residency, Residency Responses Certified, House Bill 1079, and WA Residency/Daca Status. The first two columns are redacted with a black box.

Year	HS Diploma	Will Apply US Residency	Residency Responses Certified	House Bill 1079	WA Residency/Daca Status
2020-2021	High School Diploma	yes	yes	yes	N/A
2020-2021	High School Diploma	yes	yes	yes	N/A
2020-2021	High School Diploma	yes	yes	no	yes

Results display on screen, or can be downloaded into .csv file.

WASFA ENHANCEMENTS





WASFA Enhancements

■ **Special Circumstance Question**

- Mirror's FAFSA for applicants wanting to file without parent information.
- Students will not need to get parent signature on WASFA.
 - Currently, FAAs will need to work with student on approving.

■ **Coming 2021-22**

- Student will be able to chose Gender “X”
- Continue to work towards the ability for financial aid administrators to make corrections to the WASFA.



■ **Special Circumstances Implementation Issues**

- **Caused some WASFAs to lock**
 - Impacted students are being notified and asked to resubmit their applications
 - Will work with impacted schools
 - Recommend schools download all “new” WASFAs
- **Some EFCs were not calculated correctly**
 - Have a list of students who were impacted and are correcting records in the Portal
 - New transactions will be created with a process date of 5/8/2020
 - Will work closely with schools in resolving any awarding issues.



■ **Missing Transactions**

- Some student WASFA submission were not received
 - Students need to submit an updated WASFA or WSAC will send the application in pdf form through the secure portal.
 - Anticipated to be corrected in the coming weeks



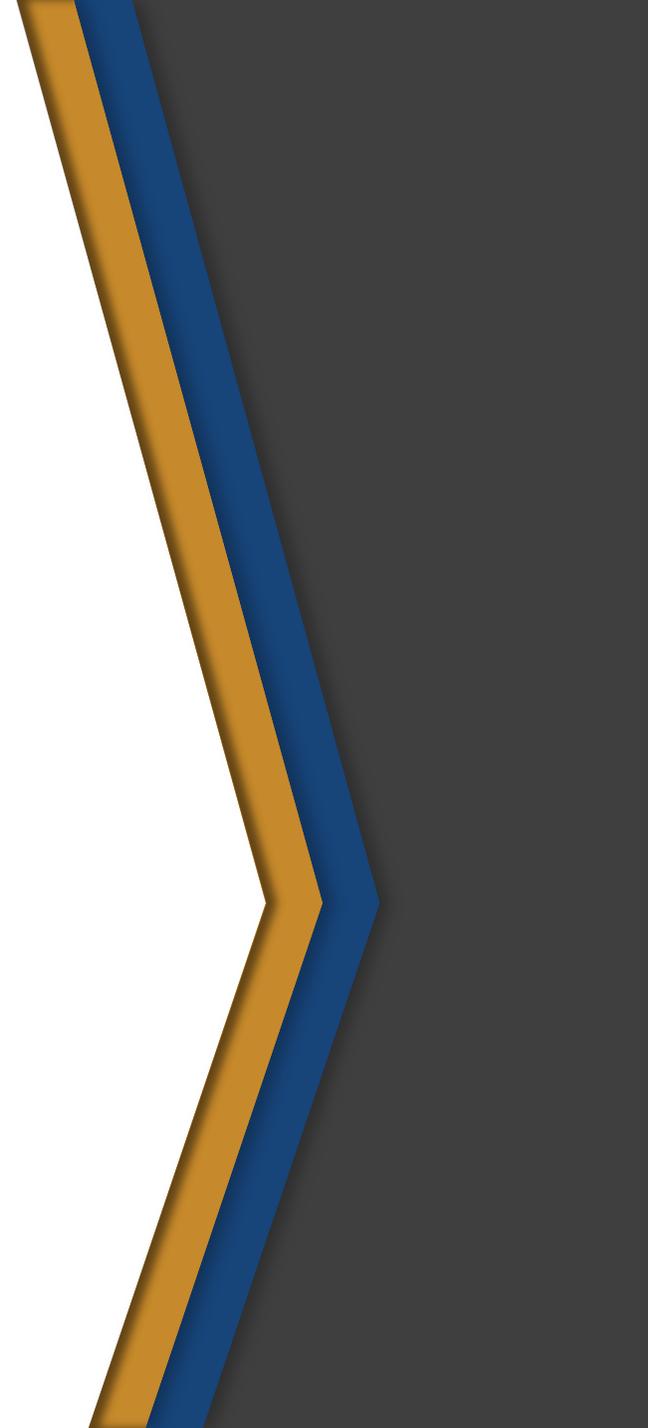
Contact Information

Questions/Subject	Email us at
Financial Aid Administrators – WCG Questions	wcg@wsac.wa.gov
Repayments	repayment@wsac.wa.gov
Students – State Financial Aid Questions	finaid@wsac.wa.gov
Unit Record Report	unitrecord@wsac.wa.gov
WASFA Help	wasfa@wsac.wa.gov

- Online**
- www.wsac.wa.gov
 - www.readysetgrad.org
 - www.theWashBoard.org



QUESTIONS?



Gail Wootan, M.Ed.

- Associate Director of Policy and Planning, WSAC
- 16 years in higher education – including WA, OR, and CA publics

Primary policy areas

- Residency for tuition and fee purposes
- Undocumented and immigrant students
- Veteran and military-affiliated students
- Transfer between two-year and four-year institutions





Residency topics

- Determining residency
- Residency and financial aid
- Financial independence vs. dependence
- Domicile
- Undocumented students and non-citizens
- Takeaways



Determining residency

Public institutions have an appointed residency officer who makes decisions when a student's residency status is disputed.

- Financial aid and residency offices are encouraged to create a communication protocol

The school is the final say on residency decision. WSAC cannot override.

Only residency officer should be giving residency advice.

Private colleges: Financial aid officer is also the “residency officer”



Residency and financial aid

30 ways to qualify for resident tuition at public colleges and universities

WA College Grant

College Bound Scholarship

State Work Study

Passport to Careers

American Indian Endowed Scholarship

5 of these ways meet residency requirements for ALL state aid

The other 25 ways only meet residency requirements for these 3 programs



The WCG/CBS five

Residency statute: RCW 28B.15.012(2)

(a) Financially independent students

(b) Financially dependent students

(e) Students who lived in WA for 3 years before graduating from high school



Primary ways to meet residency requirements

(a) **Independent students** must maintain a domicile in Washington for one year for purposes other than education.



**FAFSA
definitions
are different!**

(b) **Dependent students** must have at least one parent or guardian who has maintained a domicile in Washington for one year.



One year waiting period starts after last action has been taken to establish domicile



Determining financial dependence

Was student claimed on taxes in previous or current calendar year?

Did student receive “significant financial assistance” in previous or current calendar year?

If no to both

Independent (a)

If yes to either

Dependent (b)



Dependent student residency

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must show they established a WA domicile

Even if support is not coming from a parent (except spouse)



Once last action is taken, parent(s) must show they maintained the WA domicile for at least one year prior to first day of class



Parents include legal guardians, stepparents, and state if ward of the court



Determining independence

Was student claimed on taxes in previous or current calendar year?

Did student receive “significant financial assistance” in previous or current calendar year?

If no to both

If yes to either

Independent (a)

Dependent (b)



Independent student residency

Student must show they established a WA domicile through certain actions



Once last action is taken, student must show they maintained the WA domicile for at least one year prior to first day of class



Must be here primarily for purposes other than educational

Can take no more than 6 credits per term



Domicile and residency – a two step process

ESTABLISH a domicile

- Determine if person ESTABLISHED a WA domicile by looking at actions taken (driver's license, voter reg, etc).
- The date the last action was taken is the day domicile was ESTABLISHED.

Step 1

MAINTAIN that domicile for one year

- Once domicile is established, person must MAINTAIN their WA domicile for at least one year prior to classes starting.
- Leaving the state is allowed, but only if they don't take steps to establish a domicile elsewhere!

Step 2



Step 1: Establishing domicile

Physical
presence



Intent to
permanently
reside



Domicile

Almost anyone can establish WA domicile

- This includes undocumented parents
- Does not include visas that require domicile elsewhere (like F)

Can only have one domicile in US at a time

Burden of proof lies with the student



How to prove establishment of WA domicile

Domicile established by a variety of factors. Most common:

- Driver's license
- Voter registration
- Vehicle registration
- Lease/mortgage
- Address on taxes/W2
- Job in WA

[WAC 250-18-030](#): The weight assigned to any given factor depends on the **individual's overall circumstances**.

No one factor (including a driver's license) shows the establishment of a new domicile, although one factor may show that a person retained domicile elsewhere.



Other possibilities

Do they meet (d)?

- 75% junior/senior H.S. year in WA
- Parent(s) domiciled in WA for one year within 5 years prior to graduation
- Enroll within 6 months of graduation
- Doesn't require financial dependence

Do they meet (e)?

- Otherwise known as HB 1079 or the residency affidavit
- Anyone is eligible



Undocumented and other non-citizen students

Can be considered for resident tuition when they:

- Meet HB 1079
- Have **current** or **expired** Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status
- Have an unexpired Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
- Are Permanently Residing Under Color of Law (PRUCOL)
- Have E, H, L, U, and T visas (and a lot of other visas)
- From Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, or Palau



HB 1079 residency standard



Live in WA for 36 consecutive months right before earning WA H.S. diploma or equivalent.



High school graduates must complete full senior year at WA H.S.



Continuously **live** in WA after earning diploma or equivalent until admittance to college.

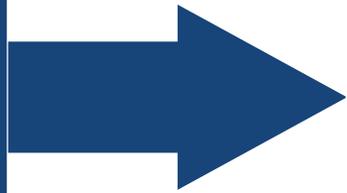


Sign affidavit saying they will file permanent resident app when eligible. **Affidavit found on the WASFA.**



DACA/EAD/PRUCOL residency standard

- DACA (current or expired)?
- EAD?
- PRUCOL?



- Same residency process as US citizens in WA
- Independent or dependent?
 - Can they (or their parents) establish a domicile based on their immigration status?



Takeaways

One year waiting period starts on day last domiciliary action is taken

Independence/dependence definition different from FAFSA

Independent students – look at their domicile; check credits taken

Dependent students – look at parent's domicile– even if assistance comes from someone else

ANY student can get residency through HB 1079

Many non-citizens can get resident tuition and state aid