

**BILL #:** SEN-YY-YY

**TITLE:** Redefining Residency Classification and Adjusting Out-of-State Tuition for Graduate Students

**SPONSOR:** Steven Jones, Bredeesen Center for Interdisciplinary Research and Graduate Education Senator (sjone115@utk.edu)

**DATE:** February 2, 2015

Whereas, One of the main goals of the "Top 25 Quest" is to "Improve graduate education, with the specific goal of increasing the number of PhDs we produce," and The University of Tennessee awards significantly fewer doctorates, masters, and certificates than its 27 peer and aspiration schools, and

Whereas, All 27 of the University of Tennessee's peer and aspiration schools allow either an exemption or a change of status after establishing a domicile for 12 months in their state as detailed in the *Addendum*, and

Whereas, Offering graduate students residency after establishing domicile can make the University of Tennessee more attractive to potential graduate students, and

Whereas, Lower expenses will make the University of Tennessee graduate programs more attainable by students in lower socio-economic statuses, thereby expanding the diversity of students attending the university, and

Whereas, Out-of-state tuition is necessary to compensate for taxpayers financing a portion of the budget of The University of Tennessee, and

Whereas, The portion of the taxpayer contribution to the budget of The University of Tennessee has decreased significantly over the last thirty years, and

Whereas, The ratio of in-state tuition to out-of-state tuition has not changed significantly over the last thirty years, and

Whereas, Increased tuition cost decreases the ability and motivation of an alumn(a/us) to donate to The University of Tennessee, and

Whereas, The disproportion pushes the out-of-state tuition rate into a price range well above state universities of the out-of-state student and into the same price range of private universities, and

Whereas, The disproportion pushes the out-of-state tuition rate over the maximum limit of federally guaranteed student loans, and

Whereas, This excess puts undue stress on the out-of-state student limiting performance, and

Whereas, Under current policy, active duty military members do not qualify for in-state residency, and

Whereas, Tennessee, as the Volunteer State, honors and support those who serve in the military, and

Whereas, The Tennessee Code Annotated 49-9-105 gives the Board of Trustees of The University of Tennessee authority to establish rules and regulations defining residency of students.

Therefore, be it resolved that

The Board of Trustees of The University of Tennessee to change the residency policy for graduate students.

The changes should include reclassifying any veteran, active duty or non-active duty, as in-state, and

For all out-of-state graduate students a fair recalculation of the out-of-state tuition rate based on the in-state rate and state funded portion of the budget of The University of Tennessee.

The Graduate Student Senate requests written responses from Chancellor Cheek, Dean Hodges, Provost Martin, and Associate Dean Anderson on the Administration's plans for progress and changes to the current residency definitions.

Addendum – Residency Policies

**Table 1:** UT Top 25 Quest peer and aspiration group schools that provide exemptions that allow for Graduate students to acquire in-state residency status.

INSTITUTION	Are Exemptions Provided?	If Yes, what Exemptions?			
		GTA/GRA Position	Scholarship Student	Resident Spouse	Property Owner
<b>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</b>	<b>No</b>				
<b>Current Peer Group</b>					
Auburn University	Yes	X <sup>1</sup>		X	
Iowa State University	Yes	X <sup>1</sup>			
NC State University, Raleigh	No				
<b>Top 25 Aspiration Group</b>					
University of Georgia	Yes	X <sup>2</sup>			
Clemson University	No				
Purdue University	Yes	X <sup>3</sup>	X		
Texas A&M	Yes	X <sup>4</sup>	X <sup>6</sup>	X	X
University of Minnesota	Yes	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>7</sup>		
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	No				
Indiana University	No				
Michigan State University	Yes	X <sup>5</sup>		X	
<b>Aspiration Group</b>					
University of California Berkeley	No				
University of California Los Angeles	No				
University of Virginia	No				
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	Yes			X	
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	No				
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	Yes	X <sup>1</sup>			
University of Wisconsin, Madison	No				
University of California Davis	No				
University of California Santa Barbara	No				
University of Florida	Yes				
University of Texas, Austin	Yes	X <sup>3</sup>			
The Ohio State University	No				
University of Maryland, College Park	Yes	X			
University of Pittsburgh	No				

<sup>1</sup> If GTA/GRA position is 1/4 time or greater

<sup>2</sup> GTA/GRA position must be 13 hours/week or greater.

<sup>3</sup> Many cover all tuition and fees

<sup>4</sup> GTA/GRA position is 1/2 time or greater

<sup>5</sup> F or fee purposes only. Departments can use tuition waiver for GTAs.

<sup>6</sup> If scholarship is greater than \$1,000

<sup>7</sup> If student holds a fellowship, scholarship or traineeship equivalent to 1/4 time GTA/GRA position

**Table 2:** UT Top 25 Quest peer and aspiration schools that allow students to apply for in-state residency status after living within the state for 12 consecutive months, and the types of evidence used to establish a student’s domicile for tuition and fee purposes

INSTITUTION	Can students establish domicile, and in-state residency, after 12 month of living in state?	Acceptable Evidence for establishing domicile												
		Establishment of Financial Independence (e.g., Parental Tax Returns	Resident Spouse	State-income source	Federal Tax Document	State Tax Documents	Property ownership	Lease/Rental Agreement	State issued ID	Automobile registration	Voter registration	Finances in state banking institution	Membership in state-based organization/community	Admission to licensed profession in state
<b>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</b>	No													
<b>Current Peer Group</b>														
Auburn University	Yes	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Iowa State University	No													
NC State University, Raleigh	Yes	X		X		X	X		X	X	X		X	
<b>Top 25 Aspiration Group</b>														
University of Georgia	No													
Clemson University	No													
Purdue University	No													
Texas A&M	No													
University of Minnesota	No													
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	Yes	X	X			X	X	X			X	X		
Indiana University	No													
Michigan State University	No													
<b>Aspiration Group</b>														
University of California Berkeley	Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
University of California Los Angeles	Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
University of Virginia	Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	No													
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	Yes	X		X		X	X		X	X	X		X	
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	Yes	X <sup>1</sup>	X <sup>1</sup>											
University of Wisconsin, Madison	Yes	X			X	X	X		X	X	X		X	
University of California Davis	Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
University of California Santa Barbara	Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
University of Florida	Yes	X	X		X	X								
University of Texas, Austin	Yes	X	X				X							
The Ohio State University	Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
University of Maryland, College Park	No													
University of Pittsburgh	Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

<sup>1</sup> A married student who receives at least one half their income from a non-University, but in state, source may appeal for residency status.