

# Centralizing Residency Determination

Report on a Working Group Proposal  
to the  
Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee  
North Carolina General Assembly  
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- Determinations are made under the *State Residence Classification Manual*
  - Conforms to current statutory requirements
  - Used for classification of students at public institutions (for tuition and student aid purposes)
  - Used for classification of students at independent institutions (for State student aid purposes)

# Stages of Current Process

- **Initial classification**
  - Made by each campus as part of the admissions process or student aid process
- **Reclassification**
  - Made by each campus upon request of a student or when address changes or other “triggering event” occurs
- **Campus-Based Appeal**
  - Made to campus committees when student disagrees with initial or reclassification decision; campus committees comprised of staff and faculty
- **State Residency Committee Appeal**
  - Second level appeal. Comprised of UNC and NCCCS staff
- **State Judiciary Process**
  - Final level appeal. Students may choose to file a petition for judicial review in Superior Court

# Common manual, but ...

- Campuses do not currently obtain information for residency determinations from a common set of questions; residency questions vary by admissions application
- Some campuses use an electronic process, some campuses review residency determinations manually
- Students applying to multiple campuses complete multiple forms, which are not identical for residency
- Student responses to differently worded questions can vary; Students can thus receive different decisions from campuses

# Multiple pathways to admission

There are (and should be) multiple paths to admission

- CFNC is the largest path (478,000 in 2013; over 2/3 of all NC applications last year)
- *The Common Application™* is used by selective admissions campuses with national pools
- Some campuses prefer their own electronic applications to better integrate with recruitment software
- Some students prefer to submit paper applications

# Legislative Mandate 2013

In response to Senate Bill 402; Sections 11.3 (a) and 11.3(b) the following work group gathered to jointly develop a coordinated and centralized residency process.

## *North Carolina Community College System*

Dr. Sharon Morrissey, Executive Vice President/Chief Academic Officer  
Wanda White, Director, Financial Aid & Student Success

## *University of North Carolina General Administration*

Ken Craig, UNC FIT Project Management Officer  
Shannon Byers, Director of Business Case Development

## *North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities*

Dr. A. Hope Williams, President  
Timothy H. McDowell, Vice President of Government Relations and Public Information

## *State Education Assistance Authority, assisted by College Foundation, Inc.*

Dr. Steven E. Brooks, Executive Director  
Elizabeth McDuffie, Director of Grants, Training, and Outreach  
Wendy H. McAlister, President, College Foundation, Inc.  
Patrick Kaiser, Vice President, Technology & Project Development, College Foundation, Inc.

This group built upon significant foundational work performed by the University of North Carolina, involving campus representatives and General Administration

## Phase One – Current through June 2014

- Continue building consensus across sectors, including advice from campus experts, on a standard set of common questions all students must answer to determine residency
- Build consensus across sectors on the structure/calculation algorithm to utilize for a residency determination
- Build final specification for the revised/enhanced CFNC residency verification admissions application process
- Conduct statewide residency verification training

# Phase 2 – Technology Enablement CFNC

## July 2014 – January 2015

- Programming enhanced CFNC admissions process for residency verification; Embed standardized questions and common algorithm into the process
- Collaborate with campus and system officials to ensure that the process readily integrates into campus admissions and records management systems

## February 2015 – March 2015

- Testing and Quality Control
- Final training of campus officials



## CFNC Applications

- Contain the standard questions and produce a common result
- Students will answer questions only once at CFNC – not on subsequent applications for same term of enrollment
- Residency determination included as part of the CFNC download for campuses along with student's answers to residency questions

# Future Phases

- Phase 3 – Revision of non-CFNC undergraduate admissions applications to reflect standardized questions; Campuses update or implement common algorithm to accommodate non-CFNC residency information
- Phase 4 – Develop and deploy a standardized reclassification and centralized appeal system
- Phase 5 – Integration of graduate admissions application data into the standardized system - We begin with undergraduates since they represent 81% of UNC classifications, 100% of Community College classifications, and almost all classifications at Independent Colleges

Phases 4 and 5 will involve greater costs than phases 1 - 3 but hold great promise for future.

# Results from our Recommendations

- Mandates standardized and agreed-upon questions across **all** of North Carolina higher education
- Locates all CFNC residency information in one place for all sectors
  - Simpler residency application for large majority of students
  - Greater efficiencies for in-state student aid administration
- Immediately reduces redundancy and inconsistencies
  - Students applying through CFNC will answer the standard questions only once even if they apply to multiple campuses
  - Those who pursue multiple admissions paths may answer more than once, but questions will be standard and, unless their answers are inconsistent, the results will be the same
- Longer term results include full centralization while short term prudent and conservative change is implemented

# Questions and Answers