




MEMORANDUM

TO: UNC Chief Academic Officers
UNC Chiefs of Staff

FROM: Kimberly van Noort, 
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Chief Academic Officer

DATE: June 26, 2020

SUBJECT: RDS Uniform Cut-Off Point

As you know, the North Carolina General Assembly directed higher education sectors in North Carolina to work together to develop a uniform process for determining residency for in-state tuition and eligibility for state grants. The North Carolina Community College System, the University of North Carolina System (UNC System), and the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities worked together to develop the Residency Determination Service (RDS). Currently, all students seeking classification as an in-state resident for tuition purposes, or for state grant eligibility, MUST request a residency determination from RDS. Students receive ONE residency determination which can be shared with all schools to which the student applies.

To ensure uniformity in applying the RDS determination effective date to institution billing it is important to have a clear cut-off point across the UNC System. After consultation with the leadership at RDS and in light of many UNC institutions starting earlier this fall, we have decided to amend the required cut-off for applying any RDS determination to be 45 days from the UNC institution's start of term. This is a shift from the previous 30-day cut-off rule, and should allow for adjustments to Census Day reporting to the UNC System Office in light of the impacts of COVID-19. This uniform 45-day cut-off will be implemented at all UNC institutions for fall 2020 through spring 2021.

New determinations, or any changes to determinations beyond the 45-day cut-off date, would be effective for the next enrolling term. Note that academic program start dates will vary between institutions and potentially within the same institution. This 45-day window should be prorated for sessions shorter than 16 weeks. We will evaluate the effect of this uniform period at the end of spring 2021, and will issue updated guidance in the summer of 2021 regarding the uniform cut-off period for future academic years.