

Residence Requirements

If asked, a student must provide proof of California residency (or in some cases, parent residency) for the past 12-24 consecutive months. If the student is unable to document proof of California residency, he/she may still enroll but must pay non-resident fees. To establish residency, a student must be able to prove eligibility, physical presence, and the intent to remain as a resident (one year and one day prior to the first day of the semester) or 24 months of physical presence. Federal law precludes some visa types from establishing residency. In addition to other requirements, a student must be able to prove residency for one year and one day prior to the beginning of the semester. Selected exemptions from non-resident fees are provided in law: such as certificated public school employees, agricultural workers, military personnel and their dependents. If you feel that you might qualify for an exemption or have questions about residency, please contact the Admissions and Records Office.

Non-Resident Students – Legal Requirements-Education Code Section 76140 requires that tuition be charged to students who are not residents of the State of California and who attend public community colleges within the state.

The non-resident/international student fee of \$190.00 per unit (subject to change) plus a per unit enrollment fee is charged each semester/ summer session. Tuition charges must be paid at the time of registration.

The Admissions and Records Office should be consulted concerning the determination of residence.

AB540 Students

On October 12, 2001, Governor Davis signed into law Assembly Bill 540 (Stats. 2001, ch.814) which adds a new section to the California Education Code. Section 68130.5 creates a new exemption from payment of nonresident tuition for certain nonresident students who have attended high school in California and received a high school diploma or its equivalent.

1. The new law does not grant residency, it requires that certain nonresident students be exempted from paying nonresident tuition.
2. Students exempted from paying nonresident tuition pursuant to section 68130.5 do not become residents for eligibility purposes for any state-funded program (e.g., EOP&S, Cal Grant programs, or for purposes of a BOG Fee Waiver).
3. Students who meet the exemption requirements and who are unlawful immigrants are not eligible for any federal or state financial aid program. Many private sources have created scholarships specific to students not eligible for traditional financial aid programs.
4. Students exempted from paying nonresident tuition pursuant to section 68130.5 are not eligible for the Governor's Merit Scholar Programs because these scholarships are only available for California residents.

5. Students must meet all requirements in section 68130.5 (a) (1) – (4) to be eligible for the exemption.
 - a. The student must have attended, and graduated from, a California high school for three or more years. There are no provisions for partial attendance (e.g. two years and 7 months). The law does not require consecutive attendance nor require that the student attended the last three years in California (in the case of four-year high schools).
 - b. Such attendance could be at multiple California high schools. Attendance at continuation high schools, charter high schools and K-12 approved independent education is acceptable.

Attendance at a home school is not acceptable unless the home schooling was provided in a manner recognized under state law. The law does not distinguish between public and private high schools. There is no time limit on how far in the past the student might have attended a California high school.

- c. The student must have graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent thereof (e.g., a GED or a high school proficiency exam).
 - d. Except for nonimmigrant aliens, any nonresident student who meets the first two requirements shall be exempted from nonresident tuition even if he or she is a US citizen or lawful immigrant.
 - e. If the student has filed an application with the INS to legalize status, the student may already be eligible for resident fee status if the student has resided in California for more than one year and one day since the time of INS application. (See Title 5 Section 54045.)
6. Students who are nonimmigrant aliens (the most common being the F series student visas and B series visitor visas), are not eligible for this exemption. (A full description of nonimmigrant alien classification may be found in paragraph 15 of subsection (a) of Section 1101 of Title 8 of the U.S. Code.) People who entered the country as nonimmigrant aliens but subsequently have gone out of status are not eligible for this exemption until they apply to INS to change their status to something other than nonimmigrant.

Open Enrollment Policy

The policy of this district is that, unless specifically exempted by statute or regulation, every course, course selection, or class, reported for state aid, whenever offered or maintained by the district, shall be fully open to enrollment and participation by any person who has been admitted to the college and who meets such prerequisites as may be established pursuant to regulations contained in Title V.

Unit Limitations

Students are limited to 18 units (15 units for summer sessions) unless they receive approval from a counselor for additional units. Students wishing to enroll in over 18 units (15 units for summer sessions) must meet with a counselor for a unit overload form. High School students are limited 7 UNITS or 2 classes of non-remedial coursework

Adding/Dropping Classes

Students may add classes (including a change of section of the same course) during open registration dates as listed in the online Class Schedule. The class add must be processed through AccessRio, and students who complete this process are officially enrolled in the class.

If the class and waitlist are closed, students must attend class on the first day of instruction and request an add code from the instructor. If the instructor provides an add code, the student can then use the add code to register for the class via AccessRio by the published deadline.

Starting with the Spring 2013 registration, Rio Hondo College has implemented a Drop for Non-Payment procedure. Prior to the start of each semester, there will be a Common Drop Date. After that time students will need to pay-as-they-add. The full procedure including a list of exempt student groups is posted at www.riohondo.edu

It is the student's responsibility to officially drop classes prior to the drop deadline in a given semester to avoid receiving failing grades. Please consult the online Class Schedule and click on the CRN number of the course you are trying to drop. There students will find information on critical dates for the course, including drop dates. This section will specifically contain information on the last day to drop classes without receiving a failing grade or the last day to drop classes without receiving a "W" grade. See Course Withdrawal in Section 5 for additional information.

Evaluation of Transcripts

All students enrolled at Rio Hondo College should have official transcripts from their high school on file.

Students with previous college units should have transcripts from all colleges attended sent directly to Rio Hondo College. Hand carried transcripts are no longer accepted. These transcripts can verify completion of prerequisite courses, eliminating the necessity of taking all or part of the assessment tests, and can assist the counselors in working with the student. Official transcripts from other colleges are required for evaluation towards a certificate, associate degree, or meeting general education requirements for transfer.

Transcripts from foreign universities must be evaluated by an approved credential evaluation service. Upon request, transcripts from colleges

accredited by one of the regional accrediting associations will be evaluated for students during the first semester of attendance.

Transcripts of military service credits will be evaluated upon request of the student.

All transcripts must be sent directly to the Admissions and Records Office. Transcripts become the property of the college and cannot be returned to the student, copied, or forwarded to another institution.

Student Success and Support Program (formerly Matriculation)

Senate Bill 1456 revised and renamed the Matriculation Act of 1986 as the Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act of 2012. Signed by Governor Brown on September 27, 2012, the program began on January 1, 2013 and will be implemented in stages over a five-year period.

The Student Success and Support Program supports the transition of new students into the college by providing them services that promote academic achievement and successful completion of degrees, transfer preparation, career technical education certificates, or career advancement. Based on student responses to the Rio Hondo College Application for Admission, students self-identify as either matriculating or non-matriculating. Students identified as matriculating are referred to core services: assessment, orientation, and counseling. Students must complete assessment and orientation in order to receive priority registration. They also need to develop an educational plan which can be accomplished by enrolling in a counseling course, attending an educational planning workshop, or by scheduling an appointment with a counselor. Non-matriculating students are exempt from participating in core services, but they are advised to access these services if they decide to pursue a degree or certificate.

The Student Success and Support Program is the process responsible for bringing together the college and a student, who enrolls for credit, into an agreement for the purpose of realizing the student's educational goal through the college's established programs, policies, and requirements. The primary purpose of the Student Success and Support Program is to enhance a student's success at the college. A student is expected to participate in these services unless the student requests an exemption from a particular service. Exemption forms may be obtained in the Counseling Department. All students are strongly encouraged to participate in the process.

Military Veteran students must participate in all matriculation components as required by the Veteran Administration (VA).

Components of Matriculation

Matriculation is composed of the following steps designed to enhance student success: