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NKU weighs different residency criteria

Students who meet requirements save on in-state tuition

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

"How long do I have to live in Kentucky?" is a question out-of-state students at Northern Kentucky University repeatedly ask when it comes to tuition.

Assistant registrar Kathy Bryan held a class for faculty and staff to help them answer questions about Kentucky residency requirements.

"One of reasons for offering the workshop for advisers and others on campus was to help dispel the waiting-period myth," said Bryan.

The myth is that students wanting to go to NKU must establish residency in Kentucky for a certain length of time before receiving in-state rates. Not so, said Bryan, who serves as the residency officer.

"We use the idea of domicile," said Bryan. "A person may have many residences but only one domicile. A dependent student has the domicile of his or her parents. Sometimes one parent lives in one state and one in another. If one parent is a Kentucky resident, then the student may use that parent for the tuition basis."

Students who are on their own are handled differently.

"An independent person may establish a home for herself or himself," said Bryan. "If the move to Kentucky is close to beginning school at Northern Kentucky University and/or academic records come from another state that might still be home, the student will be admitted as non-resident. Once admitted, the student may request a review."

Students who move to Kentucky while enrolled in school can also request a review to gain in-state status.

Bryan said students can use different documents to verify their resident status. These include a Kentucky driver's license or state identification, vehicle registration, a lease or proof of ownership of a home in Kentucky.

Bryan has become proactive in notifying students they may be eligible for in-state tuition, but they didn't realize it because they believed the waiting period myth.

"I have begun monitoring address changes closely to be able to reach out more," she said. "We do not change anyone to Kentucky resident status based upon a change of address. College students tend to move around frequently."

Students who live in Ohio, but still want to attend NKU, may be able to get in-state rates.

NKU has a reciprocity agreement with the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati State. Residents of Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Hamilton, Highland or Warren counties who have earned an associate's degree from those schools can pursue a bachelor's degree at NKU at in-state tuition rates.

Students getting in-state rates save thousands of dollars. For the 2006-07 school year, in-state tuition is \$2,724 per semester for 12 to 16 hours. That rate is \$5,100 for out-of-state students.

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