Lawful Presence

FAQ

1. Q. I’m a United States Citizen. Why do I have to verify my lawful presence?
   A. South Carolina law requires all students to verify their lawful presence in the United States prior to enrolling in any public institution of higher education. It applies to U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and international visitors.

2. Q. What documents are accepted as verification of lawful presence?
   A. U.S. citizens, please refer to the Verification of Lawful Presence in the United States form for accepted documents. Permanent residents may present a current and valid green card. International visitors may present a current and valid visa.

3. Q. Can I submit a photocopy of my verification document?
   A. Yes, a photocopy or jpg format photo of the verification document is acceptable. However, we must receive the original signed Verification of Lawful Presence in the United States form.

4. Q. How do I get my form and document to you?
   A. Because we need the original of your Verification form, please deliver them in person to the Registrar’s Office, 2nd Floor of Lightsey Center, or by mail to Registrar’s Office, College of Charleston, 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29424.

5. Q. What if I forget to provide my signed Verification form and documentation?
   A. We will remind you, but the law does not permit us to allow you to attend classes without verification. If we do not receive verification, we will have to release you schedule until you provide verification.

6. Q. I do not plan to apply for financial aid. Do I still have to provide verification?
   A. Yes. Compliance is not related to receipt of financial aid.

7. Q. The College of Charleston already has my Social Security number. Isn’t that sufficient?
   A. No. You must present the Verification of Lawful Presence in the United States form and one of the specified verification documents to be cleared to register for classes.

8. Q. What if I am taking all coursework online and will not be visiting the College before my classes begin?
   A. Please contact the Compliance Officer in the Registrar’s Office at lawfulpresence@cofc.edu for assistance.

9. Q. Do I have to provide verification every year?
   A. No, once you are verified, you do not need to provide verification again as long as you are continuously enrolled at the College.

10. Q. How can I learn more about this law and the policy for complying?