



Muskegon Community College

**WELCOME TO MCC!**

*Of course you can.*

International Student Welcome Booklet



# Welcome!

Our Admissions department is here to help you with all of your international student needs! Your admissions representative/designated school official is Ellis Glassford and is located in room **1048A**.

You can view the main international students page in which provides checklists before and after you are admitted and additional information regarding documentation and frequently asked questions.

## International Student Orientation

International students are offered two types of orientation opportunities, both required. First is the online New Student Orientation which allows you to learn information relevant to being a student at Muskegon Community College found at [muskegoncc.edu/orientation](http://muskegoncc.edu/orientation). We also have an in-person orientation for all international students at the beginning of your starting semester, in which provides the opportunity to learn more about your peers, MCC and F1 student visa policies.

## Your MyMCC

Upon admission to MCC, you will receive an email with information about how to log in to your MyMCC. The username is typically your first name.last name and your password would be first and last initial, student ID number and an exclamation point (For example, ej123456!) Your MyMCC is a one stop shop for all things related to MCC including Blackboard (used to access courses) and Registering for Classes. Note:Your Student ID number is unique to you, and you should be sure to have access it to it when on campus.

Your username is also used on campus if you are utilizing our computer labs or printers and will be used for your email address ([username@muskegoncc.edu](mailto:username@muskegoncc.edu)).

## MyMCC One Card

The MyMCC one card is your Student ID card. Although not a requirement, you will want to have one in the case of needing a US issued photo ID. In addition, it also has many uses around campus such as acting as access for our Fitness Center and can be potentially used as a debit card. It is important that you have a US address listed in order to have it shipped to the correct address. You can do the steps to get this card after arrival to the US.

## International Student Checklist

At this point, you have completed all necessary steps in order to receive you admission to MCC and your I-20. After being admitted, here are the next steps to becoming enrolled:

- 🕒 Apply for U.S. Visa
- 🕒 Practice Logging in to your MyMCC
- 🕒 Take the MCC Placement Test
  - This can be done by emailing [testingcenter@muskegoncc.edu](mailto:testingcenter@muskegoncc.edu) to schedule a virtual or in person appointment. All international students are required to complete testing UNLESS you have taken the SAT or ACT. In which case, scores need to be sent to [testing@muskegoncc.edu](mailto:testing@muskegoncc.edu)
- 🕒 Complete Orientation
  - As stated above, there will be one in person after arrival, however please complete the online new student orientation
- 🕒 Search for Housing-see Housing section.
- 🕒 Meet with a counselor
  - After you have completed testing, you will want to talk with a counselor regarding classes.
- 🕒 Register for Classes in your MyMCC
- 🕒 Pay for Classes- You can set up a payment plan or pay in full in your MyMCC.
- 🕒 Prepare for Classes
  - Textbooks for courses are required to be purchased by the student (which you can do on campus or through your MyMCC)

- 🕒 Be sure to plan the best way to get to campus upon arrival, see Airport section below
- 🕒 Send proof of health insurance to DSO, [ellis.glassford@muskegoncc.edu](mailto:ellis.glassford@muskegoncc.edu)
  - if you need help choosing a coverage option, we have several pamphlets available for your review.
- 🕒 Schedule and Meet with DSO upon arrival

### **Registration**

It is a requirement for international students to meet with our academic counselors to help choose the classes that are best for you as a student and within your academic program. For F1/J1 students, **it is required to be in at least 12 credits (full time) and in all in person classes, with only one on line class allowed.**

After meeting with a counselor, it is your responsibility to register yourself for classes. You can do so by going to your MyMCC, clicking Self Service, Plan & Schedule, and selecting the appropriate sections. You can view the instructions on how to register at [muskegoncc.edu/registration](https://muskegoncc.edu/registration)

## **Academics/Resources**

### **Counseling & Advising Center**

Our counseling and advising center is a great resource for help throughout your academic journey. You would go here both for assistance in picking classes as well as if you need to speak with a professional counselor to take care of your mental health. Whether it is for advising about future or current classes or help with what will transfer, academic advisors are here to help. Here is their contact information as well: Your assigned counselor is Jordan Wolfe, and can be contacted at [jordan.wolfe@muskegoncc.edu](mailto:jordan.wolfe@muskegoncc.edu)

A full list of our academic programs can be found here for your reference: <https://www.muskegoncc.edu/degrees-and-certificates/>

### **Writing Center**

We recognize the transition to American learning can be different and sometimes difficult. Our writing center can assist in all stages of the writing process such as basic grammar, essay development, research, or other writing concerns. It is a free resource for you.

Our writing center is located within the College Success Center, room 3081, which provides other assistance as well.

### **Tutors**

Also, within the College Success Center, we offer one on one academic support in your classes through the use of tutors. You can schedule an appointment by emailing [tutoring@muskegoncc.edu](mailto:tutoring@muskegoncc.edu)

### **Meijer Library**

We have a large library available on our campus for you to borrow books or use the resources available. We also have an online database in which allows for many resources regarding research or finding books/articles. The library is a great place to study and work on homework. As an MCC student, you have access to utilize the library during open hours. Here is more information:

<https://www.muskegoncc.edu/library/experiencing-meijer-library/>

Students also receive free printing at MCC for your convenience. The library is a great place for you to print off any assignments or things you may need.

### **Health & Wellness Center**

As a student, you have access to this facility when you are enrolled. This is a great space to workout.

### **Information Technology**

Our Information technology office (IT) can help with things related to software and computers and are available 24/7. If you are in need of a computer, you are able to either use our on-campus computer labs or we have computers available for purchase through the bookstore. Additionally, all students have access to utilize Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc) for free. You can log in using your MyMCC log in information after downloading. You also are able to access Zoom, an online platform used for video conferencing or online meetings (such as online classes).

## **Student Success Office**

Our student success office provides resources and assistance for all things that can help you be successful as a student. They assist in supporting students in making a successful transition to college. They put on a variety of events throughout the semester with a variety of topics as well as provide services and resources such as the Care Team, Career Services, and Student Life. If you get an email from the Care Team, please consider taking action- they are intended to help you succeed!

## **Disability Support Services**

We are committed to making things accessible for you as a student. Our Disability Support Services office works to make accommodations for you if needed. If you have a disability or feel you need accommodations, you can email donella.cooper@muskegoncc.edu for assistance.

## **Jayhawk Hub**

Our Jayhawk Hub provides basic need support by providing a food pantry, bus passes and assessing personal needs. It is located on the 2nd floor of campus in room 2046.

## **Bookstore**

Our bookstore is similar to a store in which you can purchase food, drinks, school supplies and your textbooks for classes. You can view the books required for your classes by going to the Bookstore tile in your MyMCC.

# **Campus Involvement**

We have over 30 clubs and organizations for you to be a part of. Additionally, our student life office puts on fun events throughout the year for you to be engaged. Jayhawk Frenzy happens during the first week of the semester. It is a great time to hear about all of our student organizations. It is also a great way to be introduced to campus and meet lots of people! All campus events are typically posted in your MyMCC. There are other ways to get involved as well. We have opportunities to get involved in performing arts or in TV, Radio or Newspaper. Included in these organizations is Phi Theta Kappa, an honors society for those who maintain high GPA.

## **International Club**

The international club is a great opportunity for you to meet other students within your cohort of international students. We put on fun events, resources and provide a great way to get involved. Tell your DSO if you are interested in getting involved.

## **Athletics**

We have 18 competitive athletic teams here at MCC. If you are interested in being a part of a team, you should reach out to the coach!

# **Campus**

Muskegon Community College actually consists of multiple locations. However, our main campus will be primarily where you are as that is where most of our classes and events take place. The address to our main campus is 221 S. Quarterline Rd Muskegon, MI 49442.

Our main campus can be confusing at times. Rather than going up floors, our building goes down. Therefore, the second and third floor would be downstairs rather than up. However, you will be familiar with it as the semester goes on. Some of the best features of our main campus is the beautiful view, our Art & Music Building, Planetarium, Science Museum, Overbrook Theater, Art Gallery and Golf Course.

## **Campus Safety**

We want to make sure that you feel safe while on our campuses. We have surveillance across all areas of campus, public safety officers on duty and resources available.

RAVE Alerts- Urgent, mass notification system keeping you informed on major events, closures, or emergencies. Alerts can be delivered through text message, voice message, emails or MyMCC page.

# Around Muskegon

## Living in Muskegon

Muskegon is a great city due to its variety of landscapes and sites. It is near Lake Michigan, home to Michigan's Adventure amusement and water park and there are several parks and recreational activities.

## Transportation

While there is no transportation system provided by MCC, Muskegon does have transportation options. You can utilize the MATS Bus system and routes, You can also use the Go2 vans ranging from \$2-\$10 a trip.

You can also access Uber, Lyft or find a taxi if you are interested.

If you choose to buy a car while you are here, you will want to make sure that you 1) have required documents to do so and 2) be sure to get a parking pass from MCC (they are free!) Be aware that driving conditions and customs are different then what you are probably used to.

In order to get a drivers license in Michigan, it typically depends on whether or not you have a license from home. If you do not, you will need to pass drivers tests in order to get your license. The best contact for specific questions related to getting a drivers license would be to contact the Michigan Secretary of State, their contact information is below:

Secretary of State  
1485 E Apple Ave  
Muskegon, MI 49442  
888-767-6424

The requirements are typically those found here: [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/Applying\\_for\\_lic\\_or\\_ID\\_SOS\\_428\\_222146\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/Applying_for_lic_or_ID_SOS_428_222146_7.pdf)

NOTE: Column 1 requires getting a Social Security Number OR a letter of eligibility (this is easier and the recommended way).You can do so by contacting the Social Security Administration.Their information is below:

Social Security Administration  
340 Morris Ave  
Muskegon, MI 49440  
1-866-763-2632

## Nearby Health Care

Trinity Health: <https://www.trinity-health.org/>

## Things to Do in Muskegon

Learn about fun things to do when visiting Muskegon by going to [visitmuskegon.org](http://visitmuskegon.org)

Some options that are fun is attending a hockey game at the Mercy Health Arena, visiting a theater, music, and restaurants downtown, and going to the beach. It is also fun to attend on campus events if you want to stay local.

## Housing Options

Unfortunately, due to a lack of need from a majority of our students, we do not have on campus housing. Some off campus options include:

Chesapeake Landing  
2690 Chesapeake Dr  
Muskegon, MI 49442  
231-777-2100  
<https://chesapeakelandingapts.com/>

Glen Oaks Apartments  
410 Glen Oaks Dr  
Muskegon, MI 49442  
231-773-4142  
<https://www.glenoakapartments.com/>

Arbor Crossings Apartments  
834 S Sheridan Dr  
Muskegon, MI 49442  
231-375-2040  
<https://www.arborcrossingsapartments.com>

Be sure that you review some resources before signing a lease, such as conditions as age of space, laundry machines, amenities and utilities included or not included in the fees. It is important to review the website of whichever place you are interested in staying in so you will know what to expect. You may also want to look for places that are furnished since you likely will not be able to bring furniture with you overseas. Be aware of things that seem to be potential scams. Ask to video chat with the landlord and don't wire money over.

### **Address Change**

You must submit a change of address (by emailing your DSO your new address or by updating your profile in your MyMCC) within 10 days of arrival. Your SEVIS record is unable to be updated without it and we will be unable to mark you as active.

### **Weather**

Michigan often does have unpredictable weather. However, during the months of Winter, you may be surprised at the colder temperatures. While the snow allows for fun activities such as sledding, skiing, or ice skating, it is important to be prepared for these temperatures. We recommend getting a waterproof pair of boots for walking, a warm coat (including isolation) and layering items such as a scarf, gloves, hats, and sweaters.

### **Airport**

There is an airport located in Muskegon, however the most common airport in which you would fly into would be Gerald R Ford airport in Grand Rapids (GRR). For transportation between GRR and Muskegon, most options typically have a fee.

Your options would be to take a taxi. Uber, lyft, or a friend who you know well.

### **Employment**

Please note that as an international student here on a student visa, you are unable to work off campus. After your first semester, you are able to work on campus as long as you qualify. If you are interested in doing so, you will need to reach out to your DSO for help with this process.

## **Shopping in Muskegon**

### **Shopping Centers/Malls**

- The Lakes Mall  
5600 Harvey St, Muskegon MI 49444
- Lakeshore Marketplace  
5141 Harvey St, Norton Shores, MI 49444

## **Grocery Stores**

Unfortunately Muskegon Community College does not have dining halls across campus. Rather, we have vending machines and snacks available for purchase in our bookstore. Therefore, you will likely want to review the grocery stores available nearby.

Meijer  
1800 Holton Rd  
North Muskegon, MI 49445

Meijer  
5300 Harvey St  
Muskegon, MI 49444

Walmart  
1879 E Sherman Blvd  
Muskegon, MI 49444

Walmart  
3285 Henry St  
Muskegon, MI 49441

Asian Grocery Store- Valy Vietnamese Oriental Food, 939 E Laketon Ave Muskegon MI 49441

Latinx Grocery Store-Figueroa Market, 927 S Getty St Muskegon MI 49442

## **Cell Phones**

Verizon-1970 E Apple Ave Muskegon MI 49442  
T Mobile- 1848 E Sherman Blvd, Muskegon MI 49445



# Finances

## Choosing a Bank

Many international students choose to open a US bank account to avoid unnecessary charges and problems accessing funds. Chase Bank seems to be the most viable option for international students, however in order to open an account, you will need a photo ID (typically your MYMCC one card will work just fine). You are not forced to choose Chase, many other banks also provide resources for college students and do not require you to be a citizen. Some of those include Bank of America, Comerica Bank, PNC, and some credit unions.

## Money Conversions

When coming to the United States, knowing the conversion rates is really useful. Some conversion sites are:

OANDA- <https://www1.oanda.com/currency/converter/>

XE- <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

## Cost of Attendance

To best prepare for your financial situation, be sure to review the breakdown of funds on our international application. Remember, as part of the process, you must demonstrate that you have at least \$22,517 USD. Also remember that you are paying the out of state rate.

## Scholarships

Unfortunately, there are limited funding assistance programs for international students. However, you are eligible for scholarships in which do not require you to fill out a FAFSA. You can find some of our scholarships by filtering out ones that require a FAFSA at [muskegoncc.edu/scholarships](http://muskegoncc.edu/scholarships)

## Cultural Adjustment

You are likely to experience an adjustment of culture. It can be daunting to be in a new place with new people. However, I assure you that you will become more acclimated to the culture the longer you are here. It is completely normal to feel this way when you arrive to a new country. Talking to others who have the same struggles can help (by joining the International Student Club). Additionally, your DSO is always there to be a listening ear with whatever problems you may encounter and can connect you with resources that may be helpful. Feel free to reach out to our counseling staff if you need it as well!!

# Miscellaneous Information

## Holidays

The holidays celebrated within USA are:

- Labor Day in September
- Halloween Oct 31st
- Veterans Day in November
- Thanksgiving in November
- Christmas Eve/Christmas Day- Dec 24/25
- New Year's Eve/New Year's Day- Dec 31/ Jan 1
- Martin Luther King Day in January
- Presidents Day in February
- Memorial Day in May
- Independence Day July 4th

This holidays often are associated with time off of school. For a comprehensive list of the calendar for the school year, you can go to [muskegoncc.edu/registration](http://muskegoncc.edu/registration)

## WIFI

Wi-Fi is available for guests on campus. Typically, you can use MCC Students & Staff network, sometimes requiring you to log in using your MyMCC email.



## Contact Us For More Information

**Ellis Glassford**

 (231) 777-0599

 (231) 777-0599

 [ellis.glassford@muskegoncc.edu](mailto:ellis.glassford@muskegoncc.edu)/  
[international@muskegoncc.edu](mailto:international@muskegoncc.edu)

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