



MUSKEGON **COMMUNITY** COLLEGE

International Student Welcome Booklet



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Welcome!

Muskegon Community College is SO happy that you are here. Thank you for choosing MCC as the place to pursue your education. We are here to help you with all your international student needs! Welcome to our community!

Your contacts at MCC are:

Ellis Glassford, Associate Director of Admissions/PDSO
(231) 777-0599 or Ellis.Glassford@MuskegonCC.edu

Justin Brownlee, Admissions Representative/DSO
(231) 777-0516 or Justin.Brownlee@MuskegonCC.edu

Jordan Wolfe, Counselor
(231) 777-0593 or Justin.Wolfe@MuskegonCC.edu

Please be sure to also review our main international student page [here](#), which provides checklists before and after you are admitted and additional information regarding documentation and frequently asked questions.

Pre-Arrival Tasks

Seeking Approval for F-1 Visa

- Paying the I-901 SEVIS Fee is required before you are issued a visa. To pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee, visit [FMJfee.com](https://fmjfee.com). Be sure to keep your payment receipt for documentation.
- Once payment is completed, you can begin applying for a visa interview.
- Be sure to take all required documentation, including your signed I-20 form from Muskegon Community College with you to your visa interview. Please notify the Admissions office when you are officially approved.
- Once your F1 visa is officially secured, you are ready to begin completing the enrollment steps at MCC.

International Student Checklist

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

- Take MCC Placement Test
 - This can be done by emailing 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 into International@MuskegonCC.edu
 - It is simply a way for us to know where you are at for class placement
- Send proof of health insurance to International@MuskegonCC.edu
- Search for Housing- see Housing section.
- Log in to your MyMCC account (which is to be completed after arrival)
- Complete online new student orientation
 - There will be an in person one upon arrival
- Make a Counseling Appointment & Register for Classes
 - Contact Jordan.Wolfe@MuskegonCC.edu to schedule a counseling appointment
- Schedule and Meet with DSO
- 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
 - Please keep in mind that it is the student's responsibility to coordinate transportation
 - **Please let us know when you have successfully arrived to schedule a time to meet and review next steps.**
 - * Keep in mind that a failure to contact MCC or complete the enrollment process will result in an immediate termination of your SEVIS record and Form I-20

Beginning Your Journey in the U.S.

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

Muskegon does have transportation options. You can utilize the MATS Bus system and routes, found [here](#). 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 the 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 than what you are used to.

To get a driver's license in Michigan, it typically depends on whether you have a license from home. If you do not, you will need to pass driver tests to get your license. The best contact for specific questions related to getting a driver's 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:

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: Trinity-Health.org/

Things to Do in Muskegon

Learn about fun things to do when visiting Muskegon by going [here](#).

Some options that are fun are 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 locally.

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
ChesapeakeLandingApts.com/

Glen Oaks Apartments
410 Glen Oaks Dr
Muskegon, MI 49442
231-773-4142
GlenOakApartments.com/

Arbor Crossings Apartments
834 S Sheridan Dr
Muskegon, MI 49442
231-375-2040
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) **within 10 days of arrival**. Your SEVIS record cannot be updated without it, and we cannot 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 in Muskegon, but the most common one you would fly to would be Gerald R Ford airport in Grand Rapids (GRR). For transportation between GRR and Muskegon, most options typically have a fee. Your option 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 can work on campus if 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 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

Campus Services

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 [here](#). 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 and about MCC and FI 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, ejl23456!) 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 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).

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.

Photo IDs are now digital! You will get an email sent to you about the app titled ID123 about how to get this access to your phone.

Registration/Academic Advising

International students must meet with our academic counselors to help choose the classes best for you as a student and within your academic program. For FI/JI students, **it is required to be in at least 12 credits (full time) and in only ONE online class to maintain status.**

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 [here](#).

Your counselor is also a trained mental health professional to help beyond academic needs.

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 in the Academic Support center, room 3081, which provides other assistance. You can view more about them [here](#).

Tutors

Also, within the Academic Support center, we offer one-on-one academic support in your classes through tutors. You can schedule an appointment by emailing 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 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 opening hours.

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.

Information Technology

Our Information technology office (IT) can help with things related to software and computers and are available 24/7.

If you need a computer, you can use our on-campus computer labs or 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.

Disability Support Services

We are committed to making things accessible for you as a student. Our Disability Support Services office works to make accommodation for you if needed. If you have a disability, you can reach out to them and find more information [here](#).

Jayhawk Hub

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

Bookstore

Our bookstore is like 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 title in your MyMCC.

Campus Involvement

We have several clubs and organizations for you to be a part of. You can view all our student organizations [here](#).

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 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.

International Club

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

Athletics

We have over 17 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 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 of 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. To access a campus map, go [here](#).

Some of the best features of our main campus are 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. [Here](#) is more information.

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

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 Conversations

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

OANDA – www.I.Oanda.com/Currency/Converter/

XE – www.XE.com/CurrencyConverter/

Scholarships

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

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 in 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!

Holidays

The Holidays celebrated within USA are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| - Labor Day in September | - New Year's Eve/New Year's Day December 31/January 1 |
| - Halloween October 31 | - Martin Luther King Day in January |
| - Veterans Day in November | - Presidents Day in February |
| - Thanksgiving in November | - Memorial Day in May |
| - Christmas Eve/Christmas Day December 24/25 | - Independence Day July 4 |

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.

Maintaining Legal F-1 Status in the United States

Summary of USCIS Academic Regulations for F-1 Students

- In compliance with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), international students are required to maintain no fewer than 12 credit hours each semester.
- International students must take classes in person. Only one (1) course per semester is permitted to be taken online.
- International students have two semesters to achieve a 2.0 GPA with a minimum of 12 credits per semester
- Failure to meet these regulations may result in dismissal from the College, and notification to INS that the student is out of status.


Tuition Payment Guidelines


- Tuition for classes must either be paid by the student prior to the beginning of classes or have a payment plan set up
- Failure to pay for tuition will result in the student being immediately dropped from classes, and their F1 visa status will be terminated.

Seeking Approval for Travel Authorizations

Any student who wishes to leave the country, either for travel or vacation, must have their I-20 signed by a Designated School Official no more than (5) days in advance of travel. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that the I-20 has this signature. Students are permitted to leave the country, but re-entry may not be granted without signature.


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