



Welcome to

Shocker *Nation*

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK

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IMPORTANT IMMIGRATION TERMS *to know*



UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

- **Department of Homeland Security (DHS):** DHS was created to replace the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). It is divided into three agencies – Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).
- **United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS):** USCIS is the service side of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Applications for benefits such as Optional Practical Training (OPT), Reinstatement, etc. are submitted to USCIS.
- **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):** ICE is the enforcement side of the former INS that enforces immigration regulations.
- **Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS):** This computer information system will be used to monitor your status in the U.S. as an international student. You were issued a SEVIS ID number by ICE when you were issued your I-20. Different government agencies such as USCIS, ICE, the State Department, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and others will be able to access the information in SEVIS.
- **Designated School Official (DSO):** These are individuals at the university who are authorized to issue and sign I-20s, update SEVIS, etc.



U.S. IMMIGRATIONS LAWS & REGULATIONS

YOU are responsible for maintaining valid F-1 status while in the United States:

- You must maintain a valid passport at all times. It is your responsibility to renew your passport at least six months before it expires.
- You are required to report any change of address or legal change of name directly to the International Education office within 10 days. You can report a new address online at www.wichita.edu/international under the “Current Students” tab.
- You must complete an official SEVIS transfer procedure if you decide to transfer to another institution.
- F-1 students must enroll in and complete a full course of study each semester. In general, graduate students must take nine credit hours and undergraduate students must take 12 credit hours in Fall and Spring semesters. New summer students must take six credit hours for the Summer term. Students eligible to take fewer hours must first complete the appropriate paperwork with International Education.

IMPORTANT: Audited courses do not count towards the full course of study requirement. Also, only one online/distance education course per semester, up to three credit hours, may be counted towards the full course of study requirement. Please note that WSU does not count hours taken at other institutions towards the minimum enrollment requirement.

- If you will not be completing your program of study by the program end date listed on your I-20, you must follow the procedures to obtain an I-20 extension from International Education BEFORE the I-20 expiration date.
- You are NOT allowed to work off-campus in the United States without authorization. F-1 students are allowed to work on campus up to 20 hours per week when school is in session and up to 40 hours during semester breaks. F-1 students may only work at the school that currently maintains their SEVIS record.
- You must notify International Education prior to traveling outside the U.S. so that the Form I-20 can be endorsed for travel or new form can be issued, if necessary. A properly endorsed I-20 is required for entry into the U.S.
- You must notify International Education of any changes affecting your F-2 dependents. (for example, if your dependent leaves the U.S. permanently or changes his/her immigration status).
- You are responsible for checking your WSU-assigned e-mail address ending in shockers.wichita.edu. Please note that this email account cannot be automatically forwarded to other email accounts.

IMPORTANT: This information is not exhaustive and is subject to change without notice. Students should contact International Education at (316) 978-3232 to arrange an appointment to discuss questions related to their status in the U.S.



REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

WSU is required by U.S. Immigration law to provide the following information about students to DHS:

- Current physical address, mailing address, phone number, and email address
- Start and end dates of program of study
- Course load (number of credit hours enrolled in each semester)
- Country of birth and citizenship
- Degree program and level of study
- Documents and information related to qualifications for admission
- Non-immigrant classification (F-1, J-1, H-1B, etc.)
- Termination date and reason, if known
- Practical training information



As an international student, it is your responsibility to have correct information about the DHS regulations that govern your status. When dealing with DHS issues you should know that your signature on Page 1 of your I-20 authorizes the University to release any information from your records needed by DHS to determine if you are maintaining your status. For your own benefit, you need to know the information on Page 3 of your I-20. Please read it carefully.



F-1 VISA EMPLOYMENT

F-1 students are permitted to work part-time (20 hours per week) on campus while they are attending that school and maintaining their F-1 status. To see a list of available positions, go to careers.wichita.edu and click on Handshake. You will need to sign in using your shockers.wichita.edu email account before you can see a list of available on-campus jobs. Keep in mind, many departments on campus will not post jobs on websites. It is a good idea to visit each department individually to ask them if they are hiring.



SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

The only way for F-1 students to get a Social Security Number is to have a job. There is no exception to this regulation. If you have found a job, the hiring department should provide you with a written offer of employment. From there you should:

- 1) Email the written job offer and a copy of your I-94/electronic arrival information to International Student Services at iss@wichita.edu. The I-94 can be obtained at www.cbp.gov/i94.
- 2) Within 3 business days, International Education will prepare an Employment Eligibility Verification. This letter confirms you are enrolled at Wichita State University and are eligible to work on campus.
- 3) After picking up the verification letter, you should take the following documents to the Social Security Administration:
 - Completed Social Security Application form which can be obtained at an SSA office or online: www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/
 - Employment offer from campus department
 - Employment Eligibility Verification letter prepared by International Education
 - Valid passport and I-94
 - Most recent Form I-20

The Social Security Administration is located at 3216 Cypress St N, and can be reached at 1-866-931-9173. The office hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m



MEDICAL INSURANCE & MEDICAL CARE TIPS

Medical Insurance

All international students are required to carry medical insurance during their time at WSU. Students are automatically enrolled and charged for medical insurance through United Healthcare, unless an insurance waiver and required documentation is filed with WSU Student Health Services. Insurance waivers must be completed each semester by the set deadline. Students must repeat this process each semester to show that they have continuing medical insurance coverage. No exceptions to this rule will be considered. For detailed information regarding student medical insurance visit the following website: <http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=shc&p=/healthinsurance/#International>

Non-Emergency Care

When you don't feel well or become sick and need to see a doctor, make an appointment with WSU Student Health Services by calling 316-978-4792. Examples of non-emergency care include: colds, flu, sore throat, aches, pains, inoculations (vaccinations), check-ups, and sprained ankles. Always go to WSU Student Health Services for non-emergency issues first. Services given at other health care facilities will be more expensive with possible insurance limitations. Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on services provided visit the following website. <http://www.wichita.edu/shs>

Emergency Care

When you need IMMEDIATE, URGENT care, go to a hospital emergency room! Call 911 in extreme emergencies, or have a friend drive you to the nearest emergency room. Examples of emergency care include: heart attack, severe bleeding, poisoning, allergic reaction, broken bones. Emergency care is extremely expensive in the United States. Emergency rooms are reserved for serious health issues. You will need your health insurance card. Listed below you will find contact information for emergency care facilities.

Ascension Via Christi - Immediate | 3311 E. Murdock St., Wichita, KS 67214 | 316-689-9107

Ascension Via Christi - St. Francis | 929 N. St. Francis, Wichita, KS 67214 | 316-268-5000

Ascension Via Christi - St. Joseph | 3600 E. Harry, Wichita, KS 67218 | 316-268-5000

Wesley Medical Center | 550 N. Hillside St., Wichita, KS 67214 | 316-962-2000





STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

NEED HEALTH CARE? Student Health offers convenient and affordable on-campus health care, including treatment of acute and chronic illnesses, injuries, preventative health services, prescription and other medications, x-ray, ultrasound, and specialty services are available. Schedule online anytime using your myShocker Health portal.

→ **STEVE CLARK YMCA**

HOURS:

**MONDAY-FRIDAY 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
316-978-4792**

» **WICHITA.EDU/SHS**

MY SHOCKER HEALTH

Your patient portal to make appointments, request a refill, message your provider, view/pay a balance and more.

» **STUDENT PORTAL
STUDENTHEALTH.WICHITA.EDU**

» **WICHITA.EDU/STUDENTHEALTH**

COUNSELING AND PREVENTION SERVICES

WSU's Counseling and Testing Center is dedicated to student success and serves as the go-to resource for a wide range of student needs by offering:

- Mental health counseling and psychological assessments
- Mental health screenings, consultations and community referrals
- Awareness and education to the community regarding wellness topics.

COUNSELING

Steve Clark YMCA

8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday, Thursday and Friday

8 a.m.-7 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday

316-978-4792

» **WICHITA.EDU/CAPS**





DISABILITY SERVICES

Disability Services offers resources to ensure equal opportunities for students to attain their academic and personal goals, including:

- **ACCESSIBLE CLASSROOMS**
- **TESTING**
- **NOTE-TAKING ASSISTANCE**
- **AUXILIARY AIDS**
- **ESCORTING**
- **BOOK SCANNING**
- **BRAILING**
- **SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS**

SHOCKER SUCCESS CENTER 1ST FLOOR

(316) 978-3309 (voice)
(316) 854-3032 (videophone)
(316) 978-3114 (fax)

 **WICHITA.EDU/DS**

SHOCKER CAREER ACCELERATOR

From help discovering — and landing — your dream job to virtually limitless cooperative education and internship opportunities, the Career Development Center offers a wide range of career services focused on your success beyond the classroom.

THE SHOCKER CAREER ACCELERATOR WILL HELP YOU:

- Build a **BETTER RESUME** and make professional connections.
- **DEVELOP** networking, job search, interview and leadership skills.
- Try out a career — or several — to **FIND ONE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.**
- Find a major that encompasses your passions and talents with **ONE-ON-ONE COUNSELING.**

→ **GET CASH, CREDIT AND A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE** all while still in school.

Milly Marcus Annex of the Marcus Welcome Center

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
316-978-3688
sca@wichita.edu

 **WICHITA.EDU/CAREERS**

UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND PERSONAL SAFETY

UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Available 24/7/365
- 911 from any campus phone or **(316)-978-3450** from any phone
- Fully-commissioned law enforcement agency
- 33 sworn law enforcement officers
- Full range of services
 - criminal investigations
 - community services
 - special events
 - training
 - dispatch
 - parking enforcement

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- In the event of a natural or man-made emergency, WSU and WSUPD have preparedness plans in place.
- **SHOCKER ALERT** is a notification system that all students, faculty and staff can register for. These notifications provide necessary information during an emergency situation or an event which needs attention for safety reasons.
- Notifications come in the form of emails and/or text messages, social media and message boards throughout campus buildings. To sign up, visit **WICHITA.EDU/ALERT**.
- WSU students use the free Guardian personal safety app available on Google Play and Apple App Store.

PERSONAL SAFETY

- Use the buddy system.
- Stay in populated, well-lit areas.
- Don't run or walk alone, especially at night—go with a friend.
- Ensure that you can hear others approaching if you are listening to music, etc.
- Become familiar with emergency blue phone locations.
- Walk confidently.
- Be aware of your surroundings; don't text if you are walking alone.
- Follow your intuition; trust your feelings.
- Be aware that alcohol and/or drugs compromise your awareness and your ability to identify and act on your feelings. They also increase the opportunity for victimization.
- Be able to identify your sexual limits; it's your body and no one has the right to force or pressure you to do anything you do not want to do. No means NO.

EMERGENCY BLUE PHONES

- More than **20 EMERGENCY BLUE PHONES** are located across campus.
- Each phone can be easily identified by the blue light located on top of the poles, and each pole is marked "Emergency."
- Calls are activated by pushing the button, which starts the strobe light.
- Once the dispatcher answers the phone, tell them what assistance you need. If there is no answer, or if you are unable to answer, an officer will be sent to the phone's location.
- The location of the call is noted and only the dispatcher can disconnect the phone.
- Calls coming from the emergency phones are treated as a top priority.



DETECTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES

- Suspicious activity is an occurrence that is out of place and should not be happening in that area.
- Suspicious activity occurs when a person's conduct or action does not fit the norm of the area or the surrounding circumstances.
- Suspicious activity is when your attention is drawn to a person's conduct that is unusual, different, odd, dangerous, appears wrongful, or just not right, under the circumstances.

REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

- Remain calm.
- Keep the number to the Wichita State University Police Department readily available — **(316) 978-3450** or **911** from any campus phone.
- **CALL 911** if it is a life threatening situation and you need police, fire or ambulance immediately.
- Avoid taking any risks—your safety is most important.
- Keep away from the crime scene to preserve evidence.
- When you call WSUPD or 911, you will be asked for your name, address and telephone number. This information is requested so that you can be re-contacted after the initial call if necessary.
- The dispatcher will ask you several questions to determine the appropriate law enforcement, fire or ambulance response.
- Remain on the telephone until you are certain the police department has all the necessary information.

📍 **WICHITA.EDU/POLICE**

WSU STUDENT COMPLAINT PROCESS GUIDE

Students should begin the process of resolving an issue by completing step 1 for the appropriate complaint type. If the issue is not resolved after completing step 1, the student should complete step 2 and so on until the issue is resolved or all steps have been exhausted.

All policies referenced can be found in the **WSU POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**.

COMPLAINT TYPE		STEP 1		STEP 2		STEP 3	
NON-ACADEMIC COMPLAINTS	Regarding services	➔	Contact staff in relevant university office	➔	Contact supervisor/ director of relevant university office	➔	Contact Vice President for Student Affairs 316-978-3021
	Regarding another student (Policy 8.05)	➔	Contact Student Conduct & Community Standards 316-978-6681	➔	Contact Vice President for Student Affairs 316-978-3021		
	Other	➔	Attempt to resolve issue	➔			
ACADEMIC COMPLAINTS	Grade-related (Policy 8.20)	➔	Contact course instructor	➔	Contact department chair	➔	File grade appeal with Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs 316-978-3010
	About an instructor	➔	Contact course instructor or department chair (Contact dean of college if instructor is chair)	➔	Contact dean of the academic college	➔	Contact Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs 316-978-3010
	Academic Integrity (Policy 2.17)	➔	Contact course instructor	➔	Contact Student Conduct & Community Standards 316-978-6681	➔	
	About program or other issues	➔	Contact department chair or program director	➔		➔	
DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS	Regarding students, faculty, staff, or visitor (Policies 3.06, 3.47, and 3.19)	➔	Contact Title IX Coordinator: Courtney D. McHenry, Ph.D 316-978-5177 courtney.mchenry@wichita.edu	➔	Contact OIEC Director 316-978-3205	➔	File a complaint with EEOC, KHCRC, OCR, or Department of Ed
			Contact EO Coordinator 316-978-3186	➔			
			File a complaint online using the Institutional Equity and Compliance Report Form				



THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR WELCOMES YOU TO *Shocker Nation!*

From managing your student records to getting the scoop on the upcoming semester, we provide easy access to everything you'll need to reach graduation and beyond.

Connect with us through myWSU to:

- Change majors/minors
- Change addresses
- Register for classes
- Order transcripts
- Verify enrollment

Or visit wichita.edu/registrar to find:

- Semester schedules, calendars and deadlines
- Course catalogs
- FERPA (Family Educational Right and Privacy Act) notification

Need in-person help? Feel free to drop by our office in Jardine Hall, Room 102.

SHOCKER NATION TOBACCO FREE.



VISIT WICHITA.EDU/TOBACCOFREE FOR MORE INFORMATION

OneStop



NEED ANSWERS?

OneStop is the go-to resource for virtually all of your WSU-related questions.

WITH ONESTOP, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO:

- Find quick answers for questions about admissions, advising, financial aid, student accounts and registration.
- Access OneStop's self-service options 24/7 at wichita.edu/onestop or toll free at (855) 978-1STP. You'll need your personalized OneStop access code found by logging in at wichita.edu/mywsu.
- Get in-person support at our office:
Shocker Success Center, 1st Floor
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
316-978-4775

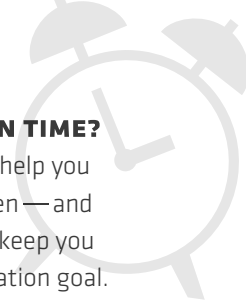
WSU

Advising

➔ WICHITA.EDU/ADVISING

WANT TO GRADUATE ON TIME?

WSU's advisors are here to help you figure out where you've been — and where you need to go — to keep you on track toward your graduation goal.



➔ ADVISING QUICK TIPS:

- Schedule an advising appointment each semester before enrolling in classes.
- Contact your advising center around mid-term to schedule an appointment for the upcoming semester.
- Summer and fall enrollment begins in April and spring enrollment begins in November.



➔ #SHOCKERSTHINK30

If your plan is to graduate in four years, you need to Think30. By enrolling in 30 credit hours each academic year (fall, spring, summer and/or short term classes), you are more likely to graduate in a timely manner, which can lead to a higher GPA and more cash in your pocket. More information about #ShockersThink30, can be found online at wichita.edu/firstyear.

➔ DEFINITION OF A CREDIT HOUR:

Example for three credit hour class: Success in a three credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week with one of the hours used for lecture) for instruction and preparation/ studying or course related activities for a total of 135 hours.

➔ GRADING SCALE:

WSU uses a +/- grading scale for final grades and to calculate grade point averages. Be sure to understand and ask about the different grading scales in all of your classes.

➔ STUDENT EMAIL ACCOUNT:

It is very important to check your WSU e-mail daily. All correspondence from the Office of International Education as well as Wichita State University will be delivered to your shockers.wichita.edu e-mail account. Remember that your e-mail address is in the format jzsmith@shockers.wichita.edu, but the sign-in address is in the format of a123b456@wichita.edu.





STUDENT CONDUCT AND COMMUNITY STANDARDS

Student Conduct and Community Standards is responsible for protecting the rights, safety, and well-being of members of the campus learning, working, and living community by:

- Investigating and resolving alleged violations of WSU's Student Code of Conduct.
- Overseeing and resolving alleged violations of WSU'S Student Academic Honesty Policy
- Promoting learning, development and a campus culture of acceptance and responsibility.
- Providing services and resources for the WSU community relating to student behavior and conflict resolution.
- Ensuring members of the campus community understand their rights and responsibilities through the process.
- Working collaboratively with students, faculty, staff and community partners to educate, empower and encourage positive, sustainable behavior change.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism is taken very seriously in U.S. universities. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty can result in suspension or expulsion from the university. Suspension means that you will not be allowed to attend your classes for a short period of time. Expulsion means that you will no longer be allowed to study at WSU.

The student code of conduct clearly prohibits:

1. Cheating in any form, whether in formal examinations or elsewhere
2. Plagiarism, using the work of others as one's own without assigning proper credit to the source.
3. Misrepresentation of any work done in the classroom or in preparation for class.
4. Falsification, forgery, or alteration of any documents pertaining to academic records.

This topic can be confusing for many new students so if you are unsure if you are plagiarizing you should visit libresources.wichita.edu/plagiarism or ask your professor. For more information about Academic Integrity at WSU, please review the Academic Integrity Policy (https://www.wichita.edu/about/policy/ch_02/ch2_17.php) and the Academic Integrity Handbook. (https://www.wichita.edu/about/student_conduct/ai.php#Procedures)



STUDENT CONDUCT & COMMUNITY STANDARDS

Shocker Hall A1060

(316) 978-6681

WICHITA.EDU/STUDENTCONDUCT

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

to recognize



FALL 2024

SEPTEMBER 4 - LABOR DAY*

This day is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of workers for a welcome day off of work and school.

OCTOBER 31 - HALLOWEEN

At night, children dress in costumes and go "trick-or-treating" in a neighborhood where sweet treats and candies are handed out.

NOVEMBER 11 - VETERANS DAY

This day honors military veterans that served in the United States Armed Forces.

NOVEMBER 28 - THANKSGIVING*

Traditionally, families and friends gather together for a special meal and celebrate what they are thankful for.

DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS*

Traditionally, family and friends exchange gifts to celebrate joy with Christmas trees, decorations, and meals.



SPRING 2025

JANUARY 1 - NEW YEAR'S*

At midnight, fireworks, parties, and special events are televised to celebrate a new year along with resolutions to improve something in your life.

JANUARY 15 - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY*

This day recognizes Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and celebrates how he fought for freedom, equality, and dignity for African Americans.

FEBRUARY 14 - VALENTINE'S DAY

This day of romance is a time to exchange cards, candy, gifts, or flowers to both friends and a "special" someone.

MARCH 17 - ST. PATRICK'S DAY

This day celebrates Irish culture where people wear green and gold and adorn shamrocks.

APRIL 20 - EASTER*

Children decorate eggs, go egg hunting, and eat marshmallow chicks.

MAY 26 - MEMORIAL DAY*

This day recognizes those who died in active military service since the Civil War.



SUMMER 2025

JULY 4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY*

This day celebrates the birthday of the United States when we signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

*Wichita State University and The Office of International Education will be closed during these holidays

LIBRARY Services

University Libraries at Wichita State has the research-related resources you need! Here's a sample of what's available.

- **EQUIPMENT CHECKOUT:** GoPro and DSLR cameras, iPads, laptops and camcorders
- **BOOK SCANNERS, 3-D PRINTING, GREEN SCREEN AND SOUND BOOTH**
- **GROUP-STUDY AREAS** with presentation equipment, digital media and production equipment
- **GROUP-STUDY ROOMS** with online reservations
- **24-HOUR STUDY ROOM**
- **DIGITAL BOOKS, JOURNALS, MUSIC AND VIDEOS WITH OFF-CAMPUS ACCESS**
- **MOVIE CHECK OUT**
- **RESEARCH ASSISTANCE** via chat, email, text or in person

For a complete list of resources, visit **LIBRESOURCES.WICHITA.EDU/ORIENTATION.**

»» **LIBRARIES.WICHITA.EDU**

Transportation

GETTING AROUND WICHITA



➔ PARKING ON-CAMPUS:

During the fall and spring semesters, Wichita State's main campus is an ePermit-only parking environment from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays when school is in session. Vehicles parked on campus without the proper permit or in non-student lots will be ticketed by university police. Free parking is available off campus with shuttle services to campus. For details on purchasing a permit please visit the following website for more information: www.wichita.edu/parking

➔ TAXIS:

Taxi services are available in the Wichita area by contacting one of the following companies.

- ABC Taxi: (316) 264-4222
- American Cabs: (316) 262-7511
- Best Cabs: (316) 838-2233

➔ CITY BUSES:

Public buses are available throughout Wichita each day except for Sundays and Holidays. All WSU students can ride Wichita Transit for free with their Shocker ID card. For detailed route and operating information visit the following website: www.wichitatransit.org

➔ UBER:

To start using Uber as a passenger you must first signup and create your account. For more details signup at www.uber.com or download the app.

➔ PURCHASING A VEHICLE:

It is suggested that students to do not purchase a vehicle during their first year at WSU. It is important to consider all responsibilities and costs involved. When purchasing a vehicle, you are required to have a State of Kansas driver's license, vehicle insurance, and register your vehicle with Sedgwick County.

➔ DRIVER'S LICENSE/STATE ID:

To apply for a state issued driver's license or state ID, you will need to take your passport, I-20, I-94, and two documents showing proof of address. You can obtain a proof of enrollment letter at the WSU Registrar's Office or bring in your WSU account billing statement. It is against the law to operate any vehicle without a driver's license. For more information or to find a location visit the following website: sedgwickcounty.org/tag_office/drivers_license.asp

➔ BIKE SHARE ICT

A convenient, affordable bike transportation system. The idea is simple. Sign-up at www.bikeshareict.com

- Rent a bike: Buy one of the affordably priced Bike Share ICT passes by app, select "Bike Share ICT" follow the sign-up steps to unlock a bike at any station.
- Tour the town: Ride the rental bike.
- When you're done, return the bike to any station.



ADJUSTING TO LIFE IN THE USA

Being in a new country can be exciting but it can also be scary! Every new student goes through this process and sometimes it can be very difficult. It is important to keep in mind that you will go through different stages as you try to adjust.

Here are the four phases that everyone goes through:

- **HONEYMOON PERIOD** – Everything is new and exciting. You are having fun trying American food and visiting different places in your new city. This phase usually lasts for the first few weeks or months.
- **FRUSTRATION PERIOD** - That excitement phase is now gone and you start to feel different from everyone else. You can start to have difficulty with the language and start to feel homesick. It can be difficult to understand Americans and their culture. You may start to criticize your new culture. This period can last from 3 to 6 months.
- **ADJUSTMENT PERIOD** – You finally start to become more comfortable in your new country. Your language skills improve and you start to feel less homesick. You even begin to understand the new culture. This period usually last 6-12 months.
- **ACCEPTANCE/INTEGRATION PERIOD** – During this period you start to feel at “home.” It becomes very easy to switch between your two cultures and relate to both.

If you are having trouble as you go through this process, the International Student Advisors at International Education are always available to help you with if you have a specific concern or if you simply just need to talk to someone. Wichita State University’s Counseling and Testing Center is also available for these kinds of issues. Asking for counseling is considered normal in the U.S. and everything is 100% confidential! Visit their website: <http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=coutstctr1&p=/counselingservices/>



HYGIENE IN THE USA

Americans are sensitive (some would say overly sensitive) to smells. Most people prefer not to be near (or, in some cases, associate with) people who have any natural body odors.

Therefore, it is common practice in the U.S. (like in most other countries) for people to shower every day, use deodorant or antiperspirant to prevent body odor, change clothes every day, wash their hair at least several times a week, and brush their teeth every morning and evening.



WEATHER IN WICHITA

Wichita has four seasons per year, and each season has a different type of weather. The four seasons are fall, winter, spring, and summer. Weather in Wichita can change very quickly and unexpectedly. Be prepared by checking the weather forecast daily by phone, tv, or online.

The following weather related terms are important to know.

- Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Conditions indicate the possibility for severe storms to develop.
- Severe Thunderstorm Warning: Severe thunderstorms can mean high winds, dangerous lightning, and sometimes, large hail.
- Tornado Watch: Current weather conditions indicate the possibility for tornadoes to develop.
- Tornado Warning: A tornado has been sighted or indicated on radar and more may develop. People in the path of danger are urged to prepare and immediately seek shelter for protection if the storm is seen approaching them. The tornado sirens will go off to alert everyone of the threat.





STUDENT *Involvement*

➔ WICHITA.EDU/INVOLVEMENT





Building your ideal Shocker experience is easy thanks to the hundreds of ways to get involved at WSU. Through Student Involvement, you'll have access to:

- MORE THAN 200 STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
- LEADERSHIP SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
- COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
- CAMPUS EVENT PLANNING
- FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE
- CADMAN ART GALLERY

Find out how you can get involved at WICHITA.EDU/INVOLVEMENT.

→ RHATIGAN STUDENT CENTER, ROOM 216



Tips for Success

AND STAYING OUT OF TROUBLE

- » **Read everything that you sign.** Your I-20, your cell phone contract, your dormitory or apartment lease, etc., all have your signature verifying that you have read the information and that you understand it. Be sure to take the time to carefully read all documents before signing them. If you don't understand something, ask for clarification! You are legally responsible for everything above your signature, so be careful!!
- » All International Education correspondence is sent to your shockers.wichita.edu mailing address, so it is extremely important that you check this email regularly. **Check your WSU Email daily.**
- » **Get information directly from the source,** NOT your friends. Immigration and academic information is constantly changing, so what your friends have heard may be outdated or incomplete.
- » **Watch your I-20 and passport expiration dates!** Follow the proper procedures for extending your I-20. Contact your country's embassy in the United States about renewing your passport, and be aware of normal processing times. International students must always have a passport that is valid at least 6 months into the future.
- » **Enroll full-time each semester.** Full-time enrollment means 12 credit hours each semester for undergraduate students and 9 credit hours for graduate students. If you will be under enrolled for ANY reason, you must file the proper paperwork with WSU Office of International Education.
- » Understand the University's policy of **academic honesty**. What you may think is simply "helping a friend" could be considered cheating and lead to academic dismissal from the University. Never speak to other classmates during exams nor use research project content that is not well documented. Never copy sections of someone's writing and use it in yours without giving credit to the author.
- » Read the syllabus for each class. **Class rules vary greatly from teacher to teacher;** to receive the best grades it is important that you understand how you will be graded in each class.
- » **Understand your insurance policy** and know where to go in case of a medical emergency. The closest medical facility is not always the PREFERRED PROVIDER and therefore should not be your first choice. If you have WSU's insurance through Student Resources, go to Wesley Medical Center if possible in the event of a major medical emergency.
- » **Give our office your new address if you move.** Students in F-1 status are required to update IE within 10 days of moving to a new address. This includes moving from one dorm room to another. Each time you move, go to www.wichita.edu/international and click on "Current Students" and then "Change of Address."
- » **Don't work off-campus without USCIS authorization!** This is ILLEGAL and is a violation of your F-1 immigration status.



CAMPUS RECREATION



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY
CAMPUS RECREATION


Campus Recreation is your home for everything you need to live a healthy, active and well-balanced life. Our facilities, activities, and classes are specifically designed to promote fitness and wellbeing. From working out and having fun to getting in the game and expanding your mind, **we can help you do it all.**

- FITNESS CLASSES
- PERSONAL TRAINING
- MASSAGE THERAPY
- AQUATICS
- INTRAMURAL SPORTS
- SPORT CLUBS
- ROWING
- SPECIAL EVENTS



NOW INTRODUCING F45 FITNESS CLASSES

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For more information, visit wichita.edu/campusrec



GLOSSARY

of Common Terms



ACADEMIC ADVISOR

A member of faculty or staff who helps and advises students purely on academic matters.

ASSISTANTSHIP

A support role at the university level, while completing post-graduate education.

BLACKBOARD

The “e-learning” program used in all classroom and Distance Education courses at WSU. Blackboard enables many classroom related activities, including email, access to course documents, and access to class-related websites.

CLOSED COURSE

A section or course that has been filled completely. You are unable to enroll in this course.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

Compulsory or mandatory courses required for completion of the degree.

COMMENCEMENT

The graduation ceremonies held at the end of the semester.

COURSE NUMBERING

Typically, the course number represents the level of the course: 100’s freshman level, 200’s sophomore level, 300’s junior level, 400’s senior level, 500’s graduate level.

CREDIT HOUR

A unit of measurement used by American universities and colleges to determine the amount of educational attainment required to complete a degree. Each credit hour represents one hour of class per week.

DORM

Shortened form of “dormitory”; also known as “residence hall.” A university building where students live while going to school, often with shared rooms.

ELECTIVES

Courses that students may choose to take for credit toward their intended degree, as distinguished from courses that they are required to take.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Organized student activities connected with school and usually carrying no academic credit, such as sports, clubs, and volunteer activities.

FEE

An amount charged by universities, in addition to tuition, to cover costs of institutional services.

FELLOWSHIP

A study grant of financial aid, usually awarded to a graduate student without requiring services in return.

FINAL

A cumulative exam on a particular course in one term encompassing all material covered throughout the duration of the course.

FRATERNITIES

Social and philanthropic organizations found on many U.S. campuses, usually male-only (see “Sororities”)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISOR

The person associated with a university who provides information and guidance to international students in the areas of government regulation, visas, academic regulations, social customs, language, financial or housing problems, travel plans, insurance, and legal matters.

LIBERAL ARTS

A term referring to academic studies of subjects in the humanities, the social sciences, and the sciences. Also called “Liberal Arts and Sciences” or “Arts and Sciences.”

LOAN

Money lent (usually by banks or the U.S. government) to be paid back with interest.

MAJOR

A subject or career field that serves as the focus of study in a degree program.

MIDTERM EXAM

An exam administered after half the academic term has passed, which covers all course material up to that point.

MINOR

A secondary concentration in a specific subject or career field.

NON-RESIDENT STUDENT

A student who does not meet the residence requirements of the state while attending a public (state) university. Tuition fees and admissions policies may differ for residents and non-residents. International students are usually classified as non-residents.

NOTARIZATION

The certification of a document (or a statement or a signature) as authentic and true by a public official (known in the United States as a Notary Public) or by a lawyer who is also a commissioner of oaths. Notarization of certain documents can be done by a notary at a Post Office or a Bank.

ORIENTATION

A vital part of the college experience with activities designed to help new students adjust and familiarize themselves with WSU.

PRE-SESSION

A course that is offered during a two-week period before the official start of the semester. These classes are much more rigorous due to their intense schedule.

PREREQUISITE

Program or course that a student is required to complete before being permitted to enroll in a more advanced program or course.

REGISTRATION

The process of enrolling in classes.

SCHOLARSHIP

A study grant of financial aid, usually given at the undergraduate level, which may take the form of a waiver for tuition and/or fees.

SEVIS

The abbreviation (acronym) for the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System.

SEMESTER

Period of study, approximately 15 to 16 weeks or one-half the academic year.

SORORITIES

Female social, academic and philanthropic organizations found on many U.S. campuses.

SYLLABUS

An outline of topics covered in an academic course as well testing dates.

TRANSCRIPT

A record of all courses taken, credits earned, and grades received.

TRANSFER

The process of moving from one college or university to another.

TUITION AND FEES

The money a university charges for instruction and training (not including books).

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (USCBP)

A branch of the United States Department of Homeland Security, CBP is charged with regulating and facilitating international trade, collecting import duties, and enforcing U.S. trade laws.



