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Adjusting to the United States

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:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Acceptance/Integration –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/>

Immigration

Important 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, Ports of Entry 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.

Reporting Requirements

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

- Current physical 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.

PLEASE NOTE: Never take action based only on information from your friends or colleagues. Immigration regulations are frequently modified and updated. Outdated, incomplete, and incorrect information about immigration procedures often circulates through the university community. You should always check with an advisor at IE before making important decisions.

United States Immigration Laws & Regulations: Role and Responsibilities of the F1 Student

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 wichita.edu.** Instructions for having your WSU email forwarded to another account can be found online at www.wichita.edu/international

IMPORTANT NOTE: *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.*

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

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 <http://libresources.wichita.edu/plagiarism> or ask your professor.

What to Do When You Are Sick

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 316-978-3620. 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 Thursday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday's 8a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on services provided visit the following website. <http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/home/?u=shc>

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.

Via Christi- Immediate Care
3311 E. Murdock St.
Wichita, KS 67208
316-689-9107

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

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

Medical Insurance

All international students are required to carry medical insurance during their time at WSU. Student 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>

Counseling and Testing Center

While moving to a new country can be a difficult transition for many people, the Counseling and Testing Center at WSU is here to help students work through problems and assist with solutions. From providing personal counseling and psychological assessments to offering national exams, such as the TOEFL the Counseling and Testing Center at WSU provides a range of services designed to help students, faculty and staff succeed in their academic, work and personal lives.

Counseling is available for students with:

- Academic distress
- Confusion about career
- Self-esteem or self-doubt issues
- Anger management
- Difficulty with family or friends
- Negative habits
- Anxiety and stress
- Depression or general unhappiness

The following services are available for students interested in:

- Time management skills
- GRE Prep
- Advanced Education Testing
- Wellness Workshops
- Educational Group Sessions

WSU Counseling and Testing Center

Main location: **100 Brennan Hall II**

316-978-3440

Hours: Monday, Thursday and Friday: 8a.m. to 5p.m

Tuesday and Wednesday: 8a.m. to 7p.m.

2nd location: **Shocker Hall Lobby Hours**

Hours: Monday and Thursday: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information on WSU Counseling and Testing visit:

<http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/home/?u=coutstctr1>

OneStop

OneStop is a great resource for students to use on and off campus! This office, at 122 Jabara Hall, provides information and support for every part of campus life. They can help answer questions about advising, money issues, and lots of other concerns! Although you can go to visit them in person, they are available at any time of day on their website www.wichita.edu/onestop or by phone at 1-855-978-1787.

Housing and Residence Life

All first year students are required to live in on campus housing during their first two semesters (Fall and Spring) at WSU.

To file for a housing exemption one of the following must apply and you must provide the required documentation to WSU Housing and Residence Life.

- 21 years old
- Married
- Live in Sedgwick County with a parent, legal guardian, grandparent, aunt or uncle
- If you have dependents who will reside with you in the United States

Please note that your housing application is a contract. When signing a contract you agree to all terms and conditions listed. Please read the contract carefully. If you have questions regarding the contract be sure to contact WSU Housing and Residence Life before submitting.

Students have the option of living in either Fairmount Towers or Shocker Hall, based on availability. To find information on rates, contracts, and housing accommodations, visit

<http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/home/?u=housing>

WSU Housing and Residence Life
2221 N. Hillside
Wichita, KS 67219
316-978-3693
housing.wsu.@wichita.edu

How to Stay Safe on Campus

WSU is dedicated to the safety and wellbeing of all students, faculty and staff on campus. Over the last ten years, WSU has consistently ranked as one of the safest campuses among the Kansas Regents' institutions and among 168 similar institutions. WSU is staffed by Kansas certified police officers 24 hours a day. The staff of the WSU Police Department offers the following services for students, faculty, and staff.

- Safety Escorts: call 978-3450 to arrange escort
- Jump start vehicles
- Unlock vehicles
- Portable air compressor for low tires
- Escort to a local gas station for fuel
- Officers will provide instructions on how to change a tire
- Campus Lost and Found
- Safety phones located throughout campus- these phones direct connect to WSU police staff

To help protect yourself use the following techniques.

1. Consider your surroundings and be alert.
2. Always walk with friends, classmates, or faculty/staff.
3. Learn the city and avoid dangerous areas.
4. Use safety resources.
5. Do not carry valuables with you or leave them in your vehicle or unattended at any time.
6. If you ever feel unsafe, ask for assistance from the WSU police department or any staff member on campus.

To contact the University Police Department call 316-978-3450.

Shocker Alert System

The Shocker Alert System is designed to notify students, by text or email, of on campus emergencies as well as weather related issues. All students are encouraged to sign up through the Shocker Alert System by visiting the following website: <http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=shockeralert>

Campus Involvement

There are lots of ways to get involved on campus. From student groups to intramural sports teams, there is something for everyone at WSU!

International Education – The International Education office provides monthly activities for all international students. Most events are free or only require a small fee. Events are posted to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WichitaStateInternationalAdmissions>

Student Activities Council (SAC) - SAC is one of the largest student-run organizations at Wichita State University and brings a variety of events and programs to campus each year. Some notable SAC events include Hippodrome, Shocktoberfest, Welcomefest, Family Carnival, Gamefest, and live entertainment. By joining SAC, students can get valuable development and leadership opportunities through planning social, educational and cultural events -- and membership is open to all WSU students. <http://webs.wichita.edu/dt/calendar/show/calendar.asp?VIEW=involvement&DATE=>

International Student Union (ISU) - ISU is devoted to bringing together international students in every aspect of student life and to fostering a better understanding and cooperation among all cultures. In addition, ISU is committed to developing an international awareness not only at Wichita State but also within the whole Wichita community. <http://www.wichita.edu/thisis/home/?u=isu>

F-1 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 <http://careers.wichita.edu> and click on [Hire-a-Shocker](#). You will need to fill out your personal information before you can see a list of 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) Bring the written job offer and a copy of your I-94/electronic arrival information to International Education. 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 the student is enrolled at Wichita State University and is 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: <http://www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/>
 - Employment offer from campus department

- Employment Eligibility Verification letter prepared by International Education
- Valid passport and I-94

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.

How to Open a Bank Account

All students can open a bank account at Commerce Bank located in the Rhatigan Student Center. Other banking options are located near campus. In general, you will be expected to present proof of address and ID. Any document, such as a piece of mail, can be used to verify your residence if it has your name and address on it. Banks will often ask for a Social Security Number or employer identification number as ID, but other forms of ID, such as your student visa, can be used.

Cell phones

Cell phones can be purchased online and at a variety of stores. Your cell phone service, can either be monthly or prepaid. A monthly plan usually means signing a two-year contract with a cell phone company. On a prepaid plan a person pays for minutes/texts/data before they use them, and lose the remainder of what they have paid for after a certain date. Note: It often costs extra to make or receive international calls. Most service providers have a list of fees they charge for international calls available online.

Transportation

Parking On-Campus

All students who want to park on campus have to have a parking permit displayed in their vehicle and park in the areas designated for student parking. 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.

http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=parking&p=/2014_parking_plan_pending/#Purchasing

WSU Shuttle System

The WSU Shuttle System is a free service to students, faculty, staff and visitors to WSU. It is provided as an alternative to parking on the WSU main campus. There are two shuttle routes available: The Metroplex Route and the Campus Route. For detailed route and operating information please visit the following website:

<http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=parking&p=/shuttle/index/>

Taxis

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

ABC Taxi: (316) 264-422

American Cabs: (316) 262-7511

Best Cabs: (316) 838-2233

Buses

Public buses are available throughout Wichita each day except for Sundays and Holidays. For detailed route and operating information visit the following website: <http://www.wichitatransit.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Purchasing a Vehicle

It is suggested that students 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 or State ID Card

To apply for a state issued driver's license or state ID, you will need to take your passport, I-20, I-94, and proof of enrollment letter, obtained at the WSU Registrar's Office and proof of your current address to one of the License Examining Bureaus. **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:

http://www.sedgwickcounty.org/tag_office/drivers_license.asp

Personal Hygiene in the United States

Americans are very sensitive to strong odors. In other cultures, it may be acceptable to wash and deodorize less frequently than is common in the United States. However, to be accepted in the United States, there are a couple of practices that are important to keep in mind.

Most Americans shower every day. People who play sports often shower more than once a day. During the summer months, people also increase their bathing schedules. Taking a shower in American means immersing yourself in water and using a deodorant soap for your body and washing your hair with shampoo.

After showering, it is typical to apply a deodorant stick or spray to your underarms before getting dressed. Almost every American uses deodorant every day and they can be purchased at grocery stores or pharmacies. It is also customary to wear clean clothes every day. Once clothes have been worn once, they should be washed before being worn again. This is especially true if the clothes were used for exercise.

It is acceptable to wear some cologne or fragrance. However, keep in mind that you should use very small amounts as Americans will find strong odor repulsive. It is also not advised to not wear musk scents.

After visiting the restroom, one should wash their hands with antibacterial soap. Washing hands helps stop the spread of disease. You should also wash your hands after coughing or sneezing.

Dental hygiene is a daily routine as well. Brushing one's teeth twice a day and using floss and mouthwash are common practice. These products are readily available at pharmacies and grocery stores and will prevent tooth decay, bad breath, and expensive dental visits.

There is a dental hygiene clinic (DHC) on campus located at 207 Ahlberg Hall. DHC provides teeth cleaning, fluoride treatments, dental x-rays and instructions on care of the teeth. The fee for WSU students ranges from US\$10 to US\$16. You must call for an appointment at (316) 978-3603.

A great source for common American practices and etiquette can be found at

<http://www.lifeintheusa.com/everyday/>

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.

Fall: September through November

This season is generally characterized by its cool temperatures and windy conditions. This season is generally pleasant, but it does bring thunderstorms, so an umbrella is recommended. The average high temperature is around 61° Fahrenheit (16° C) and the average low temperature is around 36° Fahrenheit (2° C). Towards the end of November, it's a good idea to wear some warm clothing like hats, gloves, scarves and warm jackets.

Winter: December through February

This season is generally characterized by snowfall and very cold winds. A warm coat, hat, scarf, and pair of gloves are necessary. The ground will be covered in snow for most of the month of January as this month has the highest snowfall of the year. The average high temperature in this season is 47° Fahrenheit (8° C) and the average low temperature is 21° Fahrenheit (-6° C). Pay attention to road conditions during snowy weather.

Spring: March through May

This season is generally characterized by a generous amount of rainfall and occasional tornados. The average high temperature is 76° Fahrenheit (24° C) and the average low is 56° Fahrenheit (13° C). After the rain, the weather becomes pleasant. The beginning of the season has cool temperatures, so a light jacket along with pants and t-shirt or sweater is encouraged. The following weather related terms are important to know.

- **Severe Thunderstorm Watch:** Conditions indicate the possibility for severe storms to develop.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Warning:** A severe thunderstorm has appeared on radar. People are urged to stay inside and pay attention to the weather. Severe thunderstorms can mean high winds, dangerous lightening, and sometimes, large hail.
- **Tornado Watch:** Current weather conditions indicate the possibility for tornadoes to develop. People may go about their business, but pay attention to changing weather conditions. People may go about their business, but pay attention to changing weather conditions
- **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.
- **Tornado Sirens:** Indicates the area where sirens can be heard is in the path of danger. People should prepare and immediately seek shelter for protection against death or injury. The sirens are tested every Monday at noon during the summer months. Familiarize yourself with the sound and what it means. If a tornado warning has been issued and you hear the sirens, go to the lowest level of your home or into an interior hallway farthest away from windows.

Summer: June through August

This season is characterized by extreme heat accompanied by possible rain. The temperatures in late July/early August can reach into triple digits (100° Fahrenheit or around 40° C). Drink lots of water when you are out enjoying the sun. The average high is 90° Fahrenheit (32° C) and the average low is 67° Fahrenheit (19° C). An umbrella is strongly recommended for this season. Wear light, cotton clothes because of the high temperatures.

Top 10 Tips for Staying Out of Trouble

Everyone wants to stay out of trouble when they are studying in the USA. Here is a list of things to help you during your time here:

10. 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!!

9. Check your WSU E-mail. All International Education correspondence is sent to your wichita.edu email address, so it is extremely important that you check this email regularly. If you have a hard time remembering to do this, have it automatically forwarded to your preferred email account by going into MyWSU under "My Tools".

8. 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.

7. 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.

6. 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.

5. 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.

4. 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.

3. 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.

2. 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."

1. Don't work off-campus without USCIS authorization! This is ILLEGAL and is a violation of your F-1 immigration status.

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.

DHS: Department of Homeland Security

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 Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS): Responsible for the administration of immigration and naturalization adjudication functions and establishing immigration services policies and priorities.

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.

United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (USICE): The largest branch of the Department of Homeland Security, USICE is responsible for eliminating border, economic, transportation, and infrastructure.