



Orientation Information

Summer 2017 International Student Orientation and Registration Program

Thursday, May 4 and Friday, May 5



Welcome to Western Michigan University!

Western Michigan University understands that going to college can be challenging as well as exciting. The International Student Orientation and Registration Program (ISORP) is an exhilarating time filled with opportunities to grow, explore and be more independent.

At the International Student Orientation and Registration Program (ISORP) we are here to help you make a smooth transition to WMU. You will meet new friends, faculty, staff, and current international students who will help you transition to life at WMU.

We are excited you chose WMU and look forward to meeting you!

Orientation:

Register for orientation: [WMU international orientation registration form](https://www.wmich.edu/studentcenter/registration-form).

Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 4 in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center.

(map: <https://www.wmich.edu/studentcenter/maps.html>) of WMU's Bernhard Center:

(map: <https://www.wmich.edu/studentcenter/tocampus.html>)

Important dates:

Residence halls open	Wednesday, May 3 at 9 a.m.
Orientation (ISORP)	Thursday, May 4 and Friday, May 5
First day of classes	Monday, May 8
Last day of classes	Friday, August 18
Fall Orientation	Monday, August 28- Thursday, August 31
First day of fall class	Tuesday, September 5

Contact information for International Admissions and Services

Regular business hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Phone: +1 (269) 387-5865

Fax: +1 (269) 387-5899

After-hours emergencies only: +1 (269) 203-5482

For police or medical emergencies in the U.S. call: 911

If you need to send things ahead your WMU temporary mailing address:

First name, family name, c/o orientation

International Admissions and Services

3110 Faunce Student Services

Western Michigan University

Kalamazoo, MI 49008–5246 U.S.A.

Start preparing now

- Get your passport and U.S. visa as soon as possible.
- Make travel arrangements to Kalamazoo.
- Make plans for a place to stay during orientation—see below for information about temporary housing.
- Tell your friends and family about your temporary mailing address
- Visit the International Admissions Campus Life webpage to learn more about campus life: www.wmich.edu/internationaladmissions/handbook/campus



Documents to bring to Orientation:

- Passport, visa
- I-20 or DS-2019 form
- Admission letter from Western Michigan University

Travel to Kalamazoo

By air

We recommend new students arrive 1-2 days before orientation to rest and adjust to the time change. We recommend students fly directly to the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport (airport code: AZO). Even though Chicago and Detroit are nearby, both are at least three hours away by car.

Free Airport Pickup

Transportation from the Kalamazoo Airport will be provided free for four days before the start date of orientation and for two days after the start date. Look for the WMU sign near the Leisure Limousine transportation desk in the baggage claim area of the Kalamazoo Airport to request transportation. You may also call them at 269-343-0848.

By bus or train

If you arrive to Kalamazoo by bus or train you can arrange for transportation to WMU's main campus by calling a taxi. Two options:

Company	Phone number	Estimated fare
Bronco Express	(269) 343-3000	\$7
Godspeed Transportation	(269) 547-5477	\$10



Housing During Orientation

Students with a WMU apartment contract:

Students need to visit the [WMU Residence Life](https://wmich.edu/housing/options/apartments) office, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., to receive move-in information. Note: Students will not be able to move in earlier than the official move-in date for WMU apartments. Students arriving before the move-in date will need to find a place to stay until the official WMU move-in date. Website:

<https://wmich.edu/housing/options/apartments>.

Students with a residence hall contract:

Students arriving early may move into their residence hall beginning at 9 a.m. Wednesday, May 3 at an **additional cost**. If you are moving into the residence hall called "Smith-Burnham" the

fee will be \$25 per day. Students planning to check into the residence hall early must bring bedding (twin extra-long size) and bath towels.

Students arriving prior to May 3 will have to make their own plans to stay in a hotel until then.

WMU's Residence Life staff may be reached during regular business hours at (269) 387-4735 or via email at rl-info@wmich.edu. Website: <http://wmich.edu/housing/options/halls>

Students without a housing contract:

Students not living on campus will need to stay in their arranged off campus housing or in a hotel during orientation. WMU provides a daily shuttle service to campus from the Comfort Inn hotel during orientation. It picks up students at the hotel door between 7:30— 8:30 a.m.

Steps for making an online reservation for a room at the Comfort Inn hotel:

Reservations can be made through the Comfort Inn website, phone call, or by sending an email to the hotel.

Please remember to **tell the Comfort Inn staff that you are a new Western Michigan University international student to receive a discount.**

Reservations can be made on this website:

<https://www.choicehotels.com/michigan/kalamazoo/comfort-inn-hotels/mi255>

Comfort Inn Address: 739 West Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI, 49007, USA

Phone Number: (269) 384-2800

Email Address: Comfortinn739@yahoo.com

Meals

During orientation you will be provided with a free breakfast and lunch on Thursday, May 4 and on Friday, May 6.

Student dining meal plans will not start in WMU dining halls and cafeterias until Monday, May 8. However, the Bernhard Center café will be open with meals to buy. Bernhard Center café hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Living arrangements

WMU Residence Halls provide safe, on-campus housing where you can meet other WMU students. All questions about residence hall reservations and contracts should be directed to the WMU Residence Life office: <https://wmich.edu/housing>

Residence Life

Western Michigan University

1903 W. Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5312

Phone: (269) 387-4735

Fax: (269) 387-4786

rl-info@wmich.edu

WMU Apartments (on campus) are open to incoming transfer/graduate/sophomore-level and above students. Website: www.wmich.edu/housing/options/apartments

WMU Apartments

1903 W Michigan Ave

Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5312

Phone: (269) 387-2175

Fax: (269) 387-4786

rl-info@wmich.edu

Finances

WMU's total cost of attendance for each academic semester may be found [here](#). Do not rely on working in the United States to meet all your educational expenses. Like most U.S. schools, WMU has little financial aid for international students.

If you have a government scholarship, bring enough money for two months to pay for rent, food, book, deposits, and to buy warm clothing.

If privately sponsored, bring enough money to cover your first semester's tuition, fees, and living expenses. Payment of the full balance on your student account is due on the first day of classes each semester. You may pay with the wire transfer service Fly Wire or with a bank draft. More information on Fly Wire can be found here, [Fly Wire](#). There are rules for bringing cash into the US. Please see the following information, [CBP](#).

Tuition and fee rates are reviewed by the University in August each year and may change without notice.

Transfer credits

If you expect to receive advanced transfer credits, and you have not sent an official transcript directly to WMU from your current school, please bring a copy with you in a sealed envelope. See [Credit Evaluation](#)

English requirements

If your admission letter states that you must take A-S 3600 or 3610, your international admission counselor will register you for this class before the beginning of the semester. This course counts toward the bachelor's degree only and cannot be waived. You must receive a grade of "C" or higher to pass this course.



Math requirements

If you are in a STEM field (Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics) you will need to take a proper math course. Math placement exams are given in the first afternoon of ISORP during August. For students arriving in winter or summer, math placement will be determined later.

If you have taken an ACT or SAT test in the past 3 years, you can use your math section score to be placed into a math classes.

If you have taken a math class at another college or university, please provide a course description or syllabus for that class as well as proof of completing the course with a C or better. This can also be used as a placement tool.

See [Math Placement](#) for more information.

Health care and medical insurance

WMU requires all international students to have comprehensive medical insurance. Please visit the [Health Insurance for International Students](#) page for more information.

Important Notice to F-1 and J-1 students

An I-901 fee for F-1 students of \$200 and J-1 students of \$180 has been charged by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The fee must be paid before your visa interview. Please read all immigration documents carefully. By signing your copy of the form I-20 or DS-2019 and accepting your U.S. visa, you agree to all terms and conditions set forth by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Website <https://www.fmjfee.com/>

Note:

Please note that International students may see delays at U.S. ports of entry. Due to more security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers are checking the status of F-1 and J-1 nonimmigrants in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System before admission at port of entry. As a result, it has been reported that many students and exchange visitors are referred to secondary inspection, where their SEVIS record will be reviewed. Due to these new entry rules, F-1 students and J-1 exchange visitors entering the United States should plan to spend 2-3 hours in the secondary inspection should allow more time for flight connections.