

# FAQS – COVID 19

## ORIENTATION

### *When is fall 2020 orientation?*

Orientation will begin on August 18. If you are not able to make it to SCSU by August 18, we will connect with you about the alternative orientation that you will need to complete.

## VISA

### *I have submitted all my application materials to SCSU. When will I receive my I-20?*

To check the status of your application, you can email [lmrentz@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:lmrentz@stcloudstate.edu). Once you are admitted, International Admissions will email you a copy of your I-20, which you should print in color and sign in blue ink. Although SEVP is allowing Designated School Officials to email I-20s to students during the world health crisis, it is still unclear whether U.S. Customs & Border Protection will accept these copies at the port of entry. Therefore, we highly recommend that you arrange to have the original hard copy of your I-20 shipped: <https://study.eshipglobal.com/>.

### *If I receive my visa after classes have started, will I be able to come to SCSU and attend the rest of the semester in person?*

Yes, you should be able to transition to in-person coursework if you arrive on campus later in the semester. Before you purchase your plane ticket, however, please notify CIS that you have obtained your visa and are ready to travel.

### *What happens to my SEVIS record if I'm unable to get a visa or courses are all moved online?*

We will defer the program start date on your SEVIS record to next semester.

### *When will I be able to schedule my visa appointment?*

It varies from country to country. Regularly check with your local U.S. embassy or consulate about visa appointments.

### *Is it advisable to enter the U.S. on a B-1/2 visa and change my status to F-1 once I am in the U.S?*

Since B-1 visas are for business and B-2 visas are for tourism, if you entered the States on a B visa, you would only be able to engage in business/tourist activities, not start earning your degree. Also keep in mind that changing your status from B to F would likely take several months. The best course of action is waiting until you have your F-1 visa to enter the States and to study.

### *If I get my visa one or two months into the semester, can I still come to SCSU for in-person classes?*

Yes—for students who may be obtaining their visa later in the fall semester, we encourage that they begin their fall 2020 coursework online then transition to in-person classes when they arrive. Once you receive your visa, and before you make your travel arrangements, please notify the Center for International Studies of your plans.

***How do I defer my program start date?***

If you wish to defer to another semester, please inform International Admissions ([Imrentz@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:Imrentz@stcloudstate.edu)) and our Orientation Team (Belinda Lee, [belinda.lee@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:belinda.lee@stcloudstate.edu)) so we know not to expect you on campus this fall. Please also indicate if you are interested in studying online this fall with our Global Campus, since you can still enroll in online fall courses, even if we defer your I-20 to spring.

***If I get my visa but still can't travel, do I need to defer my visa (or change it in any way)?***

If you receive your visa but can't travel to the U.S., there is nothing you need to do to your visa, which should be valid for a few years. Instead, you can simply defer your I-20 start date to the spring semester. In the meantime, you can either wait for spring or start your SCSU coursework online in the fall.

***My current I-20 has a start date of August 2020. If I can't obtain my visa until later in the semester, will I need an updated I-20 with a new start date in order to enter the U.S.?***

If you get your visa later in the semester and plan to enter the U.S. for the spring 2021 semester, we can change your program start date and send you an updated I-20 (even if you are taking fall 2020 classes online). If you get your visa and want to enter the U.S. during the fall 2020 semester, please notify the Center for International Studies. We may need to write a letter of support for you to provide at the port of entry.

**COURSES*****How can I register for fall courses?***

During orientation, students will register for their courses. Students who are unable to join us are encouraged to start their fall semester online. The Center for International Studies will send more information about online course options as the summer progresses.

***What time I will take my online courses?***

The fall 2020 semester—for both on-campus and online classes—begins August 24 and ends December 17. If you are taking online coursework, your instructor will let you know if the class is synchronous (held live, during a set block of time) or asynchronous (recorded).

***Will COVID-19 impact the method of how classes will be delivered?***

St. Cloud State University is planning to be open for fall semester. Protecting the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff is our top priority. Administrators, faculty and staff are working on the Bring Huskies Home initiative to plan to reopen campus safely. Employees will begin returning to campus throughout July and offices will be opening to the public by August 3.

*The University is planning to:*

- 1) *we will reopen our campus*
- 2) *welcome students back to live and learn on campus*
- 3) *provide academic and business services using Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Minnesota State guidelines*

St. Cloud State will follow the guidance of the MDH, the CDC, and the government of the State of Minnesota. For example, to ensure physical distancing requirements are met, seating arrangements in classrooms will be modified to ensure students are spaced at intervals consistent with physical distancing. Campus maintenance staff will modify their practices to ensure that facilities are cleaned and sanitized frequently.

***How will Art/Music classes operate if they are being taught online?***

Instructors are encouraged to be creative and incorporate different methods of learning to online courses. We are working to provide quality education to all our students.

***Will there be a late start date for fall 2020?***

St. Cloud State University will continue the school year as scheduled. First day of classes will begin on Monday, August 24th, 2020.

***Will fall 2020 classes be held online or in person?***

Both. Courses for fall 2020 will be held in person, online, and as hybrid classes.

***What is the cost breakdown for online courses?***

For more information on costs of courses please check out this website:  
<https://www.stcloudstate.edu/srfs/finances/cost-of-attendance.aspx>.

## TESTING

***When will I take the placement tests(s)?***

If you are coming to in-person orientation, the placement tests will be held on August 18. Otherwise, you will be able to take the tests online, the details about which will be emailed to you.

***If I decide not to take a placement test, how will it affect my classes?***

If you decide not to take required placement tests, you might not be able to register for classes.

## INSURANCE

***Do I still have to pay for health insurance if I choose to take online courses back in my home country?***

No, you don't.

***If I get coronavirus while at SCSU, will my insurance cover the cost for treatment?***

Yes, it will.

***Are there any consequences for contracting coronavirus? Could I be expelled from school for contracting coronavirus?***

If you get sick while studying at SCSU—with COVID-19 or anything else—the university will do everything it can to ensure you are healthy and academically successful. There are many concessions we can make in order to keep you in-status and registered as a student (medical Reduced Course Load, for example).

## HOUSING

### *What is the cost for on campus housing?*

2019 – 2020 Room Rates and Meal Plans range from \$5,582 to \$7,818 for one year. For more information on housing costs, please go to this website: <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/reslife/costs/default.aspx>

### *Is there a required deposit to hold my campus housing or would I have to make a full payment prior to arriving on campus?*

Students will need to submit a \$200 prepayment with the housing application to hold their room.

### *When would I be able to move in?*

Move in day is scheduled for August 15 – 17th. If you are not able to make those days, please let the Orientation Team (Belinda Lee, [belinda.lee@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:belinda.lee@stcloudstate.edu)) know so we can help you with your plans.

### *Am I required to live on campus?*

First year students are required to live on campus. For more information on housing requirements, please go to this website: <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/reslife/live-on-requirement.aspx>

### *What will be in my dorm room when I arrive? What should I bring with me?*

Rooms will have lofts, bed mattress, desk, chair and closet space for each student. Each residence hall offers different services. More information on housing options will be found online here: <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/reslife/services.aspx>

### *Am I required to have a meal plan if I live on campus?*

First-year students are required to have a meal plan with their housing agreement.

### *How much is the meal plan on campus?*

Year-long meal plans vary between \$1,650 - \$1,495. For more information on meal plans, please go to this website: <https://new.dineoncampus.com/stcloud/residential-meal-plans>

### *What is the cost of off campus housing?*

Off campus dining varies by individual spending. If you plan to live off campus there are a variety of off-campus options. Learn more here: <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/internationaladmissions/accepted-next-steps/housing.aspx>

## ACADEMIC CULTURAL SHARING SCHOLARSHIP (ACSS)

### *Will my ACCSS be applied for Fall?*

Yes, you will still receive your ACSS for the fall 2020 semester.

For more information about Fall semester at SCSU and the plans to help keep you healthy and safe

<https://www.stcloudstate.edu/emergency/covid19/bring-huskies-home/default.aspx>