

GENERAL FAQs 2020 - 2021

ORIENTATION

When is Orientation? What will it include?

International Student Orientation (ISO) for all new and transfer international students will start on Tuesday, August 18th, 2020. During orientation, students will engage with student leaders, campus partners, and university departments as you get acclimated to campus. The ISO schedule will incorporate sessions on campus safety, academic presentation, how to maintain your student visa status, fulfilling your scholarship requirements, and registering for courses.

We have also included trips to stores such as Target and Walmart into the schedule so students can purchase items for their use. We will have student leaders available throughout the day to assist you to where you need to go or answer any of your questions.

Will the school provide transportation from the airport?

No. Students in need of transportation from the Minneapolis/St. Paul (MSP) airport to St. Cloud can utilize transportation services such as Groome Transportation, Uber, or Lyft. Students have utilized Groome Transportation in the past and they offer reasonable prices. To schedule a shuttle for your arrival, use this link: <https://groometransportation.com/minneapolis-st-paul-airport/st-cloud/reservations/>

Student participating in the Semester @ SCSU will be notified about transportation services offered.

Where do I check-in once I arrive to SCSU?

Students can check in at Lawrence Hall. The Center for International Studies is located on the first floor of Lawrence Hall. If you arrive to campus before August 18th, there will be activities planned prior to International Student Orientation. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00AM- 4:30PM. To better assist you upon arrival, please contact Belinda Lee (belinda.lee@stcloudstate.edu) beforehand.

ADVISING/COURSES

Will I receive help to register and/or select courses?

Yes. During International Student Orientation, international students will meet with an academic advisor to discuss which courses to register for. Students will be able to register for courses in computer labs after an academic presentation. There will be Student Advisors and academic advisors in the computer labs to assist you with registering for courses.

What are Liberal Education Program (LEP) courses?

Liberal Education Program (LEP) are general courses that may or may not be related to your major. These courses will fulfill 10 goal areas which will build your skills as a student and future professional. LEP courses allows students to explore and experience areas of interests while you are completing your degree.

What is the difference between Liberal Education Program (LEP) courses and major courses?

Liberal Education Program (LEP) courses can overlap with major courses. Major courses focus on your field of study whereas LEP courses are opportunities to explore an array of interests.

What is the difference between the Intensive English Center and English Academic Purpose?

Intensive English Center offers different levels of English instruction, from high beginning to advanced. Students should have basic reading writing skills before enrolling in IEC classes. Students are encouraged to participate in the IEC sponsored field trips and other cultural activities.

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) is a program that serves the needs of new and continuing international students to enhance English writing and oral proficiency.

How can I find out who my advisor is?

Use the link to look up who your advisor. Log in with your StarID and password

<https://www5.stcloudstate.edu/Advising/AdvisorLookup/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fAdvising%2fAdvisorLookup%2f>

How can I meet my advisor?

To meet with your advisor, contact your advisor to schedule a meeting via email.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

What is the cost of health insurance?

The rate is \$1,801 for the period August 10, 2020 - August 9, 2021

Is health insurance required?

Yes, health insurance is required for all F-1 and J-1 students and scholars at St. Cloud State.

Why do I need insurance?

The requirement protects and provides a health plan against financial hardship resulting from the need for medical attention. The United States does not have a national health care system available to non-immigrant students/scholars; therefore, the cost of medical care is the responsibility of the student/scholars. Because medical costs in the United States are high, St. Cloud State requires new and transferring F-1 and J-1 international students and J-1 scholars to purchase the Minnesota State system's Student Health Plan. Covered medical services provided at the on-campus Medical Clinic and Pharmacy are paid at 100 percent through United Healthcare.

If I already have insurance, do I need to purchase the university health insurance?

Yes, health insurance is required for all F-1 and J-1 students and scholars at St. Cloud State. International students may qualify for a refund for these reasons:

- The student has been approved for OPT
- The student has been transferred their SEVIS record to another college/university
- The student has been approved for an Authorized Early Withdrawal and will be leaving/has left the United States

- The student is no longer in F-1 or J-1 status
- The student has provided proof of insurance from their embassy or government entity who is providing full health insurance coverage in the United States

When do I need to pay for the health insurance?

New international students must pay their health insurance in full before registering for classes.

Can I pay the health insurance fee ahead of time?

Yes, you can—though not until the health insurance charges are placed on your student account. This will happen once United Healthcare determines insurance costs for the upcoming academic year, which usually occurs toward the end of the summer. You can expect an email from the Center for International Studies notifying you of the insurance charges.

Where can I find the immunization form? What do I need to do with it?

You can find a link to, and instructions for, the immunization form in this welcome letter from SCSU's Medical Director, Dr. Brent Nielson: https://www.stcloudstate.edu/internationaladmissions/_files/documents/health-services-letter.pdf.

IMMIGRATION

How do I pay my SEVIS fee?

You can pay your SEVIS fee online here: <https://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901>.

When is the SEVIS fee due?

You need to pay the SEVIS fee before you can schedule your visa interview.

What do I need to do if my visa expires while I'm studying in the US?

Nothing. Your visa functions only as a ticket into the country, so if it expires while you are studying in the U.S., that is perfectly fine. If you leave the States, however, you need to renew your visa at a U.S. consulate or embassy before you can reenter.

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.

PLACEMENT TESTING

How will I know if I need to take a placement test (English or Math)?

You can find our criteria for English proficiency testing here: <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/eap/exam.aspx>. Information about math testing can be found here: <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/placementtesting/default.aspx>. If you need to take a placement test, you will be receiving an email with the details.

When will I take the placement tests(s)?

Placement tests will be held during International Student Orientation.

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.

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) 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>

COST/FEES

How much will it cost to take classes fall semester?

Tuition is \$4,766 with the Academic and Cultural Sharing Scholarship. Housing, meal plans and fees will vary.

How much are courses?

Tuition is \$4,766 for one semester.

Is there a payment plan available? If so, how does it work? When does it start and how much will I have to pay?

Yes, students may choose a payment plan. You must notify the Cashier's office/Business Services office that you would like to pay with a payment plan. There are two payment plan options. There is a \$30 service fee for either plan.

St. Cloud State Basic Payment Plan

This plan is self-monitored. You are responsible for making payments by the deadlines listed above. You will not receive a statement reminding you that a payment is due.

Nelnet Business Solutions e-Cashier Payment Plan

Nelnet Business Solutions, Inc. (NBS) is an external payment plan provider and partner with St. Cloud State University. If you choose to use NBS, you will arrange for automatic monthly payments with or without a down payment. Monthly payments can be withdrawn from your checking or savings account or charged to your Visa, Mastercard, or Discover. Participants may update demographic and account information online. Go to the NelNet Plan link in your e-Services account under "Billing & Payments" to sign up for or to manage a current plan.

When do I have to pay for my classes?

Billing and payment schedules are the same for all students. The payment schedule can be found here: <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/srfs/finances/student-bill-payment.aspx>

ACADEMIC CULTURAL SHARING SCHOLARSHIP (ACSS)

When does the Academic & Cultural Sharing Scholarship get applied to my account?

After the Academic and Cultural Sharing Scholarship (ACSS) presentation during orientation, you will complete the ACSS form. ACSS will be applied once the Center for International Studies processes the form. Students who select the online/ distance learning pathway will complete the form and submit it on Desire2Learn (D2L).

How do I apply for the Academic & Cultural Sharing Scholarship?

All new and transfer international students holding a F-1 or J-1 visa can apply for the scholarship. Students will sit in on a presentation to learn about requirements for the scholarship. Afterwards, students will complete the form to opt in or opt out of the scholarship.

What counts as an Academic & Cultural Sharing Scholarship activity?

There are many activities that international students can participate in on campus to count towards the scholarship. Use the link to see the list of approved

ACSS activities: <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/internationalstudents/scholarships/acss.aspx>

EMPLOYMENT

How do I get a social security number (SSN)?

Many classifications permit work and make a visitor eligible for a Social Security number. However, qualification vary depending upon your visitor status. Most importantly, you must be physically in the United States to apply for a number. To learn more about how to get a social security number (SSN), go to this link:

<https://www.stcloudstate.edu/internationalstudents/f1-students/ssn.aspx>

How do I find a job on campus?

The Career Center is a great place to get started on finding a job on campus. Start building your career profile on Handshake and begin your search. <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/careercenter/jobs-internships/listings/default.aspx>

How many hours can I work?

Student employees can work up to 20 hours a week during the academic year and up to 40 hours a week during breaks and holidays.

Can I work off campus?

During the first academic year, students may not work off campus. However, students may work on campus. Students can apply for Curricular Practical Training (CPT), Optional Practical Training (OPT), Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Extension, and Severe economic hardship.

Can you tell me more about OPT/CPT?

CPT- Curricular Practical Training is an integral part of an establish curriculum. Federal regulations define it as a type of alternate work/study, internship, co-operative education or any other type of required internship or practicum that is offered by sponsoring employers through cooperative agreements with the school. Students can be authorized for full-time (21-plus hours or part-time (20 hours or less) while enrolled at St. Cloud State. <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/internationalstudents/f1-students/curricular.aspx>

OPT- Optional Practical Training is temporary employment (12 months) for training that is directly related to an F-1 student's major area of study. IT is intended to provide a student with practical experience in their field of study during or upon completion of a degree program. <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/internationalstudents/f1-students/optional.aspx>

Can I do an internship in a different country? If so, what is the process?

Students have completed internships abroad in the past. If you are interested in interning in a different country, please contact an advisor from the Center for International Studies to discuss possible options.

TRAVEL

What types of documents do I need to have with me when I travel?

Have your passport and I-20/ DS 2019 on hand when traveling or flying. It is important that the information on your documents are up to date and has not expired.

My parent(s)/guardian(s) want to travel with me.

We welcome parents and guardians to travel with their students to campus. Parents and guardians are great supporters in helping their international students adjust to life in the United States.

Can they stay on campus with me?

Parents and guardians are welcome to stay as guests on campus. No more than 3 consecutive nights. Students are responsible for their guests during their stay. Please be mindful of roommate(s) and other residents living on your floor. There are several hotels nearby campus where parents and guardians can stay. These hotels are within walking distancing from campus and are in the downtown area.

What immigration documents do I need to have on hand when I arrive in the US?

When you arrive to the United States, please have in hand your I-20/ DS 2019, passport, and visa.

TECHNOLOGY

What is a StarID?

The StarID is a username that replaces many login IDs with one ID, one password, everywhere in Saint Cloud State University's and all other Minnesota State Universities. The StarID is two letters, four numbers, and two letters, e.g. "ab1234cd".

Where can I find my StarID?

Your Star ID should have received your star ID upon being admitted to St. Cloud State University. If you need more help finding your StarID or have forgotten it. Please use this link: <https://starid.minnstate.edu/selfservice/recover/id> or contact our on campus technology help services at <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/its/huskytech/>

How do I activate my StarID?

To activate your StarID use this link: <https://starid.minnstate.edu/selfservice/activate> Then enter the proper information to activate your star ID

Can I use my school email before registering for classes?

Yes! You can use your school email before registering for classes. In many cases important information may be sent to this email. It is recommended you frequently check it for any important information on campus, events, or classes. Your email will be (name or StarID) @go.stcloudstate.edu upon admission to St. Cloud State.

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

How am I able to get involved on campus and participate in a student organizations if I am taking online classes from home?

Look for many of our student organizations in our online directory, Huskies Connect. There you can find various ways to contact the student organizations and find ways to keep up to date with the various events being posted. Many events are moving to an online so be sure to also frequently check your student email for various events to participate in!

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Who can I talk to if I feel stressed or just need emotional support?

If you are feeling distress or need emotional support, Counseling and Psychological Services or CAPS offer free and confidential personal counseling and consultation to promote personal development and psychological well-being and assist students in defining and meeting personal, academic, and career objectives. You can contact and schedule a meeting with CAPS at this link: <https://www.stcloudstate.edu/counseling/default.aspx>

Who should I contact in the case of an emergency?

For immediate emergency services, please call 911 for immediate help. For non-immediate emergencies you can contact the various phone numbers below for various emergency services such as police, fire department, and SCSU medical clinic.

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS

SCSU Public Safety (24-hour service) 320-308-3333
SCSU Medical Clinic (During Business Hours) 320-308-3191
St. Cloud Police (non-emergency) 320-251-1200
St. Cloud Fire (non-emergency) 320-255-3473
CentraCare St. Cloud Hospital (information) 320-251-2700

TRANSPORTATION

How do I ride the bus?

To ride the Metro Bus in St. Cloud you simply just swipe your student ID and ride whatever route brings you to where you want to go! The Main Metro Bus stop is located at the James W. Miller Learning Resources Center, on 7th St S. For more detailed information on each bus route, please click this link: <https://www.ridemetrobus.com/home/college-connect/>

To download a route of all the routes in the St. Cloud Area, click this link: https://www.ridemetrobus.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2020MetroBus-System-Map_web2.pdf

Is the bus free for students?

YES! As a Student of St. Cloud State University, you can ride the Metro Transit buses in St. Cloud for FREE. You simply just swipe your student ID card when entering the bus like using a credit card.

OTHER

Am I able to try out for the Men's soccer team? Or any sports team?

Yes! All students can try out for the NCAA sports teams available at St. Cloud State University during their respective tryout periods. For more information or questions please contact the coach of the team. You can find each team's coach via <https://scsuhuskies.com/>, clicking "teams", and going to the coaches roster.

What type of winter clothing will I need? Where can I purchase winter clothing?

Minnesota has a very cold climate, some parts being the coldest in the United States! Here are some of the winter clothing you will need.

- **A Winter Coat**
 - *Make sure it fits below your waist and past your buttocks to ensure it will cover enough to keep you warm*
 - *The coat should be able to handle temperatures that can go below freezing levels as Minnesota winters often reaches these low temperatures!*
- **Sweaters and Layering clothing**
 - *Wear sweaters under your winter coat and warm thermal shirts under your sweaters. You always want to dress in layers of clothing to make sure you stay warm!*
 - *Thermal Shirts, Underpants, and Leggings*
 - *These will help retain tons of heat even during the coldest winter seasons.*
- **Gloves, Scarves, and a winter hat**
 - *These will all help to keep important parts of your body warm and help block the wind on your face, hand, and neck.*
- **Winter Boots**
 - *In the winter, snow can pile up very high. Because of this, it is important to have shoes that can make the trip when walking around campus. Just because we get snow, classes usually do not get cancelled!*

Purchasing Winter Clothes

Many of these items can purchased at any clothing store throughout St. Cloud and Minnesota.

- *Department stores such as Target or Wal-Mart*
- *The Crossroads shopping center (a shopping mall that is directly accessible by Metro Bus).*
- *Outside of St. Cloud, Albertville Premium Outlets and Mall of America in Bloomington*
- *There are also a few secondhand stores (goodwill) or discount stores (TJ Max) that will also have cheaper winter items if you are looking to save some money*

Overall, be sure to dress in warm clothing while trying to not exposure too much skin to the cold winter.

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