



International Student Letter

Welcome to The Woods! We are looking forward to welcoming you to our community in person. International students often have questions about coming to SMWC and the United States to study. You may find the following suggestions helpful as you make your final plans. If you have additional questions you may contact us at:

Office of Campus Life
Office: 812-535-5281
Email: campuslife@smwc.edu

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College requires all students to submit a completed immunization record that will be kept on file in the Health Services Center. It is necessary for you to submit your immunization records and other pertinent medical information. To access the immunization form, go to the Student Hub then the Student Resources Section then Student Life. It is recommended that you make an appointment with your medical provider soon so that this form can be completed.

Health Insurance is required for all international students at SMWC. Insurance coverage from your home country is not adequate for U.S. medical costs as they do not cover repatriation or medical evacuation in cases of serious illness or injury. As indicated in the expense section of your I-20, you will be required to choose from several approved health insurance policies upon your arrival here or show proof of purchase of one of those plans upon arrival. You may visit the website of several of those providers from home.

Checklist For Before You Leave Home

- Complete Housing Application and Annual Student Life Forms.
- Submit Immunization records to vax@smwc.edu.
- Email CampusLife@smwc.edu your travel plans to campus.
 - Include the following in your email:
 - Name
 - Cell Phone Number and/or WhatsApp number
 - Airline
 - Flight Number
 - Arrival Time

- Purchase international insurance. This insurance needs to begin the day you arrive at SMWC and needs to continue until your departure at the end of your time at SMWC. It is important that you purchase the correct insurance. Here are some options:
 - www.compassbenefit.com
 - www.hginsurance.com
 - <http://www.isoa.org>
 - The insurance plan we recommend is through International student Organization. Their website is <http://www.isoa.org>. Please select Compass Gold Plan, as it meets the minimum requirements.
- Tell your friends and family how to contact you – let your family know you will contact them upon your safe arrival.
- Leave copies of important documents (passport, Visa, I-20) at home in the event of lost luggage while traveling.
- Keep this contact information on your person when you travel so that you have contact information in case you miss a flight or are delayed:

Office of Campus Life
Office: 812-535-5281, Cell: 812-240-2157
Email: campuslife@smwc.edu

- Carefully consider your arrival time before you purchase your airline ticket. Please arrange to arrive on August 16, 2023, in Indianapolis, Indiana between 12:00-18:00 EST (12:00-6:00 p.m.) local time (EST). The college will arrange transportation from the airport to the college.

Finances

Here are some things to consider when you think about money, travel, and living in a foreign country.

- Obtain a major credit card (MasterCard/Visa, etc.) before you leave home. It will be more difficult for you to get one when you are here.
- Notify your bank that you will be residing overseas.
- Do **NOT** travel with large amounts of cash on your person, in your luggage, or your hotel room. A better option is a credit card.
- The Campus Life Staff will take you to a local bank soon after you arrive. Once you have opened a bank account here, for a small fee, your family will be able to wire transfer money directly to your personal account.
- Health insurance is required (see section above) to cover high U.S. medical expenses.

Packing

The Campus Life Staff will take you shopping within the first few days of your arrival to purchase bulky items such as bed linens, room furnishings, desk lamps, alarm clocks, or heavier winter clothing if needed. The weather in Indiana varies from cold and snowy winter (December thru March) to warm and humid in the summer (June thru September).

Students on campus dress in casual manner – jeans, pants, or shorts in warmer weather. You may wish to have one or two more formal outfits available as well. Sweaters, hats, gloves, scarves, boots, and heavy coats are needed in the winter.

You will have opportunity to share your culture with others while you are here. International students often bring cultural items, traditional dress, or small gifts from home. Pictures of home and family decorate your room and are nice for you to share with us.

Arrival Procedures

A College representative will meet you at the Indianapolis airport based on your arrival date and time. After your flight arrives, collect your luggage in the baggage claim area and wait in the baggage claim area. A College representative will meet you there when they arrive at the airport. The College representative will have a sign saying Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College (SMWC). Please look for that sign.

Arrival To Campus

Once you arrive at SMWC the Resident Assistants and International Student Assistants will help you get moved into your room and provide you with a campus tour. Within your first few days on campus, you need to meet with the International Student Advisor.

Cindy Morgan, International Student Advisor
Guerin Hall room 226
Office Telephone: 812-535-5172
Email: cindy.morgan@smwc.edu

The next step is to visit the Health Services Center within your first week on campus for a TB test. All international students are required to have a TB test upon arrival to campus.

Health Services Center
Rooney Center, First Floor
Office Telephone: 812-535-5200
Email: healthservices@smwc.edu
Website: <https://www.smwc.edu/offices-resources/offices/health-services-clinic/>

Help After Orientation

SMWC has many resources for international students. Some of the resources include:

- The Student Affairs staff
- Academic Advisors
- Learning Resource Center
- Student Counseling Center
- Campus Minister
- Health Services Center
- Career Center

The campus is very friendly, and you will find your professors, other students, and other staff members eager and willing to help you. The Campus Life staff can assist with transportation to the store throughout the academic year.

U.S. Government Requirements for F1 Students

There are some requirements for international students on an F-1 visa that we will discuss in more detail during orientation. Here are some important points to consider now.

- You must take 12 credit hours of class every semester.
- You may work on campus jobs only.
- You may not leave the U.S. without the signature of a Designated School Official from SMWC.

Health Services Center

The Student Health Center is open 4 days per week on campus during the academic year to answer your health needs or questions. The staff provides urgent care and can refer you to specialist or other providers in the area if needed. The College has various agreements with the local hospitals and several physicians to provide both physical and mental health services. The Health Services Center is located on the first floor of Rooney Center. They can be reached at 812-535-5200 or healthservices@smwc.edu. In addition to the Health Services Center on campus, Telehealth services are provided free of charge to SMWC students through TimelyCare. TimelyCare is 24/7 free confidential telehealth for all SMWC students. Go to www.timelycare.com/smw to learn more and download the app.

Residence Hall Closings

The residence halls in which you live, and campus dining services will close during fall break, winter break, spring break and a few shorter breaks during the academic year. Most students plan to travel or visit friends during the breaks.

If you need housing during campus closing you will need to contact Campus Life. Kitchens are available, but you will need to purchase and cook your own food at these times if you stay on campus.

Please contact Campus Life staff if you have questions or concerns.

Office of Campus Life

Office: 812-535-5281, Cell: 812-240-2157

Email: campuslife@smwc.edu

Website: <https://www.smwc.edu/student-life/contact-student-life/>