



Center for English Language
and Culture for International
Students (CELCIS)

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Welcome Guide

Fall 2018 Orientation Information

Welcome to Western Michigan University!

Congratulations and welcome to the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students (CELCIS) at Western Michigan University!

We are excited that you chose WMU and we look forward to meeting you at the International Student Orientation from **August 22-24, 2018**. Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 22, 2018.

This guide has important information to help you transition smoothly to WMU. We recommend that you print a copy of this guide and carry it with you while you are travelling.

All new students are **required to attend orientation.**



Important Dates to Remember

Residence halls open (early move-in)

New student orientation

First day of classes

Last day of CELCIS classes

Tuesday, August 21 at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, August 22 - Friday, August 24

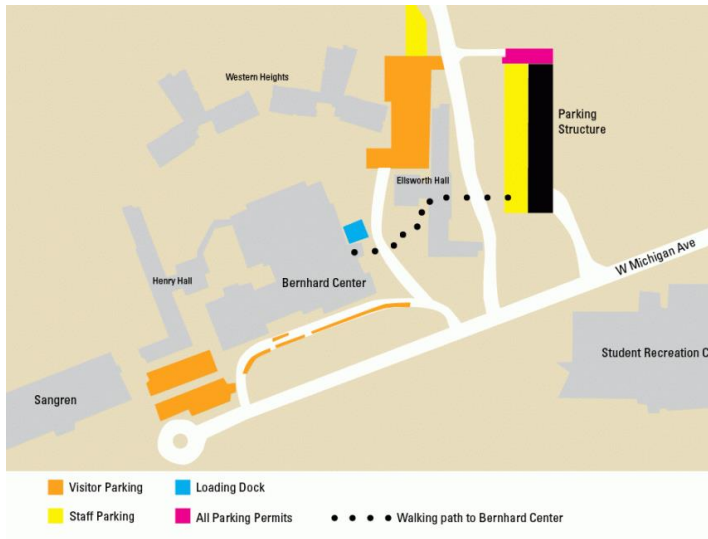
Wednesday, August 29

Friday, December 7

Orientation

Orientation check-in will begin at **8 a.m. on Wednesday, August 22** in the East Ballroom of the Bernhard Center. You will receive a complete schedule of orientation activities during registration.

WMU's Bernhard Center



Orientation includes:

- Registration
- Placement testing
- Campus tour
- Information sessions
- Shopping trip
- Assistance with banking
- Assistance with housing
- Social events

[For a campus map or directions to the Bernhard Center, visit this website.](#)

Breakfast and lunch will be provided on August 22-24. Housing and other meals are not included.

Important Attendance Policy Information

Attendance at orientation (Aug 22-24) and on the first day of class (Aug 29) is mandatory for all new students.

If you have an emergency and will not arrive in Kalamazoo for the first day of orientation, please contact thomas.marks@wmich.edu or call (269) 387-4800. **Students who arrive late may not be able to study.**

All students (new and returning) who are unable to arrive on time should understand the following:

1. They must notify the CELCIS director and receive permission to arrive late.
2. Late arrival for ANY reason may have a negative effect on the student's progress during that semester.
3. ALL students who begin classes after the start of the semester, for any reason, will be counted absent for the classes they have missed.

Confirm your attendance by registering for orientation:

[Register for orientation](#)

Contact Information

Regular business hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. If you arrive on campus before orientation, you may visit the CELCIS office during business hours on the Garden level of Ellsworth Hall.

Center for English Language and Culture for International Students (CELCIS)

Phone: +1 (269) 387-4800 (*leave a message before or after regular business hours*)

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

celcis-info@wmich.edu

International Admissions and Services

Phone: +1 (269) 387-5865

oiss-info@wmich.edu

WMU Residence Life

(269) 387-4735

rl-info@wmich.edu

WMU Police

Available 24 hours a day; Call for help.

Phone: +1 (269) 387-5555

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



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 more information
- ☐ Tell your friends and family of your short-term mailing address:

First name, family name, c/o orientation
International Admissions and Services
4255 Ellsworth Hall
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008–5246 U.S.A

- ☐ Visit the [CELCIS campus life webpage](#) to find helpful information
- ☐ A more [extensive checklist](#) is available on our website.



Documents to Bring to Orientation:

- ☐ Passport with visa
- ☐ I-20 or DS-2019 form
- ☐ Admission letter from Western Michigan University
- ☐ Paperwork from your sponsor, if this applies
- ☐ Health insurance policy (not the card)
- ☐ Copy of electronic I-94 (this can be printed from [this website](#) after arrival to the United States)

Travel to Kalamazoo

CELCIS suggests that students arrive 1-2 days before orientation to rest and adjust to the time change.

By air

Plan to fly directly to the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport (airport code: AZO). Chicago and Detroit are about 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 two days after. 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.

- **If you arrive BEFORE August 21**, tell the taxi driver the name of your hotel. You will have to pay for the cost of the hotel.
- **If you arrive ON OR AFTER August 21**, tell the Leisure Limousine driver your name and your residence hall room assignment. The driver will call Residence Life, and a staff person will meet you at the door of your residence hall.

By bus or train

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

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

Housing During Orientation

To sign-up for campus housing, login to your GoWMU account and select "Residence Life Housing" under the My Self Service section on the left. [Visit this page for instructions.](#)

[Sign up for housing](#)

WMU Apartments

WMU Apartments (on campus) are open to incoming transfer/graduate/sophomore-level and above students.

To sign-up to live in WMU apartments, [click here](#).

Students with a WMU apartment contract: Please check in with the WMU apartment office on the third floor of the Faunce Student Services Building between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday—Friday, or call (269) 387-2175 during business hours.

WMU Residence Halls

WMU Residence Halls provide safe on-campus housing and opportunities to meet other WMU students.

Housing contracts begin Sunday, August 26, 2018.

- **Students may move into their residence hall beginning at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, August 21 at an additional cost.** If you are moving into the residence halls before housing contracts begin, the fee will be \$40.00 per day.
- **Linens are NOT provided in the residence halls.** Students must provide their own pillow, sheets, blankets, and towels. You will need **twin extra-long bed sheets** for WMU's beds. If you do not bring linens with you, basic linen packets (sheet and towel) are available to rent for \$5 at your residence hall for temporary use. To request linens, you must contact rl-info@wmich.edu before arrival. Basic linen packets will not automatically be provided. You must ask for your linen packet from the housing staff when you arrive at the residence hall.
- Residence Life staff may be reached during regular business hours at (269) 387-4735 or via email at rl-info@wmich.edu



Arrange to Stay at a Local Hotel

If you arrive BEFORE August 21 OR you do not have housing when you arrive, you will need to stay in a hotel.

It is recommended that you make a hotel reservation **before** you travel to Kalamazoo.

Comfort Inn Hotel

WMU provides a free daily shuttle service to campus for students from the **Comfort Inn** hotel during orientation. The shuttle service picks up students at the hotel door between 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Tell the Comfort Inn staff that you are a new WMU international student to receive a discount. Reservations can be made at the Comfort Inn website, by phone, or by sending an email.

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

Phone Number: (269) 384-2800

Email Address: comfortinn739@yahoo.com

[Website](#)

Other Hotel Options*

[Staybridge Suites](#) – reserve online or call (269) 372-8000.

[Red Roof Inn](#) - (269) 375-7400

[Best Western Plus](#) - (269) 350-5522

*Students staying at these hotels will need to arrange their own transportation to campus.

Meals

Breakfast and lunch will be provided on August 22-24. Housing and other meals are not included. Student dining meal plans will not start in WMU dining halls and cafeterias until Sunday, August 26. [Sign up for a meal plan.](#) During orientation, you will be able to purchase meals at the Bernhard Center café which will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. View the Fall 2018 Dining Guide for food options near campus.

Local delivery:

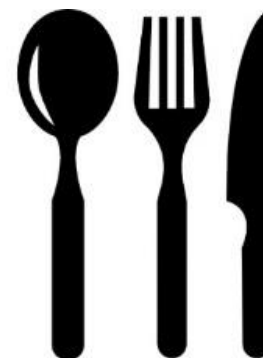
- Campus Wok (Chinese cuisine): 269-552-9616
- Jimmy John's (sub style sandwiches): 269-381-9400
- Pita Pit (pita sandwiches): 269-343-7482
- Papa John's Pizza: 269-381-7272

Local grocery stores:

- Meijer: 6660 W. Main St. Kalamazoo, MI
- Walmart: 501 N. 9th St. Kalamazoo, MI
- Target: 5350 W. Main St. Kalamazoo, MI
- Hardings: 5161 W. Main St. Kalamazoo, MI

Local restaurants:

- Noodles & Company: 5363 W Main St. Kalamazoo, MI
- Applebee's: 5330 W Main St. Kalamazoo, MI
- Panera Bread: 5119 W Main St. Kalamazoo, MI
- Shawarma King: 1441 S Drake Rd. Kalamazoo, MI
- University Roadhouse: 1332 W Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI



Medical Insurance

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

Students with Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities may be eligible for academic adjustments or accommodations. New students should send documentation and request accommodations **before** they arrive. Visit the [Disability Services for Students website](#) or contact Christie Bierlein (christie.bierlein@wmich.edu) for more information.



Western Michigan University Tobacco-Free Campus Policy

Effective September 1, 2014, the use of tobacco products is only permitted in enclosed personal vehicles. The use of tobacco products is not permitted indoors or outdoors on any University property. Tobacco products are defined to include the following: cigarettes, electronic-cigarettes, cigars, bidis, snuff, snus, water pipes, pipes, hookahs, chew and any other non-combustible tobacco products. [Read more.](#)



Fall 2018 Costs

[Tuition and fees](#)

[Tuition refund dates](#)

Complete payment of tuition is expected from all students by the first week of class. If you need to withdraw from CELCIS classes, your tuition may be refunded according to the deadlines.

[Residence hall and dining plan](#)

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 implemented by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The fee must be paid and fully processed prior to 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](#).

Note: International students may experience delays at U.S. ports of entry

As of May 2, 2013, due to heightened security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers are verifying 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 procedures, F-1 students and J-1 exchange visitors entering the United States should plan to spend potentially a couple of hours in the secondary inspection process and plan flight connections accordingly.

Safe travels!