Advice for International Students

Below are tips provided by current UW-Platteville international students.

U.S. Customs

- The continental United States has four time zones. From east to west they are the Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific Time zones. Hawaii and Alaska are each in different time zones. Wisconsin is in the Central time zone.
- U.S. Americans use the Fahrenheit scale to calculate temperatures.
- In the U.S., telephone numbers are 10 digits. The first three numbers are called the “area code” and indicate from what part of the country the caller is located.
- When writing calendar dates, Americans list the month first, the day second and the year third.
- If you want to smoke in a car or home, always ask the owner if smoking is permitted there.
- In the U.S., you should give waiters and waitresses in restaurants tips. Customers generally leave between 15 percent and 20 percent of their total bill. If you’re not good at math, simply leave your server double the amount of tax you paid on the meal.
- In the U.S., the drinking age is 21. If you are purchasing alcohol, you will need to show a form of identification with your birthdate, such as your passport.
- If you believe you or someone you know has been the victim of a bias incident (discrimination), please consider reporting this to either the ISSS advisor or to the Behavioral Review and Recommendations Team (BRRT) at concerns@uwplatt.edu so that appropriate action may be taken. If you or someone else has been the victim of a hate crime, please report this to the Campus Police at 608-342-1584 or police@uwplatt.edu. Information shared with the BRRT will be handled with sensitivity, confidentiality, and professionalism. Anonymous reports will be accepted.

Classroom Advice

- Checking UW-Platteville e-mail is also very important, because professors usually send out class reminders and class cancellations via the e-mail.
- UW-Platteville professors and academic advisors are very understanding; don’t be afraid to go talk to them if you have questions or concerns.
- Go to class! Due to the small class size, professors know if you are there or not.
- Be on time!
UW-Platteville Advice and Reminders

- Looking for your professor’s phone number or email address? For links to the Online Campus Phonebook, the UW-Platteville Department Contact List, and much more, please visit http://www.uwplatt.edu/contact/.
- If you don’t have a meal plan, it’s cheaper to buy food with points/Dining Dollars on your Pioneer Passport than cash. You can put points on your card by visiting Pioneer Passport office, next to the bookstore, Markee Pioneer Student Center (MPSC).
- UW-Platteville students get a discount to buy movie tickets at the Information Desk at the MPSC.
- The Pioneer Activity Center (PAC) is always free for UW-Platteville students to use to work out.
- If you want to have more friends and enjoy your life in the U.S., you should not spend most of your time in your residence hall room; try to join organization and sports teams and participate in campus activities and events!
- Check the Campus Programming and Relations (CPR) updates on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/UWPCPR?ref=ts; there is always something going on each month.
- If you are a sport person, but don’t want to join the school team, you can always play on the UW-Platteville intramural teams!
- Pioneer Solutions is UW-Platteville’s one-stop shop for classroom technology resources, services, training, equipment, and contacts. Do you want to know how to better utilize D2L, Zimbra Email & Calendar, or Microsoft Office applications? Do you want to check out a digital camera or DVD player? Check out Pioneer Solutions at http://www2.uwplatt.edu/pioneersolutions.
- Use your “J: Drive” on your computer to store important documents. You will be able to access your J: Drive from any campus computer.
- Your “Empl ID #” is your 9-digit Student ID number. Your Empl ID number is NOT the number on your Pioneer Passport/Student ID card; rather, you can find your Empl ID number at the top of your PASS account or your tuition bill.
- The Information Desk (also known as the Info Desk) in the Markee Pioneer Student Center (MPSC) has a “Lost and Found”, which means that if you lose something on campus, you should check at the Info Desk to see if someone turned your lost item in at the Lost and Found. Likewise, if you find something that someone else has lost, turn it in at the Info Desk.
- You can purchase stamps, mail letters, and cash checks (up to $60) at the Info Desk in the Markee Pioneer Student Center.
- There are buses that will take you to Dubuque and Madison every day; check out more details at the Information Desk of the MPSC or come to the Advising Office in Royce Hall 103.
- There is a ride-share board outside the bookstore – sign up to catch a ride with someone and make new friends.
- There are ATMs where you can withdraw cash in the Markee Pioneer Student Center, Ullsvik Hall, and Glenview Commons.
- Don’t lose your passport, I-20/DS-2019, or I-94 card!