Advice for International Students

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

Email

- Checking your UW-Platteville e-mail every day is very important!!! Professors (and university departments, such as the International Student and Scholar Services Office) will send out reminders or updates about class schedules and other important information through this e-mail account.
- Instructions for accessing your uwplatt.edu email account:
  1. Go to www3.uwplatt.edu
  2. Click on "Shortcuts" at the top of the page
  3. Click on “Email”
  4. Click on "Email Login"
  5. Enter your Net ID and password that you set up at orientation

Pioneer Passport (Student ID Card)

- Your Pioneer Passport (or student ID) is used for many purposes:
  - To pay for your meals (if you have a meal plan or dining dollars/points on your card) in the campus dining facilities such as the Pioneer Crossing, Stations Dining Hall, Pioneer Perk, and Greenwood Market.
  - To check out and return books at the library
  - To check out laptops from Information Technology Services (ITS).
  - To enter the Pioneer Activity Center (PAC) and indoor track and for access to some residence halls.
  - To get discounts on university-sponsored athletic events and other community events.
  - To get your textbooks from the textbook center.
  - To pay for on-campus laundry facilities (except in Rountree Commons).
  - Ride the campus shuttle bus.

- If you do not have a meal plan, it is easier (and cheaper) to buy food with points/dining dollars on your Pioneer Passport rather than using cash. If you use dining dollars/points, you are not charged sales tax.
- **Students can now add money to your Passport Funds online** at [https://eacct-uwplatt-sp.blackboard.com/eaccounts/AnonymousHome.aspx](https://eacct-uwplatt-sp.blackboard.com/eaccounts/AnonymousHome.aspx) or in person in the Pioneer Passport Office (second floor of the Markee Pioneer Student Center).
Entertainment/Fun

- 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!
- Looking for a fun trip to go on or an on-campus event to attend? Check the Campus Programming and Relations (CPR) updates on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/UWPCPR?ref=ts or on the CPR website at http://www.uwplatt.edu/cpr/upcoming-events. There is always something fun to do with CPR!
- Do you like doing outside activities, such as canoeing, hiking, rock climbing, camping, caving, paint balling, or skiing? Check out the Outdoor Recreation page on Facebook (search for “University of Wisconsin-Platteville Outdoor Recreation Department”) or on PioneerLink (https://uwplatt.collegiatelink.net/organization/outdoorrecreation). The Outdoor Recreation Department is located in the lower level of the Pioneer Activity Center (PAC) in the Williams Fieldhouse.
- Join the International Student Club Facebook group on Facebook to find out about fun international events happening on campus. Simply search Facebook for “International Student Club (UW-Platteville).”
- There are “$1 Movie Night” tickets for sale every month at the info desk in the Markee Pioneer Student Center (MPSC). Your Pioneer Passport (student ID card) is required to purchase tickets.
- Look for a UW-Platteville club or student organization to join on PioneerLink at https://uwplatt.collegiatelink.net/. There’s something for everyone!

Athletics

- There are many university-sponsored sports team to join, but if you are looking to just play for fun, UW-Platteville Intramural offers sports such as; badminton, tennis, soccer, football, etc. Check out more info at the Intramural office in the Pioneer Activity Center (PAC) in the Williams Fieldhouse. See http://www.uwplatt.edu/intramurals/ for more information.
- The Pioneer Activity Center (PAC) is always free for UW-Platteville students to use to work out. More information about the PAC facilities and hours is available at http://www.uwplatt.edu/pac.

Your EMPL ID Number

- 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 on your PASS account or your tuition bill.
Academics

- Attending class is very important; many professors count class attendance toward your final grade. Even if some professors do not check attendance, they may have pop-quizzes so make sure you attend class so that you will not miss those points.
- If you need help with studying or writing papers, the Writing and Tutoring Resource (WATR) Center provides writing assistance for free and tutoring for a minimal fee. For more information, please visit WATR on the third floor of Brigham Hall.
- UW-Platteville professors and academic advisors are very understanding; do not be afraid to go talk to them if you have questions or concerns. It is better to get assistance when you first encounter a problem or concern rather than waiting until the problem gets out of control.
- Be on time! In U.S. culture, particularly in U.S. university culture, it is often considered rude or irresponsible to arrive late to class or meetings.

Technology

- If you do not have a laptop and would like to borrow one for up to 72 hours, you can check out laptops from the Information Technology Services (ITS) Help Desk in the Karmann Library. Call 608-342-1400 or email helpdesk@uwplatt.edu for details. There are also many computer labs on campus, including the Bear’s Den in the Markee Pioneer Student Center (MPSC) and in Karmann Library.
- If you have trouble with your computer/laptop or any other computer programs, go to RESNET, which is located on the first floor in Royce Hall.
- Use your “J: Drive” on your computer, a safe and secure way to save and store important documents. You will be able to access your J: Drive from any campus computer.

Transportation

- A campus shuttle is available during the academic year to provide transportation to locations around the campus and in the community. UW-Platteville students ride free. You are required to bring your UW-Platteville ID or community pass in order to ride on the shuttle. More information can be found at: http://www3.uwplatt.edu/transportation/pioneer-transit-campus-shuttle
- Lamers Bus Company provides transportation from UW-Platteville to Madison every day. The bus schedule and cost is listed at http://www.golamers.com/services/lamers-connect/dubuque-to-madison-daily-route/. Cost is approximately $23 one way, but students can get a 15% discount if they show their student ID.
- Bus rides to Chicago are also available, but direct bus routes to Chicago are only available from Platteville on a limited number of days per year. Typically, students first need to take a bus from Platteville to Madison (or Platteville to Dubuque) and then from
Madison to Chicago (or Dubuque to Chicago). Information on purchasing and the bus schedule can be found at: http://www3.uwplatt.edu/transportation/regional-travel
- Wearing a seatbelt is required by law in Wisconsin and in most states within the U.S.
- For other ideas on how to get around or out of Platteville, please see the UW-Platteville Transportation webpage at http://www.uwplatt.edu/transportation.
- For information about driving in the U.S. or getting a Wisconsin driver’s license and/or buying a car, please see our ISSS website at http://www.uwplatt.edu/isss/driving-us.

U.S. Customs
- 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 as a tip. 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 want to smoke in a car or home, always ask the owner if smoking is permitted there, since smoking is not as widely practiced or accepted as in some other countries.
- When writing calendar dates, Americans list the month first, the day second and the year third.
- U.S. Americans use the Fahrenheit scale to calculate temperatures and miles to calculate distance.
- Daylight Saving Time in the United States is the practice of setting the clock forward by one hour during the warmer part of the year, so that evenings have more daylight and mornings have less. Most areas of the United States currently observe daylight saving time, including Wisconsin. Clocks "spring" forward on the second Sunday of March (from 2 a.m. to 3 a.m.), and "fall" back on the first Sunday of November (from 2 a.m. to 1 a.m.).
- There six time zones in the United States. Eastern Time Zone is +1 hr, Central Time Zone is 0 hr, Mountain Time Zone is -1 hour, Pacific Time Zone is -2 hrs, Alaskan Time Zone is -3 hrs, and lastly Hawaiian Time Zone is -5 hrs. Platteville is located in the Central Time Zone.
- The continental United States has four time zones. Wisconsin is in the Central time zone. From east to west, the time zones are the Eastern (1 hour ahead), Central, Mountain (1 hour behind) and Pacific (2 hours behind).
- 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 (or where the mobile phone was purchased).