



WMU International Student and Scholar Services (ISS)

Fall 2025

Travel Preparation to WMU Virtual Event

Thursday, August 7, 2025

9:00 am EST

The Haenicke Institute for Global Education (HIGE)

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Weather in Kalamazoo
- What to pack?
- Important travel documents
- Emergency Contact Information
- In-Person International Student Orientation
- Final check-list
- Questions and Answers

Meet the Team- International Student and Scholar Services



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<https://wmich.edu/internationaladmissions/resources/advising>



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Weather in Kalamazoo

Kalamazoo has Four Seasons – Be Ready for All of Them!

- Kalamazoo experiences warm summers, snowy winters, and unpredictable spring/fall weather.
- Even though you will arrive in August when the temperature is warm, it's important to plan ahead for colder months.



Weather in Kalamazoo



Spring and Summer Weather (April – October)

- From April to September, Kalamazoo warms up with average highs ranging from around 50°F (10°C) in early spring to 80°F (27°C) in midsummer.
- Nights are cooler in spring but become pleasant and mild by summer.
- The weather shifts from spring rains and blooming flowers to long, sunny summer days ideal for outdoor activities.

What to Pack?

Spring/Summer Essentials

- Lightweight tops and T-shirts
- Shorts and light pants
- A light jacket or sweater for cooler evenings
- Comfortable walking shoes or sandals



Weather in Kalamazoo



Winter Weather (November – March)

- Temperatures: In winter, temperatures usually range from about 20°F to 30°F (-6°C to -1°C). It's essential to dress warmly to stay comfortable.
- Snow: Kalamazoo often gets snow, especially from late November to March. This can create a lovely winter landscape, but it also means you should be ready for cold days.

What to Pack?

Essential Clothing for Winter

- **Layering is Key:** Bring clothing that can be layered for warmth. Consider packing:
 - **Base Layers:** Thermal tops and leggings
 - **Mid Layers:** Fleece or wool sweaters for insulation.
 - **Outer Layer:** A waterproof and windproof jacket to protect against snow and wind.
- **Winter Accessories:** Important items include:
 - Warm gloves or mittens
 - A hat
 - A scarf

Footwear:

- Waterproof winter boots for snow
- Comfortable shoes for indoor activities



Other Important Items

- Bring your Medications and Doctor's Notes
- Glasses or contact lenses
- Toiletries
- Charger for your devices (adapter if needed)
- Travel and Immigration Documents
- Any traditional clothing or comfort items from home



Health Insurance

- You are automatically enrolled in GeoBlue.
- Insurance fee will appear on your student account.
- GeoBlue covers medical expenses but not vision or dental – be sure to visit your dentist and optometrist before you leave
- Watch for an email from customerservice@geoblue.com with instructions to access the portal.
- Download the GeoBlue Mobile App for easy access to your insurance information.
- You can print your ID card from the GeoBlue portal.
- For questions, email ias-insurance@wmich.edu.



DOWNLOAD THE APP WITH THIS QR CODE



- The student's ID card is accessible on the Portal
- Students can print their card in PDF format
- They can order new ID card by selecting "Order New"



Important Travel Documents

- Passport/Visa
- I-20/DS-2019
- Admission Letter
- Enrollment Confirmation/Schedule (if already registered for classes)
- Emergency Contact Information
- **Do not pack these documents in your checked luggage**

Emergency Contact Information

In case of an **EMERGENCY** (if you are in the U.S. and have a **police, fire or medical emergency**)

Call 911 immediately

In case of an **IMMIGRATION EMERGENCY** (such as a border or port of entry issue)

During normal WMU business hours (Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

Call (269) 387-5865 and ask to speak with an immigration advisor (PDSO or DSO).

After hours and during WMU closure

Call Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch at (269) 488-8911 and ask to be directed to a WMU Public Safety officer.



Emergency Contact Information

Provide the following information when you call for an emergency situation:

- Identify yourself as a Western Michigan University student
- Name
- WIN (WMU student ID number)
- Country of Citizenship
- Current Location
- Description of the situation



WMU International Student Perspective International Student Council (ISC)



ISC
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT COUNCIL



we provide
resources for
your success

fun events to
cultivate
diversity &
build
friendship

representing
all
international
students



WMU International Student Perspective International Student Council (ISC)

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WMU International Student Council
We are the voice of WMU International Students
E-board Shadowing - DM us for availability
linktr.ee/isc_wmu and 3 more



In-Person International Student Orientation

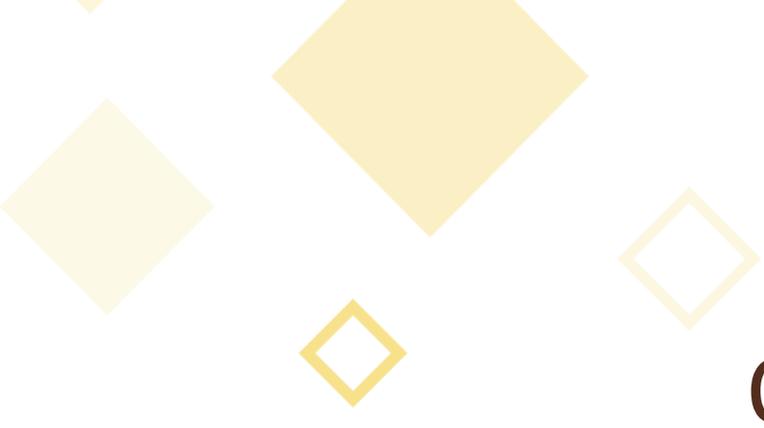
- In-Person Orientation will be held on **August 21, 2025**
- To Register for Orientation:
<https://wmich.tfaforms.net/218051?eid=a1ITO000004XPq92AG>
- WMU Offers Airport and Bus Station Pickups on **August 19, 20 and 21**.
For more information on transportation and pickup services, visit:
<https://wmich.edu/internationaladmissions/orientation#transport>
- For additional information, visit:
<https://wmich.edu/internationaladmissions/orientation>



Final Checklist

- Have you obtained your visa?
- Have you bought your flight ticket to Kalamazoo?
- Have you secured your housing?
- Have you contacted your academic advisor?
<https://wmich.edu/advising>
- Have you registered for classes?
<https://wmich.edu/registrar/students/registration>
- Have you registered for in-person orientation?
<https://wmich.tfaforms.net/218051?eid=a1IT0000004XPq92AG>
- Have you turned in your official transcripts?
- Have you completed the “Immigration Responsibilities Request” in Terra Dotta?
<https://iss.wmich.edu>





Questions and Answers

Thank you for attending!

