



Greetings from Western Michigan University! We will see you at the International Student Orientation very soon!

This is a courtesy reminder of everything you should have completed prior to departing for the United States. If you are just starting virtual orientation now, please refer to the guide at the end of this email.

International Student Orientation:

Register for the in-person portion of **International Student Orientation** on **January 9** using [this link](#).

At this **mandatory** event, you will receive a University welcome, meet immigration advisors, make new friends and more. **Please register ahead of time.** Students attending in-person orientation will be provided with a free physical SIM card and one free month of 5G cell phone service with unlimited phone and SMS texting via campusSIM and T-Mobile. Learn more about how to obtain either an eSIM or physical SIM [here](#).

The event is at the WMU Student Center. Breakfast and check-in start at 9 a.m. A campus map is linked [here](#). Please bring the following:

- A laptop. It can be difficult to register for courses from your mobile phone.
- Your original passport.
- A copy of your passport. You will need this to open a bank account.
- Your Bronco identification card. It is highly recommended that you secure your Bronco ID before in-person orientation. To get your Bronco ID card, visit Parking Services Monday - Friday from 7:30am - 4pm. A campus map is [here](#).

Students can also get their Bronco ID card from Parking Services the week after orientation.

Winter Break at WMU

Please be advised that our office will be closed for the university winter closure/holiday period from Tuesday, December 23, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. and we will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. You can expect our next orientation email on Thursday, January 8. Students can message in the WhatsApp chat in the meantime for support.

EMERGENCY Information:

For police, fire, or medical emergencies, call **911**.

If this is an immigration emergency (**such as a border or port of entry issue**), please contact Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch at **(269) 488-8911** (ask to be directed to a WMU Public Safety officer) outside of normal business hours.

Transportation Services

It is recommended that you fly directly to Kalamazoo. WMU will offer pickup services from the [Kalamazoo Battle Creek Airport \(AZO\)](#) and the [Kalamazoo Transit Station](#) on **Thursday, January 8, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.** To secure your ride on this day, simply [join our WhatsApp chat](#) and message when you arrive using the free Airport or Transit Station Wi-Fi. Our drivers will be close by and on the lookout for your message.

WMU will also offer a free shuttle service on **January 9** to transport students in the Kalamazoo area to and from International Student Orientation at WMU's Student Center. Students who need transportation assistance to arrive at orientation should message [in the WhatsApp chat](#) the night before orientation. Students who need transportation assistance getting home from orientation will be identified once orientation is over.

If you are arriving to Kalamazoo Battle Creek Airport (AZO) outside of these dates and times, you can consult the [AZO transportation page](#) for regional taxi and bus information.

If you are arriving to **Detroit Metro Airport (DTW)** or **Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD)**, check out the following resources for travel to Kalamazoo:

- [Greyhound Buses](#) (Detroit to Kalamazoo, Chicago to Kalamazoo)

- [Indian Trails Buses](#) (Detroit to Kalamazoo)
- [Amtrak Train](#) (Detroit to Kalamazoo, Chicago to Kalamazoo)

If you have any other questions about transportation, please reach out in the WhatsApp group.

Important Reminders:

Students are expected to have a comprehensive understanding of the following topics prior to their arrival at WMU:

- Course Registration – Register for classes
- Housing – Secure your housing
- Immigration – Upload your immigration documents
- Health Insurance – Understand your health insurance plan at WMU

For detailed instructions on these topics, please refer to our [second email](#).

Virtual Orientation Complete:

Over the past several weeks, we have sent emails with recommended steps to make your arrival in the United States as smooth and easy as possible. Many of you completed the [virtual modules](#) this month. You have until you depart for the United States to finish these topics, but we encourage you to complete them sooner.

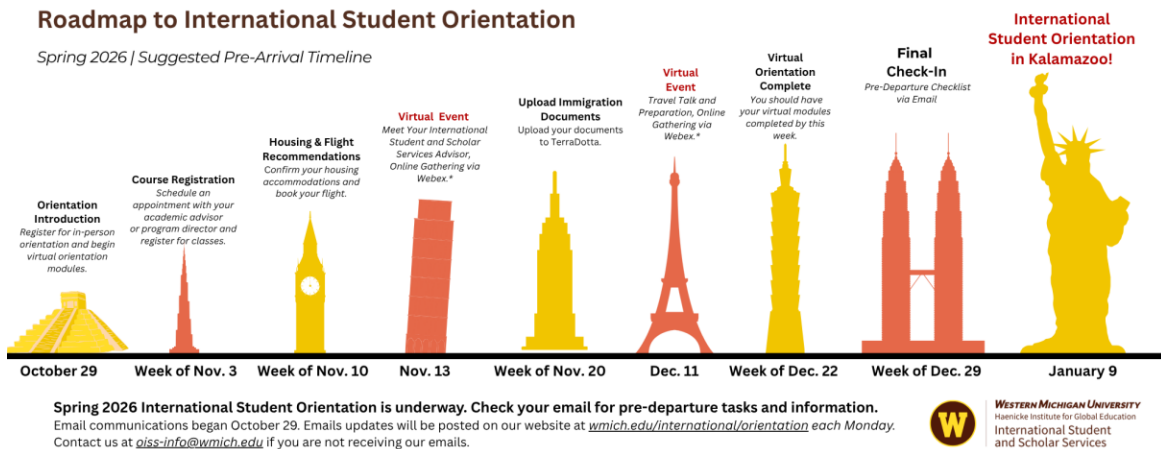
Check out the roadmap graphic below to ensure you are on track. If this is your first orientation email, see the footer of this email for any information you may have missed.

We look forward to meeting you!

WMU International

Roadmap to International Student Orientation

Spring 2026 | Suggested Pre-Arrival Timeline



Questions?

- First, ask your peers in the Spring 2026 Orientation WhatsApp group. Join [here](#).
- For additional support regarding immigration, contact us at qiss-info@wmich.edu
- For additional support regarding orientation, contact us at hige-orientation@wmich.edu.
- Consult the "Roadmap to International Student Orientation" **above** for our suggested pre-arrival timeline.

If this is your first orientation email, please do the following to continue:

- [Check our website](#) and read our past email communications.
- [Complete the virtual orientation modules](#) and gain access to your WMU email and [Elearning](#).
- Join the [Spring 2026 Orientation WhatsApp group](#) to connect with your fellow students, orientation leaders, and WMU staff.

- Undergraduate students: Use the link in the "[Academic Advising for Undergraduate Students](#)" module in the virtual orientation portal to schedule an appointment with your academic advisor and register for classes.
- Graduate students: Check out the "[Registration and Advising for Graduate Students](#)" module for information on registering for classes and connecting with your advisor or director.
- ESL Students / English as a Second Language Students will be registered for classes after completing a placement test and attending the in-person orientation. Questions about placement testing or registration can be directed to the Center for English Language and Culture for International Students (CELCIS) staff at caroline.g.huffman@wmich.edu or eva.copija@wmich.edu.
- Register for in-person orientation on **January 9** using [this link](#).

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