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The Office of International Affairs welcomes more than 2,000 new international students to the Ohio State campus every year and helps them make a smooth transition to the university community and to life in Columbus.

By guiding students through the immigration process, and providing them with opportunities to participate in social, cultural and educational programs, the Office of International Affairs helps international students achieve a balanced and successful start to their life in the United States.

The Office of International Affairs engages Ohio State students and faculty in international educational and research experiences; facilitates the integration of international students and scholars into Ohio State’s world of knowledge; fosters excellence in the study of languages and the history of arts and cultures and their societies; and provides access to Ohio State’s academic expertise for the benefit of communities throughout the world.

Through its International Students and Scholars unit, the Office of International Affairs provides advising and assistance with the following:

- Immigration regulations and paperwork
- Social and cultural adjustment
- Personal and financial concerns

Walk-in advising is available Monday through Thursday from 1–4 p.m. and by appointment on Fridays from 1–4 p.m. at Enarson Classroom Building, First Floor. For more information, please visit oia.osu.edu. Learn more about the immigration coordinators and the global engagement team in the Office of International Affairs at oia.osu.edu. To contact us, email iss@osu.edu.
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THINGS TO DO BEFORE CLASSES BEGIN

1. **Complete the mandatory immigration check-in and orientation with the Office of International Affairs**
   At immigration check-in, staff from the Office of International Affairs are available to meet with you, review your immigration documents, discuss important immigration regulations and answer your questions. Orientation will introduce you to Ohio State and Columbus, allow you to meet other new students and will cover important topics such as campus resources, academic expectations, cultural adjustment and health and safety information. Both programs are required for new international students at Ohio State.

2. **Complete each of the tasks on your orientation checklist**
   At immigration check-in, all new international students are given an orientation checklist. This schedule provides a comprehensive summary of orientation requirements that includes, but is not limited to, the following:
   - Attend orientation
   - Complete health screening
   - Confirm housing arrangements
   - Get BuckID (student identification card)
   - Activate Ohio State email account
   - Take required placement tests
   - Register for classes
   - Update current address information at buckeyelink.osu.edu
   - Pay tuition and fees

   Please let the Office of International Affairs staff know if you have questions or concerns about completing any of these required tasks.

3. **Explore the First Year Experience Helpful Resources**
   Ohio State’s First Year Experience provides you with valuable information to help you adjust to life at Ohio State, so be sure to visit their website and check out their helpful resources at [fye.osu.edu/helpfulresources.html](http://fye.osu.edu/helpfulresources.html).
4. Setting Up Utility Services

**Telephone service**

For residence halls: You will receive information in the residence halls about how to sign up for service.

If you will be living in an off-campus apartment and are interested in having landline-based home phone service, a complete list of carriers can be found online by using the search term “home phone service.”

**Water service**

Columbus Division of Water
614-645-8276

**Gas service**

Columbia Gas
1-800-344-4077

**Cable service**

Spectrum, 1-855-465-9615
WOW Cable, 1-844-878-9792

**Electric service**

American Electric Power
1-800-672-2231

**Cell (mobile) phones and phone cards**

Phone cards can be purchased at any U.S. post office, bookstore or pharmacy (including the CVS pharmacy on Neil Avenue), as well as at most grocery stores. They can be used to make local, long-distance or international calls. You pay a set amount of money for a card, which represents a certain number of minutes of telephone time. You can call the company on the card to find out how many minutes of international calling the card purchases. If you do not have a Social Security number, cell phone prepaid service plans are available with a deposit of $400 to $800.

Customer service numbers:

AT&T: 1-800-331-0500
Sprint: 1-888-211-4727
Verizon Wireless: 1-800-922-0204
T-Mobile: 1-800-T-MOBILE

A complete list can be found online by using the search term “cell phone carriers.”
Our licensed attorneys provide legal advice and representation to Ohio State students for off-campus housing, criminal charges and traffic tickets, contract review, car accidents, consumer disputes, credit cards, notary, & much more.
CLASS REGISTRATION

buckeyelink.osu.edu

Undergraduate students
You will finalize your class schedule on Day 3 of Orientation. If you have received transfer credit for courses taken at another college, be sure to have all courses that have transferred to Ohio State as general credit evaluated by the transfer credit coordinators of the appropriate departments. You have received a list of the coordinators with your transfer credit evaluation. Take copies of the final evaluations with you when you register for classes.

Graduate students
Call or visit your academic department for an appointment with your academic advisor once you arrive on campus. Your advisor will either enter your course requests for you or will send you to the Graduate School (located at 250 University Hall) to receive registration materials so you can enter your course requests yourself.

Role of an academic/faculty advisor
Advisors partner with students at the university to explore educational and professional opportunities, set appropriate goals and decide strategies for accomplishing those goals. They help students register for courses, understand degree requirements, change or add majors and minors, and can address many other academic issues. Advisors also can provide a friendly ear, share in students’ achievements and disappointments, answer questions and direct students to other appropriate university services.
CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN THE CLASSROOM

Educational systems vary from country to country. Here are a few facts you should know about academic life at Ohio State.

In many cultures, there is a great difference in status between students and teachers. Students listen quietly, not questioning what the teacher says. In the United States, it is acceptable and often expected for students to ask questions and discuss topics with each other and the instructor.

During the first class meeting, your teachers will give you a syllabus, a document that explains what is expected of you throughout the course, lists when assignments are due and includes your instructor’s office hours and contact information. If you have a problem with the material presented in class, it is expected that you will see the teacher during office hours and ask for help.

Dress is informal in U.S. classrooms. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on campus. Some professors permit students to have food and beverages in the classroom.

**Participation**
You are expected to participate in class discussions. How often will vary according to the course format and the individual instructor’s expectations, but a good rule to follow is to raise your hand to ask a question or to make a comment at least once a week. If you are unclear how often you should speak aloud in class, just ask your instructor for clarification. If a professor calls on you to answer a question, you should respond with the answer or say that you do not know the answer. Don’t worry if the answer you give is wrong. Participation will often factor into your grade.

**Missing class**
You are expected to go to class on time and to notify your teacher in advance if you will be absent. It is better to be late to class than to skip class. If you must miss class because of illness, you may need a doctor’s excuse, especially, if you have a long illness and you must miss several classes. You can ask for a doctor’s note at the Wilce Student Health Center after you have seen the doctor. Ask your professors for their policies on missing class. Those policies may also be included in the syllabus. Attendance will often factor into your grade, and if you do not attend on a regular basis you will receive the failing grade of “EN” for the course. If you do not attend the first sessions of class for the semester, your enrollment in the course may be dropped.
If you are feeling stressed about your course work:

- Continue to go to class. Attendance records are kept for many classes. The biggest mistake that students can make is to stop attending class because they feel overwhelmed. This will make your situation even more difficult.

- Visit your professor. Many professors say that although they have office hours, too few students visit them. You can make Ohio State seem like a much smaller place if you visit your professors throughout the semester. You do not have to wait until you feel overwhelmed before meeting with your professors.

- Visit a tutor. Many academic departments, university libraries and even residence halls offer tutoring services for free. For a list of campus tutoring services, visit younkinsuccess.osu.edu/tutoring/additional-tutoring-resources/.

- The Dennis Learning Center offers courses, academic coaching and workshops to assist students in achieving academic success. The Learning Center is the place to reach out to if you are seeking help with issues such as test anxiety, time management and improving study skills.

- If you need help with writing, you can go to the Writing Center, which has two locations: 4120 Smith Lab (main office), 122A Thompson Library (satellite office), and also online consulting.

- Take time to enjoy your life. Students often feel a great deal of pressure to succeed or excel in classes. However, it is not possible to succeed if you feel too much stress or anxiety. Try to spend time meeting new friends and enjoying sports, movies and other activities at Ohio State or in Columbus.

- Talk to a counselor. Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) — located at the Younkin Success Center, 1640 Neil Avenue — provides a safe environment for students to discuss issues affecting their life on campus, including stress management, academic adjustment and relationship problems. CCS offers counseling in English, Cantonese, Hindi, Korean, Mandarin and Spanish. To schedule an appointment, call 614-292-5766.

- More information about academic support programs is available in the First Year Experience website.
ACADEMIC CONDUCT

Americans value originality and individual achievement. These values are reflected in the rules of academic honesty, and students are evaluated academically based only on their original work. What constitutes academic honesty varies from culture to culture, and it is important to understand the rules of academic conduct at Ohio State.

Consequences
Failure to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct has serious implications for international students’ immigration status. Professors who believe that academic misconduct has occurred in their class will refer the student or students involved to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct, commonly referred to as COAM. If the student or students are found guilty, any of the following sanctions may be applied:

- Formal reprimand
- Failing the assignment or course, or other final course grade reduction
- Placement on disciplinary probation
- Suspension from the university
- Dismissal from the university

Sanctions will be noted on the student’s permanent disciplinary record at Ohio State, and in some cases on the student’s academic transcript. In the case of academic misconduct by a group of students, all members of the group must appear before the University Committee on Academic Misconduct.

Note: Depending on the severity and timing of a sanction, international students can lose their immigration status if found guilty of violating the Code of Student Conduct.
Academic misconduct (cheating)

In many cultures, it is common for students to collaborate on papers, projects and homework assignments. In the United States, it is forbidden to do so unless the professor states that the homework assignment is to be worked on in groups. Ohio State defines academic misconduct as any of the following:

- Violating course rules or assignment guidelines as contained in the course syllabus
- Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance from another student or students on a course assignment
- Plagiarizing
- Providing or receiving information during exams or assignments
- Possession and/or use of unauthorized materials during an exam or assignment
- Submission of work not performed in or for a course (such as a paper written in a previous semester for a different class)
- Falsifying, fabricating or dishonestly reporting research results
- Taking the place of another student or enlisting another student to take your place in an exam
- Altering grades or marks by the student in an effort to change the earned grade or credit
Plagiarism
In the United States, ideas are considered the property of their author. It is considered stealing to use the words or ideas of another in a paper or presentation without giving credit to the originator of the idea. Types of plagiarism include the following examples:

- Word-for-word copying of someone else’s work without putting quotation marks around the quote or attributing the source (this would include using the words of another student without indicating that they are not your own)
- Changing a few words of someone else’s work but not acknowledging that the ideas are not your own

When using the ideas of another person, cite the person’s name and the publication in which the ideas were published. If you have any questions, contact your instructor.

To learn more about avoiding and preventing academic misconduct, please visit: oaa.osu.edu/coamtensuggestions.html

The Code of Student Conduct can be found online at: studentlife.osu.edu/csc

For a guide to the different citation styles, please visit: library.osu.edu/help/how-do-i/

New International Students’ Guide to Ohio State Academic Culture: u.osu.edu/academicintro/

Ask your professor about how he or she wants you to cite sources that you use in your work.
The academic year at Ohio State is divided into two semesters (autumn and spring) of 14 weeks each. Autumn and spring semester are divided into two sessions of seven weeks each, with some courses being offered for the full term, and some for just one session. During summer term courses are offered in four-week, six-week and eight-week sessions. At the end of each term, there is a final exam period and then a break. International students must be enrolled full time through the academic year, which includes autumn and spring semester. Full time enrollment is required during summer term for students in their first or final term of enrollment.

Time-off where there are no classes. In the autumn, students get two days off for autumn break and about three weeks off for winter break. In the spring semester, students get five days off for spring break.

Unofficial transcripts that can be downloaded from the registrar’s website at buckeyelink.osu.edu.

Out-of-class (and sometimes in-class) work required by a professor is called an assignment — for example, reading books, writing a paper or completing a lab report. Be sure to turn in assignments by the due date.

International students in F-1 and J-1 non-immigrant status are required to carry a full course load (12 credit hours for undergraduates, eight credit hours for graduate students and 12 credit hours for graduate fellows; for those enrolled during summer term, 12 credit hours for undergraduates, four credit hours for graduate students and six credit hours for graduate fellows). See an immigration coordinator in the Enarson Classroom Building before you drop below the minimum course hours. Not doing so can cause you to lose your legal immigration status in the United States.

Each course at Ohio State is measured in credit hours, which are based on the number of hours the course meets each week. To complete your degree, you must have accumulated the number of credit hours specified by your degree program.
final exam
A test given at the end of a semester that plays an important part of your grade. Always check with the instructor for the time and place of the exam (can usually also be found in the syllabus).

hold
A hold (which you may also hear referred to as a “negative service indicator”) is a block on a student’s account that prevents him or her from registering for courses, receiving grades at the end of the semester, receiving a diploma and/or requesting transcripts. A hold is usually placed when a student has failed to meet an obligation to the university, such as if the student owes money to the university. If the hold is in place when the student uses the web registration system, he or she will be told who has placed the hold and warned that the obligation must be cleared by a given date or the student will not be scheduled for the courses requested. Students should take care of holds as soon as possible.

major
The concentration of study for undergraduate students.

midterm
One or more tests given around the middle of the semester.

Schedule of Classes
The Office of the University Registrar publishes the Schedule of Classes each term at registrar.osu.edu/courses. The Schedule of Classes contains registration and fee payment information; listings of courses offered; the course hour and number, credit, call number, days and times offered; building and room; and instructor’s name. Students need this information to schedule classes.

syllabus
The most important document in an American college course is the syllabus, which outlines the material that will be covered in the course, lists which texts will be used, gives the due dates for assignments, contains your professor’s name and office hours explains how your grade will be calculated and states the course rules and expectations.

transcript
An official document showing a record of courses taken and grades received by a student. You can order official copies of your transcripts online at buckeyelink.osu.edu.
CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

Experts believe that cultural adjustment often occurs in three stages:

- Honeymoon stage — excitement about being in the new country
- Uncomfortable stage — frustration, confusion and negative feelings about the new culture, homesickness, illness. This stage is often called culture shock
- Adjustment stage — understanding many aspects of the new culture, making friends and discovering helpful people at the university; ability to keep core values of the home country but operate within the values of the new community

Coping with the adjustment process

- Understand that it is normal for anyone in a new country to experience some challenges adjusting to the new culture. Here are some ways to help you get adjusted.
- Learn about and experience the new culture
- Meet people and make new friends both from your home country and across the globe. Meet American students and learn more about American culture by talking to them in the classroom or the workplace. Get involved by joining clubs and organizations and by participating in Global Engagement Nights on Tuesdays from 6 – 7 p.m. in Enarson Classroom Building
- Expect differences and similarities
- Maintain contact with family and friends back home. Phone or Skype home, watch a video from your home country or eat in a restaurant that serves food from your home country
- Take care of yourself physically: get plenty of rest, exercise and eat well
- Get involved in an activity or with a group. Visit activities.osu.edu/involvement to learn more about the variety of clubs and organizations available to students
- Work towards feeling comfortable in the new culture
- Work on enhancing English skills, especially your conversational skills. Participate in the English Conversation Program
- Enjoy nature. Sit on the Oval, walk along the river across from Lincoln Tower or go to the Whetstone Park of Roses on High Street north of campus
If you need help with the adjustment process, or if you have questions or concerns, please contact Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) at 614-292-5766 or visit ccs.osu.edu. All information shared with counselors is confidential.

**CSS Comprehensive Services Include:**

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Psychiatry
- Couple’s Counseling
- Outreach and Workshops
- Crisis Support and Debriefing
- Consultation for Faculty, Staff and Loved Ones
- Community Referral

**Hours and Locations:**

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. *Hours may vary during term breaks and by location.*

*Younkin Success Center, 4th Floor and Lincoln Tower, Suite 1030.*

Advice from other international students:

- Do not stay alone in your room every night
- Go out with a friend to see the city or shop
- Get involved with nationality clubs or other campus organizations
- Travel around the United States
- Do not worry about making mistakes
- Do not be afraid to try new words or to practice your English
U.S. CULTURE

This information is meant to provide some generalities about people in the United States, but it does not apply to all people from the United States.

Social relationships
Many people in the United States have friends with whom they share something in common. A U.S. student may consider you a friend, but he or she may invite you to do something only once or twice a semester. This is not because he or she does not like you. It simply means that life can be busy and U.S. students tend to have many more commitments (work and family, for instance, in addition to their studies) than students from other countries.

When you first start interacting with Americans, it may seem a little awkward in the way they joke around and socialize. Someone you meet may find an interest in you, or you may be interested in him or her. So, if you are interested, how do you make the first move? If you are not interested, how do you tell that person?

If you like someone, ask him or her to have dinner or coffee with you sometime. Do not go out alone with someone you have just met. If someone asks you on a date and you wish to accept, agree to meet in a public area with other people around.

If you don’t like someone, when he or she asks to see you sometime, simply say, “Thanks, but I have other plans.”

If you want to break things off, or if you are not interested in having sex with someone who is pressuring you, tell him or her directly what you want. Don’t be afraid to be honest, or he or she may assume you are still interested.

If someone behaves aggressively or threateningly, end the relationship. You do not need to be polite if someone makes you feel pressured or scared.

Superficial?
Sometimes international students feel that U.S. students are superficial because they act very friendly but do not wish to build a friendship. Acting friendly is a U.S. custom. It is intended to create positive feelings. Some new international students feel confused when someone they do not know says hello to them on the street. This casual greeting is not intended to encourage a conversation or express a romantic interest. It is just another form of American friendliness.

“Hi! How are you?”
This is a common greeting in the United States, but very often the person who asks the question, “How are you?” does not wait for a response. Some international students think this is rude,
but it is not intended to be. It is not customary for the person asking this question to wait for a lengthy answer. It is customary to reply, “Fine” or “OK.” You may also want to ask how the other person is. She or he will most likely answer with the same brief response.

Talking with Americans
Because the United States is a nation of immigrants, international students look as American as students from the United States. U.S. students are very sensitive about differences, and some do not want to risk offending someone by asking an ignorant or insensitive question. For that reason, some U.S. students may feel shy about approaching you. If they notice that you have an accent, they may wait for you to take the initiative to talk with them first. Many students at Ohio State may never have met anyone from another country. Although it may seem awkward, you may find that saying hello to someone in your class and explaining that you are a new international student will give you an opportunity to meet Americans.

Independence
The United States was founded by people who valued independence. An independent spirit is still evident in this culture. Many people from the United States believe that they are responsible for their own destinies. Being self-reliant is considered more important than relying on family and friends. Many people from the United States believe that individuals reach maturity at age 18 and should be ready to make their own decisions. Privacy is valued for many of the same reasons. Even among family members, issues such as money, marriage and career decisions may not be discussed out of respect for a person’s privacy.

Work ethic
People from the United States tend to value hard work. We value being busy, and we often make lists of what we hope to accomplish in a day. You may notice that people in the United States walk fast and talk quickly. We want to “get down to business” rather than make polite conversation. We don’t mean to be rude; we just have a lot to do (or think we do).

Race, ethnicity and gender
Many people in the United States think all people are equal — race, color, religion, ethnicity, class, gender and sexual orientation are unimportant to our value as human beings. Words like “tolerance” and “appreciation” are ways we may describe our relationship with people different from ourselves. For this reason, racist and sexist jokes and comments are not tolerated in many social and business settings. In fact, people who make such comments could lose their jobs.

However, despite these principles, many inequalities still exist in the United States. You may hear people make negative
comments about other groups. You may even experience discrimination because you are an international student. If this happens to you and you wish to talk about it, go to the Office of International Affairs, or contact the police if you feel threatened. An advisor who is familiar with these issues will try to understand the situation and make some suggestions for dealing with it.

Some international students are surprised to hear men and women say they are gay, lesbian or bisexual. There is a growing community of Americans who identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender and do not believe that it is necessary to keep this a secret. This community has become more visible and accepted, and people who are part of this population form a respected part of U.S. society. You will most likely have a professor, classmate, roommate or friend who is a member of this community. Remember to treat the people you meet with the same respect and openness that you would expect of them.
GET INVOLVED

Global Engagement
Global Engagement at the Office of International Affairs promotes cross-cultural interactions through creative programming like Global Engagement Nights. These programs offer ways for international students to get involved, and facilitates growing relationships between international students and the Ohio State community. Learn more at go.osu.edu/globalengagement.

English Conversation Program
The Office of International Affairs English Conversation Program is a wonderful opportunity for international and American students to expand their world views and improve their intercultural communication skills. Please visit go.osu.edu/ECProgram or contact the Office of International Affairs for more information.

International House
The International House is an environment where international and American students live together. Its educational and social programs are designed to enhance cross-cultural communication and build a sense of community and leadership.

Student organizations
There are more than 1,000 registered student organizations on campus, including academic, social, recreational, religious, political and special interest groups. Ohio State has many international organizations, including nationality clubs, made up of students from several different countries. Joining an organization is one way many Americans make new friends. For a complete listing of student organizations, please visit ohiounion.osu.edu/studentorganizations.

Pay It Forward
Pay It Forward is an online database of volunteer opportunities. If you are interested in volunteering to serve the community with worthwhile projects, call the Ohio Union at 614-688-4636 or visit payitforward.osu.edu.
JUST SAY NO

Freedom of speech has established a way of communicating that is sometimes seen as very direct. Directness while communicating with others is very acceptable and sometimes expected. It is OK to say no.

In some countries, open rejection or disagreement may be considered rude. In the United States it is quite normal to disagree openly. The following scenarios will give you a better idea of how to say no when you find yourself in one of these situations.

**Telemarketing**
You may get phone calls from people wanting to sell you things or wanting you to give money to a charity. The people who call may ask for your personal information and try to keep you on the phone to convince you to buy something or divulge your credit card information.

What you can do is say, “No, thank you!” and hang up the telephone. Don’t stay on the phone any longer once you have said it. If these people come to your door, just say, “No thanks!” and close your door. It is possible to have your phone number removed from most of the telemarketers’ lists by registering your phone number on the National Do Not Call List. Learn more at donotcall.gov.

**Religion**
People you have met or people you see on the Oval may try to get you to join their church or religious organization. They may invite you to one of their organization’s events or give you books and magazines about their religion. What you can do if you don’t wish to attend their meetings or church services is simply say, “No, thank you.” It is not rude and they should not get angry. Even if the person has been a good friend or helped you in some way, you have the right not to attend a religious service or meeting if you don’t want to.

**Begging**
As classes get underway, it is very possible that you will have an encounter with a beggar. Beggars usually ask for money from students walking along High Street or other nearby streets. Even though they may seem to be in need, you are not obligated to give them anything if you don’t want to. You can always say, “Sorry, I don’t have any change,” or “No, thanks,” and continue walking.
Drugs
The use and sale of drugs is illegal in the United States. You always have the right to say no to anything that makes you feel uncomfortable.

Never leave your drink unattended at a party or bar — people can slip drugs into your drink this way. If you happen to set your cup down and leave it unattended, get a new cup.

Alcohol
The legal drinking age in Ohio for consumption of an alcoholic beverage is 21. Purchasing, possessing or consuming alcohol prior to your 21st birthday is against the law.

Whether you are under or over 21, it is your responsibility to make the right choice when alcohol is involved. If you attend a party and you are offered alcohol, you have the right to say no. Just say, “No thanks!” or “I’m not drinking tonight.”

If someone pressures you to drink, or makes you feel uncomfortable, you should walk away.

For more information about laws and regulations regarding alcohol, visit partysmart.osu.edu.
FINDING EMPLOYMENT

On-campus employment
Look for jobs online at sfa.osu.edu/jobs or careerconnection.osu.edu. Also check job listings in The Lantern and on bulletin boards in campus buildings. Ask your classmates, professors and friends if they know of any jobs available on campus. You may also go to any office on campus and ask if they are hiring students (libraries, computer labs, residence halls, traffic and parking services, etc.).

Note: Jobs listed as work-study are available only to U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

Off-campus employment
Talk to an immigration coordinator at the Office of International Affairs before working off campus. You may work off campus only if you have permission from an immigration coordinator or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Working without authorization is a violation of your F-1 or J-1 immigration status.
LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES
MONEY AND BANKING

Currency
U.S. currency, regardless of denomination, is almost the same color and has a similar design. Be sure to check the amount of your bills before you use them to pay.

Checks drawn on foreign banks
If you deposit a check drawn on a foreign bank in your U.S. checking account, it may take several weeks before the money is credited to your account. A faster method is to have the money wired to your U.S. account.

Using cash
For safety and convenience reasons, Americans do not carry a lot of cash. They often pay by debit card or credit card. Note: Some fast food restaurants and taxis may require payment by cash.

Debit cards
Debit cards are issued by your bank. You can use debit cards to make payments at locations that accept credit cards, but unlike credit cards, the money is taken directly out of your bank account.

Credit cards
Credit cards allow you to pay for things without cash or checks; you then pay the credit card company monthly. You are charged interest for any charges you do not pay back that month. If you do not pay the bill in full each month, you may build up considerable debt. Shop around for cards with low interest rates, stay within your budget and pay your credit card bills in full each month.

Cashing checks
You may be asked to show some documents of personal identification when you pay for something with a check or get cash at your bank with a check. Forms of identification include a driver's license, BuckID, State of Ohio ID card or credit card.

Banking services
You will need to set up an account at a bank in order to deposit money, write and cash checks or use a debit card. Banks offer a variety of services for a fee. When you set up an account, ask the bank representative to explain the services and any fees that may be associated with your new account. Ask American friends or colleagues for advice about checking accounts, savings accounts, bank cards, debit cards and credit cards. Know that if you overdraw your checking account, you may be charged a fee.
U.S. HOLIDAYS

January 1 – New Year’s Day
Beginning on the evening of December 31, Americans celebrate the new year.

Third Monday in January – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
This holiday celebrates the life of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., a leader of the U.S. civil rights movement.

Third Monday in February – Presidents’ Day
This is a day to remember past U.S. presidents George Washington, the first U.S. president, and Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president, who led the country during the Civil War and is credited with abolishing slavery. Both were born in this month.

February 14 – Valentine’s Day
This holiday is a celebration of love and romance. Valentine cards, candy or gifts are often exchanged.

Last Monday in May – Memorial Day
This holiday is a time when Americans remember all of those who died in war for the United States.

July 4 – Independence Day
On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence, a document the United States used to declare its independence from England, was signed. Americans celebrate this holiday with picnics and fireworks.

First Monday in September – Labor Day
This holiday recognizes the efforts of American workers.

November 11 – Veterans Day
This holiday honors those veterans who have served the United States in the armed forces.

Last Thursday in November – Thanksgiving
According to legend, the first European settlers of the United States gave thanks for their first harvest season by eating a feast with Native Americans. This is a traditional time for families and friends to eat a big turkey dinner together.

December 25 – Christmas Day
This holiday, at one time a traditionally Christian one, is now a time for most people to exchange gifts, decorate homes and attend gatherings and parties for the few weeks preceding December 25.
Getting an Ohio driver’s license
You will need a copy of The Digest of Ohio Motor Vehicle Laws; these are available at the Office of International Affairs at Enarson Classroom Building. This booklet contains directions on how to obtain a driver’s license and lists offices where you can take both a written exam and driving test to receive your license. The booklet is also available at the Deputy Registrar License Agency at 4503 Kenny Road, 614-459-4441, or from other license agencies listed online at the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles website, bmv.ohio.gov/25.stm

Before getting your permanent license, you will need to get a Temporary Instruction Permit Identification Card. Bring the following documents with you to a license agency in order to obtain a temporary permit: proof that you have or will reside in Ohio (a letter of admission from Ohio State will meet this requirement for new students); a valid, unexpired passport; a printed copy of your I-94 card and one of the following: I-20, DS-2019, I-9 or letter from an employer stating that you are working in a valid non-immigrant status.

A space for practice driving is available on campus. To use this facility, you need to get a weekend pass to ensure full compliance with the Ohio laws.

In order to use the designated driving space, students may check out a weekend driver’s pass from 140 Enarson Classroom Building on any Friday that our office is open between the hours of 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. only. This packet will give the location of the driving area and a BMV manual to borrow. To check out the packet, students will need to bring a paper copy of their temporary driving permit, as well as a copy of the driver’s license of whomever will be in the car with them and their proof of auto insurance. By state law, that person must be age 21 or over.

Once the parking pass is taken from our office, students will be able to display the pass in the window of the auto while practicing over the weekend.
Driving in Ohio

- You are required by law to carry automobile insurance. The minimum coverage required by the State of Ohio is oftentimes not enough coverage. If you would like to drive in the United States, please meet with an insurance agent to discuss the proper amount of coverage for you.

- Seat belt use is mandatory.

- It is illegal to drive without a valid Ohio-issued driver’s license, proof of automobile insurance, proof of the car’s registration, and valid license plates.

- It is required by law that children who are under age 4, children who weigh less than 40 pounds, and children between the ages of 4 and 8 years who are shorter than 4’9” must be secured in an approved, properly used child safety seat.

The American Automobile Association, or AAA, provides services to members, including road service (fixing flat tires, towing a car to a service station), traveler’s checks, written travel plans, and road maps. Contact AAA at 1-888-222-6446.

Parking spaces at Ohio State are limited. You will need to purchase a university parking permit. Please call 614-688-0000 for more information.

State of Ohio identification card
This card is available to non-drivers who want a form of identification to use in place of a driver’s license. Take the same documents required for a driver’s license to 4503 Kenny Road or another license agency. You need to have lived in Ohio for 30 days to be eligible to get this card.
TRANSPORTATION

Campus Area Bus Service (CABS)
No pass is needed to ride a CABS bus, which provides 24-hour service around campus, seven days a week. For information and routes, please call 614-292-6122 or visit ttm.osu.edu.

Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) (Columbus public bus system)
Students are charged $13.50 per semester ($9 for summer term) for unlimited rides. Students swipe a valid BuckID when boarding. Bus route information can be obtained by calling 614-228-1776 or visiting cota.com.

Taxis
Yellow Cab 614-444-4444
Acme Taxi 614-777-7777

Uber and Lyft
Download on apps on mobile phone
Visit uber.com and lyft.com for more information.

Car2Go
Columbus carsharing services
Register at car2go.com.

Out of town bus service
Greyhound Bus Station, 111 E. Town St. (downtown Columbus); for reservations, 1-800-231-2222; for schedule and cost information, please call 614-228-2266 or visit greyhound.com.

Mega Bus; discount fares to limited cities. Arrivals and departures on the west side of the Ohio Union at the corner of High Street and 12th Avenue. For more information, please call 1-877-462-6342 or visit megabus.com.

Air travel
The main airport is John Glenn Columbus International Airport, found online at flycolumbus.com. A COTA bus route goes to the airport; find route information at cota.com. Taxi companies also provide service to the airport.
HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Students covered under the Student Health Insurance Plan should first seek care at the Wilce Student Health Center. When the Student Health Center is closed or if the student’s spouse or children need care, a network provider should be used. You can search for a network provider at osuhealthplan.com/network-access-search.

Emergency services

Emergency Medical Squad (EMS)
Trained paramedics will come in a special medical van to your home. They will give advanced first aid and/or take you to the nearest hospital. Call 9-1-1, but only in an emergency.

University Hospital Emergency Room
410 W. 10th Ave.
614-293-8333
Use for emergencies only.

Gynecology and maternity

Planned Parenthood of Central Ohio
plannedparenthood.org/central-ohio
18 E. 17th Ave.
For appointments call 1-800-230-7526 or 614-222-3604
Annual gynecological examinations, infertility, family planning counseling, birth control and sexually transmitted disease testing.

OB-GYN Clinic
medicalcenter.osu.edu/obgyn/
locations/pages/osu-obstetrics--gynecology-at-kenny-road.aspx
2020 Kenny Road
614-293-3069

Center for Women’s Health
cwh.osu.edu
1581 Dodd Dr., McCampbell Hall, 3rd Floor
614-293-2076
Appointment required.

Riverside Methodist Hospital OB-GYN Clinic
3535 Olentangy River Rd.
Community medical department
614-566-5757
Appointment required for maternity and gynecology. Medical and other specialty clinics available.

Children

Children’s Hospital Pediatrics (Primary Care Clinic)
nationwidechildrens.org
700 Children’s Dr. (off Livingston Ave.)
614-722-5750
Appointment required.
Other clinics: 614-722-6200
Services: newborns to 18 years, general medicine, WellBaby Clinic, emergency room, Poison Center, dental clinic, eye clinic.
Call 614-461-2000 for specific information about these services.
General family practice
Ohio State Center for Integrative Medicine
2000 Kenny Rd.
614-293-9777

Ohio State Family Medicine, Upper Arlington
1615 Fishinger Rd. (also other locations)
614-293-7417
Emergency and regular medical care available for ages 13 and up.

Ohio State Emergency Department
410 W. 10th Ave.
614-293-8333

OSU Family Medicine at Thomas Rardin
2231 N. High St., Suite No. 1
614-293-2700
Appointment required; all ages, general medicine, international travel immunizations.

Wilce Student Health Center
1875 Millikin Rd.
614-292-4321

Urgent care services
Ohio State FastCare at Upper Arlington
3061 Kingsdale Center
614-366-2050

Hometown Urgent Care
4400 North High St., Suite 101
614-263-4400

Dental care
Ohio State Dental Clinic
College of Dentistry
Postle Hall, 305 W. 12th Ave.
614-292-2751
Appointment required, except for emergencies.

Family Dental Clinic
Columbus Public Health
240 Parsons Ave.
614-645-7487
Appointment required; exams, extractions, cleaning, fillings, sealants, X-rays, dental repairs and relines, as well as root canals on front teeth only.

Columbus public health department centers
St. Stephen’s Community Health Center
1500 E. 17th Ave.
614-294-6347
Appointment required.
Full health care for all ages.

Columbus Health Department
Immunization Services
City Health Department
240 Parsons Ave.
614-645-7417
Please bring shot records. Call if you have questions. For information about other services available through the Columbus Health Department and other clinic locations, please call 614-645-7417. For tuberculosis skin tests, please call 614-645-2199.
ENGLISH CLASSES

For a complete list of private tutors, please contact the Columbus Literacy Council at 614-221-5013.

Columbus State Community College
550 E. Spring St. (downtown)
614-287-5353
Four levels; call for schedule

Dublin Schools
Contact Dublin Schools at 614-764-5913 for more information

Franklin University
201 South Grant Ave.
614-797-4700
Four levels; call for registration

Maize Road Baptist Church
4251 Maize Rd.
614-263-9901
Beginning and intermediate conversation: phonics, survival English (practice situations); Tuesdays, 6:30–8:30 p.m.; classes begin first Tuesday after Labor Day

Ohio Dominican University
1216 Sunbury Rd. (east Columbus)
614-251-4500
All levels, daily 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

OSU American Language Program
1945 N. High St., 60 Arps Hall
614-292-1364
Full-time intensive; six levels, beginning through advanced

Ohio State Office of Extended Education:
Language and American Culture (non-credit)
152 Mount Hall, West Campus
614-292-8860
Two-level classes are two hours long and held four times a week

International Neighborhood Coffee Hour
University Baptist Church
50 W. Lane Ave
614-294-6333 or visit inchcolumbusesl.org
Free small-group English classes and opportunities for women and children. Wednesday mornings from 9:15 - 11:15 a.m.

INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING COMPANIES

Executive Transfer and Storage
614-870-2342; 1-800-331-0696
executivetransfer.com

International Sea and Air Shipping Corp.
International Mover’s and Storage
1-866-788-1090
internationalmoving.com

Planes Moving & Storage
United Van Lines
614-777-9090; 1-800-543-4977
info@planescompany.com
Specializes in air and ocean shipping with low minimums

UPS Supply Chain Solutions, Inc.
1-800-742-5727
ups-scs.com
ETHNIC GROCERY STORES

Asia Market
3456 Cleveland Ave.
614-261-6118
Fresh seafood, vegetables and fruits, noodles, magazines and music. Some Latin and African food and drinks.

Bangkok Grocery
3277 Refugee Rd.
614-231-6878
Southeast Asian vegetables, noodles, spices, curries.

Crestview Market
2950 N. High St.
614-267-2723
Chinese, Thai, Indian, Malaysian, Vietnamese, Filipino, Indonesian, African foods.

Flavors of India
North Market
59 Spruce St.
614-228-1955
Indian ingredients, spices. Carry-out available.

Four Seas Emporium
3070 N. High St.
614-261-0154
Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Filipino products. Fresh seafood on Tuesday evenings.

Luc’s Asian Market
3275 Sullivant Ave.
614-274-6757
Vegetables from Cambodia and Thailand. Asian foods.

Mediterranean Food Imports
2647 N. High St.
614-263-9400
Ingredients of Greece, Turkey, Israel, North Africa, Egypt.

North Market
59 Spruce St.
614-463-9664
Open booths featuring foods from different parts of the world.

Patel Brothers
6600 Sawmill Rd.
614-792-8484
South Asian groceries.

Sunrise Asian Supermarket
1841 W. Henderson Rd.
614-326-1999
Fresh meats, seafood, vegetables and Asian groceries.

Tensuke Market
1167 Old Henderson Rd.
614-451-6002
Fresh meats, Asaki beer, radishes — gobo and daikon.

Terra Brasil
5183 North High St.
614-785-9773
Brazilian food and goods.

Yao-Lee Oriental Supermarket
2848 N. High St.
614-262-7631
Korean and Southeast Asian foods.
Grab some friends, learn the basics of riding COTA and choose a destination to explore!

Explore Columbus free with COTA

- Short North
- Arena District
- North Market
- Lennox Town Center
- German Village

COTA.com/OSU
ORIGINS OF THE BUCKEYE NAME

The use of the term Buckeyes to refer to the university’s sports teams derives from the even wider use of the term to refer to all residents of the state of Ohio.

The university’s Athletic Council officially adopted the term in 1950, but it had been in common use for many years before — certainly it was firmly established by 1920, and most records indicate that it had probably been used with some frequency to refer to Ohio State and its athletic teams since before the turn of the 20th century.

As with many such terms that seem to have evolved rather than been decreed, the history of “buckeye” is a bit fuzzy. The buckeye (aesculus glabra) is a tree, native to Ohio and particularly prevalent in the Ohio River Valley, whose shiny dark brown nuts with lighter tan patches resemble the eye of a deer. The nuts, although inedible, are attractive and folk wisdom has it that carrying one in a pocket brings good luck. However, in general, the trees and their nuts are of little practical use: the wood does not burn well, the bark has an unpleasant odor and the bitter nut meat is mildly toxic. Still, the tree has grit. It grows where others cannot, is difficult to kill and adapts to its circumstances. The first recorded use of the term to refer to a resident of the area is in 1788, some 15 years before Ohio became a state. By the 1830s, writers were commonly referring to locals as “Buckeyes.”

It was the presidential election of 1840, though, that put the term permanently in the vocabulary. William Henry Harrison adopted the buckeye tree and buckeye nuts as campaign symbols. The buckeye nut was a precursor to today’s campaign buttons. The buckeye became indelibly linked with Ohio.

The Ohio buckeye tree’s five-fingered leaflet, along with the nut, is sometimes used as a symbol. Buckeye leaf decals are awarded to Ohio State football players for outstanding efforts on the field; players with many buckeye leaves on their helmets are indeed honored.

It is rare for an athletic team to be named after a tree, but the Buckeye name is so ingrained in the history and lore of the state and the university that few stop to consider how unusual it is. It is native, tenacious, attractive and unique — traits that Ohioans and Ohio State alumni are proud to be associated with.
SCHOOL COLORS: SCARLET AND GRAY

A committee of three students decided on the colors for the university during the 1878 spring term. The original colors selected for Ohio State were orange and black. However, because Princeton had already chosen those colors, the committee decided to change their decision to scarlet and gray. Alice Townshend, one of the committee members, reported that the colors did not signify anything. Instead, the committee wanted to choose something that was a nice combination and had not been used by any other college.

THE OVAL

The original campus design did not include the Oval or anything similar. However, in 1893 the master plan for the campus proposed a group of buildings around a central open space. The first reference to this space as “the oval” was in 1910. Since then the Oval, approximately 11 acres, has been the scene of a great variety of student, faculty and alumni activities.

MIRROR LAKE

Originally, a spring supplied much of the water for Mirror Lake and was a source of drinking water for both the campus and people living nearby. A city sewer was constructed in the ravine in 1891 on the south side of the lake, but it was so poorly built that the lake and spring disappeared. The sewer was reconstructed in 1892 and water once again flowed through the spring. The increasing coverage of the ground surface by campus buildings and paved areas permanently dried up the spring in the 1920s. After that time, well water, river water and city water became the sources used to feed water into the lake.
BRUTUS BUCKEYE

Brutus was first displayed at the Homecoming game on October 30, 1965, and was made out of 40 pounds of fiberglass. The original Brutus was one large head, almost completely covering the person inside. During the 1970s, the Block O cheering section chose the person who became Brutus. In 1981, Brutus was redesigned so that the individual underneath could have a chance to use his/her arms to help the Buckeyes cheer. A few years later, Brutus was altered again so that the design was similar to the one used today.
OHIO STATE V. MICHIGAN

The Ohio State University/University of Michigan rivalry in football began with their first game in 1897. UM won that game 34 to 0 and dominated the series until 1919. That year the tables were turned and the Buckeyes won 13 to 3.

The Ohio State/Michigan game has always been important, but it was not always the last game of the season. This practice began in 1935 and, except for one year, the tradition has continued. Often the game has determined the winner of the Big Ten. An ESPN poll rated the rivalry as the greatest of all time.

“Ohio State/Michigan Week” has grown beyond the football game to include the annual blood battle, which benefits the Red Cross, food collection for food banks and spirit events such as banner contests. Ohio State and UM have turned the rivalry into an event that helps people across school lines.

OHIO STATE SONGS

Buckeye Battle Cry
In old Ohio there’s a team
That’s known thru-out the land;
Eleven warriors, brave and bold,
Whose fame will ever stand.
And when the ball goes over,
Our cheers will reach the sky,
Ohio field will hear again
The Buckeye Battle Cry —
Drive! Drive on down the field,
Men of the scarlet and gray;
Don’t let them thru that line,
We have to win this game today,
Come on, Ohio!
Smash through to victory.
We cheer you as you go:
Our honor defend
So we’ll fight to the end for O-hi-o.

Carmen Ohio
Oh! Come let’s sing Ohio’s praise,
And songs to Alma Mater raise;
While our hearts rebounding thrill,
With joy which death alone can still.
Summer’s heat or winter’s cold,
The seasons pass, the years will roll;
Time and change will surely show
How firm thy friendship O-hi-o.

Across the Field
Fight the team across the field
Show them Ohio’s here,
Set the earth reverberating
With a mighty cheer,
Rah! Rah! Rah!
Hit them hard and see how they fall,
Never let that team get the ball,
Hail, hail, the gang’s all here,
So let’s win that old conference now.