

ARRIVING AT GOUCHER

WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO TRAVEL?

A valid passport and one other form of identification

WHEN DOES SCHOOL START, AND WHEN SHOULD I ARRIVE ON CAMPUS?

Information about the academic calendar and the beginning of classes can be found at the following website: <http://www.goucher.edu/x1393.xml>. New international students are encouraged to arrive at Goucher one day before the orientation date. The Office of Community Living has room assignments and keys available for enrolled students. These will be disbursed by the Office of Public Safety. If you plan to arrive earlier than the recommended date, you can make temporary housing arrangements at a hotel in the Towson area.

I AM FROM AN ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRY; DO I STILL NEED TO TAKE THE TOEFL EXAM?

No, students from English speaking countries are not required to submit TOEFL scores, but you may benefit from studying for the TOEFL because you will be required to take college placement tests in English and Math before arriving on campus. These tests examine your ability. They are written in standard American English.

HOW CAN I GET TO CAMPUS FROM THE AIRPORT AND HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The most convenient option from the airport is the Super Shuttle. You can contact them on the web at http://supershuttle.rideflyreservations.com/?gclid=CNb00s_N7JsCFcZM5QodqUOt6A. This site includes estimated costs. Expect to pay \$33-60 USD depending on traffic. Call the shuttle service 24 hours in advance to make reservations. They can be reached at 800-BLUE-VAN (258-3826). The cost is at least \$33 one-way. Additional passengers in the party pay an extra fee.

WHERE DO I GET MY MONEY CHANGED?

We suggest students purchase travelers check from their country's central bank before leaving for the United States. To become familiar with currency used in the U.S., use the internet to access websites that provide examples of commonly used U.S. currency. The following is one example of a website <http://www.newmoney.gov/newmoney/currency/aboutnotes.htm>

CAMPUS LIFE

WHERE DO I EAT?

Goucher College provides students with a variety of dining options. During the academic year, food is served for breakfast, lunch, and dinner at several on-campus cafeterias. Breakfast is generally served in Pearlstone Café. Lunch and dinner is served in both Heubeck and Stimson cafeterias. Other food service options also exist. For information regarding meal plans and food service options please refer to the following website <http://www.goucher.edu/x4130.xml>

When classes are not in session, most on-campus cafeterias are closed. Goucher College is conveniently located near food markets and off-campus restaurants in the Towson area, where you may purchase food. In addition, some residence halls have cooking facilities for students to prepare meals. Students must purchase their own cooking equipment.

WHERE WOULD I SLEEP; DOES GOUCHER COLLEGE PROVIDE HOUSING ON CAMPUS?

Yes, Goucher College provides on-campus housing. The Office of Community Living manages on-campus housing needs. Students are generally required to live on campus. For more information on housing options and policies, visit: <http://www.goucher.edu/x7008.xml>

WHERE DO I BUY UTENSILS AND OTHER THINGS FOR MY ROOM?

General consumer goods stores such as Wal-Mart, K-Mart and Target are nearby, and there you can purchase most of your personal needs items. A few general other consumer goods stores are located within a mile of Goucher College, near the Goucher Boulevard and Joppa Road crossroads. In addition, you can find several stores inside Towson Town Center Mall for the same purpose. The mall is located close to campus. You may use traveler's checks, cash, credit or debit cards to pay for the items you select.

DOES STUDENT HOUSING COME WITH APPLIANCES AND FURNITURE?

Student housing will include a bed, desk with chair, dresser, venetian blinds, and lighting. Appliances such as refrigerators and microwaves are not provided in the rooms, but they can be rented. Appliances for residents use are available in the community room of most residence halls/dormitories.

WHEN AND WHERE SHOULD I GO TO GET MY BOOKS?

You may buy your books after you register for classes. The Goucher College bookstore will assist you in identifying the books for each of your courses. You can also wait until you attend the first class and obtain the syllabus to buy your books.

FINANCIAL CONCERNS

HOW MUCH AND WHEN DO I HAVE TO PAY GOUCHER COLLEGE?

Billing and other administrative questions are answered on departmental websites. View the following link for billing questions: <http://www.goucher.edu/x2097.xml> Tuition, fees, and payment deadlines information can be found at the following link, <http://www.goucher.edu/x2135.xml>

WHY DO I NEED TO PROVIDE A BANK STATEMENT INDICATING THAT I CAN PAY TUITION?

This is to show that you have the financial resources needed to cover the cost of attending Goucher. Costs associated with attending Goucher include tuition, fees, health insurance, books, living expenses, travel and misc.

CAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WORK ON CAMPUS?

Yes. Contact the DSO, located in the Office of Admissions, regarding regulations on international student employment. Before applying for employment, you must first consult with the DSO to discuss federal, state and institutional rules for working in the United States. The approval of the DSO must be secured prior to beginning on-campus employment. In general, international students can work up to 20 hours per week during regular semester and more than 20 hours during school breaks and summer vacations. However, each school and state may have restrictions regarding employment. The number of on-campus positions is limited for students and these positions are competitive. International students cannot work off campus without permission from the U.S. Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Visit the Immigration and Customs Enforcement's website with regards to employment of international students: <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/students/index.htm>. For information on Goucher student employment opportunities contact the Career Development Office. For more information access its website at: www.goucher.edu/cdo

DO I NEED A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER?

Only students who are employed need a Social Security number. If you do not have an employment offer letter, and a letter from the DSO, you cannot apply for a Social Security card. Students, who can work and live on the Goucher College campus, can apply for a Social Security Card at: Social Security Administration, Suite 500 Corporate Center, 110 West Road Towson, MD 21204, Phone: 800-772-1213.

WHEN AND HOW DO I FILE TAXES?

All foreign nationals are required, at a minimum, to file Form 8843 with the IRS even if they have no U.S. source of income. You can find the Form 8843 on the IRS website (www.irs.gov). Taxes must be filed between January 1st and April 15th. Most international student employees will be able to use a 1040 NREZ for federal taxes. You may also be required to file state tax forms for the state in which the money was earned. For more information on filing federal and Maryland State Tax Forms, visit the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) website and the Maryland Comptroller's website.

GETTING AROUND

DO I NEED A CAR ON CAMPUS?

No. Goucher is located on several bus routes, and it is a short bus ride from the light rail. Transportation into Baltimore city is easily accessible using the college town shuttle. The following website lists transportation options: <http://www.goucher.edu/x1296.xml>. If you are considering buying a car, keep in mind that automobile insurance is required in the state of Maryland, and it can be expensive.

IS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE?

Yes, there is public transportation. When you are considering transportation, it is important to know that U.S. public transportation is not as well developed as it is in some other countries. However, all college campuses are served by buses operated by the Maryland Transit Authority (MTA), and, of course, there are taxis. Click on the following link, <http://www.goucher.edu/x1296.xml>, to learn more about using transportation.

HOW DO I GET A DRIVER'S LICENSE?

To obtain a Maryland State Driver's License, you will need to visit an MVA office. Before you go, please check the [MVA website](#) to see what you are required to have. If you are required to provide a Social Security number and you do not qualify for a Social Security number, please visit the DSO to request a letter explaining that you are a full-time international student with a student visa and therefore exempt from this requirement.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY VISA EXPIRES?

Do not worry about the visa expiring. As long as you remain in the U.S., there is no problem. It is important to maintain your immigration status by enrolling full-time, making academic progress toward your degree completion and avoiding causing criminal acts. Likewise, you should check the expiration date of your I-20 or DS-2019 each semester and initiate the process of extending them at least one month before the expiration date listed on them. If you plan to travel, you will need to go to the U.S. Embassy and renew your visa. Please consult with the DSO, in the Office of Admissions, for more details.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY PASSPORT WILL EXPIRE?

Check with your embassy in Washington, D.C. for processing information at: <http://www.embassy.org/embassies/index.html>. However, you should have a valid passport at all times, unless you are exempt from passport requirements. It is recommended that you begin to renew your passport six months before it expires.

ACADEMICS

WHEN DO I SIGN UP FOR CLASSES?

An academic advisor will help you in selecting and sequencing your courses so that you can meet your graduation objectives. You will meet your academic advisor during orientation. Please note that all international students should enroll as full-time students (a minimum of 12 credits in each Fall and each Spring semester for undergraduate students; and 9 credits for each Fall and each Spring semester for graduate students). Summer semester enrollment is optional. See the Designated School Official (DSO) for allowable exceptions to the enrollment requirements. The DSO is located in the Admissions Office.

HOW MANY CLASSES MUST I TAKE?

International students must remain in fulltime status. A minimum of 12 credits per semester is considered full-time for undergraduate students and a minimum of 9 credits for graduate students. A 12-credit semester usually consists of at least four three-credit classes.

IF I WANT TO TAKE CLASSES FROM ANOTHER INSTITUTION, CAN I USE THE I-20 ISSUED BY GOUCHER TO DO SO?

Yes, international students can enroll at Goucher College and in one other college or university during the same semester. This is called “concurrent enrollment.” Students are requested to discuss this option with an academic advisor and the DSO before enrolling at another institution. During summer and winter sessions, students can enroll in other colleges as well.

CAN I TAKE ONLINE CLASSES?

Generally, Goucher does not offer online courses to undergraduate. However, some graduate courses are taught online. For more information about graduate programs please refer to the following link: <http://www.goucher.edu/x32214.xml>

DO I NEED TO ENROLL FULL-TIME DURING MY LAST SEMESTER IF I HAVE LESS THAN 12 CREDITS REQUIRED FOR MY DEGREE?

No, if you need less than 12 credits to complete your degree requirements, you will be allowed to enroll part time in your last semester. You will need to apply and pay for graduation, obtain a graduation review and meet with your advisor to authorize the reduced course load.

WHAT IS THE ADVANCE PLACEMENT (AP) AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) CREDIT POLICY AT GOUCHER?

For information about policies that govern credits awarded for passing the AP and IB examinations contact the college registrar at: <http://www.goucher.edu/x10605.xml>

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

WHERE CAN I GET TUTORING HELP ON CAMPUS?

Students in need of academic support have a variety of options. Tutoring services are available through the Academic Center for Excellence and other support networks. Please refer to the following link for more information about student support service options: <http://www.goucher.edu/x4558.xml>

I AM STRUGGLING IN A CLASS. CAN I WITHDRAW OR TAKE AN INCOMPLETE?

When you are having difficulty in a course we highly recommend that you request a free tutor through the Academic Center for excellence (ACE) . For more information on tutorial services, go to the following website: <http://www.goucher.edu/x4576.xml> .

The Goucher College Writing Center is one other resource that is available to assist students. It is also worthwhile to talk to the class instructor/professor and ask for advice. Some instructors may allow you to earn extra credit, revise previous work or take an incomplete. Be aware that international students must be in full-time status at all times. You cannot withdraw from a class if it would cause you to be registered for less than 12 credits. However, an incomplete may be an option. This allows you more time to complete work not done; it is usually granted due to special and unexpected circumstances. It is imperative to meet with your academic advisor, DOS or the assistant dean for multicultural student services to discuss options prior to withdrawing from a class.

WHERE CAN I GET A TRANSCRIPT?

Official transcripts are available through the Student Administrative Services Office. Click the following for the link to records and registration <http://www.goucher.edu/x1875.xml>

HEALTH

WHY DO I NEED HEALTH INSURANCE?

The cost of health care in the U.S. is very expensive, so Goucher requires all students to have health insurance. The college offers students the opportunity to purchase health insurance on their own or through HulseQm at www.hulseqm.com/myinsurance. If you purchase your own health insurance, you must provide Goucher with documentation that includes dates and type of coverage. Health information will be sent to all students before the academic school year commences.

In addition, we recommend that you have a general physical, eye, and dental examinations performed before leaving your home country, since they will probably cost you much less than in the United States. Also, bring any prescription medication and eyeglasses along with medical documentation with you.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY HEALTH INSURANCE CARD HAS NOT ARRIVED?

Contact the Student Administrative Services Office, and they will help you check on your status and may be able to issue a temporary card.

WHAT IS COVERED BY THE HEALTH INSURANCE I PURCHASE THROUGH GOUCHER COLLEGE?

Please read the following website for complete information about what is covered by health insurance:
www.hulseqm.com/myinsurance

WHAT DO I DO IF I'M SICK AND I CAN'T ATTEND CLASSES?

It depends on the nature and duration of your illness. Students should refer to the class syllabus to determine their professor's policy on class absences. In the event of a medical condition that prevents you from meeting the class requirements, you must inform the assistant dean for multicultural student services as soon as possible at 443-921-3355. He/she will work with the vice president of student affairs to intervene on your behalf.

In the case of medical emergencies, be prepared to discuss your situation. If you need to reduce your course load or take a semester off, you will need to provide documentation from a medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy or a licensed clinical psychologist. Limited medical intervention is available through the Goucher Health Center; your health insurance will cover some of the costs of seeing an off-campus medical doctor. If you are too sick to come in, please contact the Office of Multicultural Student Services at 443. 921.3355 or the vice president of student affairs at 410- 337-6150. Remember, international students must maintain their immigration status. Consequently, the DSO must be informed of any medical situations that can threaten your immigration status.

STAYING IN TOUCH

HOW DO I CALL MY HOME COUNTRY?

You can make international calls by using calling cards, available in many gas stations and food stores. When using the phone in the dormitory room, you should first dial 9, the calling card phone number, and then the pin on the phone card. Then dial 011-the country code for the country you are calling, then the phone number of the person you are calling. You can also purchase a prepaid telephone that has a sim card. This card allows you to use the cell phone by purchasing minutes for it.

CAN MY FAMILY COME TO VISIT ME HERE?

Family members must request permission from the U.S. Embassy or Consulate staff member in their home country to visit you in the U.S. Contact the embassy or consulate to learn about requirements, time frames for visa interviews, how to pay fees and other issues. If you need a letter from Goucher College, submit a written request to the vice president of student affairs

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, CAN I TRAVEL DURING THE SEMESTER?

Yes, international students can travel during the semester for emergency purposes. You will need to discuss your need for travel plans with your instructors and meet with the DSO as soon as possible before traveling. The latter will ensure you take the necessary travel documents with you.