Other Pre-Arrival Information for International Students

Preparing to Come to the United States

Clothing: The New York climate is typical of a temperate zone, with marked seasonal variations in temperature and precipitation. Because of the range in seasonal temperatures, you will need clothing suitable for both the hot, humid summers and the cold, snowy winters as well as some transitional clothing for the spring and fall seasons.

Clothes should be chosen for comfort and good wearing qualities. College of Mount Saint Vincent students usually dress quite casually; however, you may want to bring along a business suit or appropriate dress for formal events.

You will need some sort of rain protection and, in addition to extra layers of clothing, heavy overcoat, hat, gloves, and warm boots are recommended for the winter. Since winter clothing is very bulky and will take up much space in your luggage, you may want to wait and purchase these items after you arrive in New York.

Misc. Items: extra eye glasses or contact lenses & prescription, medications (in clearly labeled containers) & prescriptions, bilingual dictionary, photos, contact information for friends and family back home and in the U.S., and compact items that will help to personalize your residence hall room and make it feel like home.

Items Needed for Residence Hall: Residence hall rooms are furnished with a single bed, dresser, desk and chair, and closet space. Items you are responsible for providing include bedding (sheets, blankets, pillow), towels, desk lamp, laundry basket, toiletries/cosmetics, hangers, alarm clock, telephone, electronics, etc. During the orientation program you will have an opportunity to go shopping and purchase these items.

Money: We recommend that any money you bring from any country outside the U.S. be in the form of travelers’ checks, payable in U.S. dollars. You should also carry a small amount of money in U.S. dollars to pay for immediate expenses. Most students open an account in a local bank to handle their money by writing checks for purchases they make. We will assist you with the banking process upon your arrival.

Medical Records: Be sure to bring copies (translated into English) or your medical records, including details of immunizations you have received.
International Student Orientation

It is recommended that students arrive one week prior to the beginning of fall semester classes to attend the international orientation program. The orientation program is designed to make your transition to life at the College as easy as possible. We will provide you with essential information about immigration rules and regulations, information about academic expectations, healthcare matters, safety and security, tour of campus and community, information about the U.S. banking system, and other information about College services and procedures. Also, academic advisement and course registration take place during this time.