On behalf of the International Programs Office (IPO) and Augustana College, welcome! We are excited that you have chosen Augustana as your new educational home. As with every major life change, new international students often face challenges in the transition to college academic and social life in the United States and at Augustana. Our goal is to make that process go as smoothly as possible and to ensure your whole experience at Augustana is a positive one. We look forward to getting to know you and to assisting you during your time here.

Among many other things, the IPO provides the following services to international students:

- Academic advising (in conjunction with your faculty advisor)
- Visa and immigration advising related to maintaining legal student status
- Cultural adjustment advising
- Cultural activities and excursions to local sites of interest
- Augustana Cultural Exchange (ACE) Ambassador Program
- Friendship Family Program
- Friday Rendezvous Program

We have compiled this handbook as a resource manual for the entire length of your stay at Augustana. If you have questions regarding any information in it, please ask.

This handbook is based on years of experience in working with international students at Augustana College. Answers to many of your questions can be found in these pages. We maintain an open door policy in the IPO, however, and we encourage you to stop by our office.

It is advisable to either email us at ipo@augie.edu for an appointment or call 605-274-5050 to ensure that an advisor will be available.

Many details in included in this handbook have the potential to change. The most updated version of this handbook can always be found on our website: www.augie.edu/international.

Again, welcome to Augustana! Go Vikings!

Warm regards,
- The International Programs Office

Erin Kane, International Student Advisor
Donn Grinager, Director of International Programs
Ben Iverson, Director of International Admission
Cathy Lindamood, Associate Director of International Programs – Study Abroad
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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Dialing Instructions: To make a call from a campus phone, first dial “8” then the rest of the number. To make a call from an off-campus phone (cell phone, pay phone, house phone), simply dial the number.

Emergency Calls (Police/Fire/etc.)
From on-campus phones 9-911
From off-campus phones 911

Important Campus Phone Numbers
Campus Safety 605-274-4014
International Programs Office 605-274-5050
Elmen Center 605-274-4637
Mikkelsen Library 605-274-4921
Computer Help Desk 605-274-5331
Student Health and Counseling 605-274-5552
Student Helpline (24/7 crisis line) 605-274-5548
Sexual Misconduct Helpline 605-274-4357

The Buzz Book: Find Other Campus Phone Numbers Online
The Buzz Book is an online directory that lists all Augustana students, faculty, and office numbers. You can look at the directory by logging into your student portal and clicking the BuzzBook link on the navigation bar near the top of the page. (https://my.augie.edu/ics)

Student Residence Halls
Bergsaker Hall Director 605-274-4125
East Hall Director 605-274-4107
Granskou Hall Director 605-274-4300
Solberg Hall Director 605-274-4400
Stavig Hall Director 605-274-4305
Tuve Hall Director 605-274-4106

City Transportation
Sioux Falls Transit (Bus) 605-339-7198
Sioux Falls Taxi Service 605-334-3484
Quicksilver Taxi 605-376-0107
Greyhound Bus Lines 605-336-0885
SCHEDULE OF IMPORTANT DATES
FOR THE 2013-2014 ACADEMIC YEAR

FALL SEMESTER

SEPTEMBER
1, SUNDAY ................................................................................................................... New students report
2, MONDAY ............................................................................................................. New student orientation
5, THURSDAY ................................................................................................................. First day of classes
11, WEDNESDAY ........................................................................................................... Last day for WEB registration
11, WEDNESDAY ..................................................... Last day to add a class without instructor’s signature
19, THURSDAY ........................................................... Last day to drop a class without advisor’s signature
20, FRIDAY ................................................................. Proposals for independent study and internships due

OCTOBER
18-20, FRIDAY-SUNDAY ........................................................................................................... Viking Days
19, SATURDAY ........................................................................................................................... Mid-term
24, THURSDAY, 4 PM .............................................................................................................. Mid-term grades due
28-30, MONDAY-WEDNESDAY ................................................................................................. Fall break

NOVEMBER
1, FRIDAY ................................................................................................................... Last day to drop a course with a W grade
1, FRIDAY ................................................................................................................... Last day to request S/U grade
7, FRIDAY ................................................................................................................... Assessment/Advising Day
18-21, MONDAY-THURSDAY ................................................................................... Interim/Spring registration (SO, JR, SR)
27-29, WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY ................................................................................ Thanksgiving Holiday
   (Tuesday, November 26th night classes will be held)

DECEMBER
5, THURSDAY ........................................................................................................... Freshmen (FF) registration for Interim/Spring
13, FRIDAY ................................................................................................................... Last day of classes
14, SATURDAY ................................................................................................................... Final exams
16-19, MONDAY-THURSDAY ................................................................................................. Final exams
23, MONDAY, 4 PM .............................................................................................................. Fall grades due
SCHEDULE OF IMPORTANT DATES
FOR 2013-2014 ACADEMIC YEAR CON’T

INTERIM

JANUARY
6, MONDAY.................................................................................................................. Interim classes begin
17, FRIDAY........................................................................................................... Last day to drop a course and receive a W grade
17, FRIDAY........................................................................................................... Last day to request S/U grade
29, WEDNESDAY ..................................................................................................... Interim Classes End

SPRING SEMESTER

FEBRUARY
5, WEDNESDAY ............................................................................................................. Classes begin

MARCH
8-16, SATURDAY-SUNDAY........................................................................................ Spring Break
29, SATURDAY ................................................................................................................... Mid-term

APRIL
2, WEDNESDAY, 4 PM .............................................................................................. Mid-term grades due
18-21, FRIDAY-MONDAY ............................................................................................. Easter break
(Thursday, April 17th night classes will be held)

MAY
16, FRIDAY ............................................................................................................. Last day of classes
17, SATURDAY ......................................................................................................... Final exams
19-22, MONDAY-THURSDAY ...................................................................................... Final exams
24, SATURDAY ........................................................................................................... Commencement
### 2013-2014 RENDEZVOUS PROGRAM
Fridays at 3:00 p.m. in the Back Alley (*Exceptions noted below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 6, 2013</td>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 13, 2013</td>
<td>No Rendezvous: Black Hills Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 20, 2013</td>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 27, 2013</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 4, 2013</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 11, 2013</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18, 2013*</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 25, 2013</td>
<td>No Rendezvous: Fall Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1, 2013</td>
<td>Syria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8, 2013</td>
<td>El Salvador</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 15, 2013</td>
<td>Yemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22, 2013</td>
<td>Ecuador/Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 29, 2013</td>
<td>No Rendezvous: Thanksgiving Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6, 2013</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13, 2013</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interim</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 10, 2014*</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 17, 2014*</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 24, 2014*</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 7, 2014</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 14, 2014</td>
<td>Ghana / Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 21, 2014</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 28, 2014</td>
<td>Mongolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7, 2014</td>
<td>No Rendezvous: Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 14, 2014</td>
<td>No Rendezvous: Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21, 2014</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28, 2014</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 4, 2014</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11, 2014</td>
<td>China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 18, 2014</td>
<td>No Rendezvous: Easter Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25, 2014</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1, 2014</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9, 2014</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16, 2014</td>
<td>Norway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACADEMICS

Academic Calendar

Augustana follows a 4-1-4 academic calendar. (See the previous section for more detailed information for the current school year.) Broadly speaking, the school year consists of three components:

- Fall Semester (September – December)
- Interim or “J-Term” (January)
- Spring Semester (February – May)

Credit Hours

Courses at Augustana are worth a certain number of “credit hours” or, simply, “credits,” depending on the amount of time and effort a student is expected to put into the class. Most courses at Augustana are worth 3 or 4 credit hours, while a small number of 2-credit and 1-credit hour classes are offered as well.

Typical Course Load

Semester: Most students take 14-16 credit hours each semester. This is usually 4-5 courses. Students must take at least 12 credit hours to be considered full-time. Full-time status is required of international students by U.S. immigration law.

Interim: Interim is a mini-semester during the month of January. Sometimes called “January term” or “J-term,” the interim semester is scheduled during the “interim” between fall and spring semester. Students are allowed to take up to 4 credit hours during Interim. Students are not required to take a J-term course. The tuition, housing, and meal cost of the Interim Semester is included in the fall semester package, making interim essentially free. If students complete an interim semester class for all 4 years of their program, they are able to add 16 extra credits. This equals one extra semester of “free” classes. Interim provides students a great opportunity to take prerequisite courses needed for the spring semester, to complete general education requirements, to experiment with a new field, or to take a challenging course in which they can focus all their efforts for one month. A 3-credit interim course is typically three hours long and five days a week. *Note: There is no refund for students choosing not to take an interim course.

Liberal Arts Curriculum

At the undergraduate level in the United States generally (and particularly at a liberal arts college like Augustana) a familiarity with a wide variety of subjects is often valued in addition to depth within a particular major area. Students tend to complete broader majors at the undergraduate level as well (i.e. “biology”) while specialization is often reserved for the graduate level (i.e. “genetics”). Liberal arts colleges aim to teach students to communicate effectively in speaking and in writing, to think critically, to adapt easily to new technology and changing work
environments, and to make connections between seemingly disparate academic fields. A successful economist, for example, needs to be able to draw from historical, political, scientific, and even artistic perspectives. In our way of thinking, these skills are applicable and transferable to any profession. Augustana students graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree, having completed a liberal arts curriculum consisting of many courses outside their areas of study. This curriculum may be very different than universities in your home country where bachelor classes often specifically on your field of study and little outside of it.

Declaring a Major

Once admitted to Augustana, students are free to choose nearly any major. (A small number of majors like nursing have a separate application process later in students’ academic career.) Students may choose a major based on their initial interests, but it is not necessary to declare a major before you begin your studies. Many American students enter college “undeclared,” planning to make up their mind after taking several college level classes. Once you have decided on a major, you may “declare” it officially by visiting the registrar’s office on the second floor of the Administration Building. It is not unusual for students to change their declared major at least once during their college career.

Graduation Requirements

Complete information about graduation requirements can be found in the Academic Catalog: www.augie.edu/catalog. In short, students must complete three requirements in order to graduate:

1) Complete 130 total credit hours  
2) Complete all course requirements of one major  
3) Complete the general education (liberal arts) requirements

Students typically begin their studies at Augustana by taking many courses to complete general education requirements. As explained in the previous section, students often use these courses to help them solidify their choice in a particular major. As students progress, they take more courses in their major area while at the same time completing any remaining general education requirements.

Course Registration Process

Your First Semester. As a new student, you have already been registered for classes for the upcoming semester. Degree-seeking students will have the opportunity to discuss this schedule with a faculty advisor during orientation. Exchange students should arrange an appointment with the International Programs Office (IPO) staff to make any necessary changes to your schedule.

All Other Semesters. In order to register for classes, you will need to be “cleared” by your academic advisor (a professor in your major area for degree-seeking students or IPO staff for exchange students). Most professors ask students to sign up for an appointment (in November for spring semester or in April for fall semester) to discuss your spring semester schedule. It is your responsibility to schedule and attend this appointment.
Students will receive an email from the registrar’s office with a specific date and time to register for courses. At Augustana, this is done by credit hours: those with the most completed credit hours register before those with fewer completed credit hours. Once you have been cleared by your advisor to register, you will be able to register yourself for the courses you have selected on the student portal.

Updated information about course offerings each semester, the academic calendar, and related academic information can be found on the registrar’s office web pages: [www.augie.edu/registrar](http://www.augie.edu/registrar)

**Textbooks**

Professors at Augustana expect students to complete regular reading assignments in their textbooks prior to each class period. While textbooks in the US can be very expensive, it is important that you purchase each required book since exams will often at least partially cover reading assignments. It depends on the combination of classes students take in any particular semester, but an average cost is $500 per semester for books. All required and recommended textbooks are available at the Augustana Bookstore located in Morrison Commons. Students can order books online from the Augustana Bookstore at [www.augie.edu/bookstore](http://www.augie.edu/bookstore).

One way to reduce textbook costs is to purchase used copies or to rent them. The Augustana Bookstore offers an increasing number of rental and used textbooks. Students may also choose to purchase books online (be sure to purchase the proper edition of the book!) or from other students who have taken the same course previously. Well-known websites like [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) are usually very secure, but beware of “discount” websites offering unbelievable deals. Check with the IPO if you are unsure about whether a website is reputable.

**Prerequisites**

Many upper-level courses in each major require students to complete one or more basic or introductory “prerequisite” courses before registering for more difficult courses in the major. For example, students must complete “CHEM 120: Introduction to Chemistry” before they can take “CHEM 201: Organic Chemistry”. Prerequisite courses provide students with skills and information they will be expected to know in higher-level courses. Transfer and exchange students (or high school students taking IB, A-level or similar college level courses) may have completed an equivalent course or may have other experiences that could substitute for the prerequisite. Lacking a completed prerequisite does not necessarily exclude the student from a higher-level course. When in doubt, consult the instructor of the course.

**Course Numbers**

As a general guide, courses numbered in the 100s are intended primarily for freshmen (first-year students), 200s for sophomores (second-year students), 300s for juniors (third-year students), and 400s for seniors (fourth-year students). For example, ENGL 110 is typically recommended for a first-year freshman, while ENGL 300 is intended for an upperclassman. Despite this general guide, students do not typically take only 200-level classes in their second year (or 300-level courses in their third year and so on). A second-year student is likely to take a mixture of 100-,
200-, and 300-level classes. The numbering system, therefore, provides a guide but not necessarily an exact prescription of the courses you should take or the order you should take them. Your academic advisor or advisors in the IPO can help you with selecting appropriate courses.

New Student Orientation (NSO)

Designed for new freshmen (first-year) students, NSO is a student-led orientation program designed to help immerse all new students into the Augustana College community. Through several days of activities you will have the opportunity to learn more about campus and your classmates. Your NSO leaders will guide you through orientation, answer questions, and help you find your way.

New Student Seminar (NSS)

NSS is a required one-credit course for all new freshmen that will initiate you into a variety of Augustana experiences. Every freshman is registered for the “New Student Seminar: GENL 097” courses. This course is designed to facilitate a successful transition to college in general and Augustana in particular.

Grading

Augustana College uses an A-F grading scale in which grades are worth the following “points”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When students speak about their grade point average, or GPA, they are talking about the average of all their grades (which are weighted by the number of credits in each course) in a given semester or their academic career. A student who has earned all A’s would have a 4.0 GPA, while a student who has earned half A’s and half C’s would have a 3.0 GPA.

Professors will inform students how they will be graded for the semester on the first day of class and in the syllabus. It is quite common for students to have several exams and quizzes throughout the semester, which may form a large part of one’s grade. It is also common for professors to base a significant percentage of students’ grades for a particular course on homework, papers, laboratory assignments, and also participation and attendance.

S/U Grading

An S/U-graded (“Satisfactory” or “Unsatisfactory”) course means that the student will not receive a regular letter grade for the course. Instead, the student receives either an S (Satisfactory = Pass) or U (Unsatisfactory = Fail). New Student Seminar (NSS) is an example of an S/U course. S/U courses are not weighted and do not affect a student’s grade point average (GPA). Failing an S/U course may result in having to retake the course. Some courses (like
NSS) are automatically graded using an S/U scale. Generally, students may select up to two “regular” courses they wish to be graded on an S/U basis. Check with your academic advisor for exceptions and whether taking a particular course on an S/U basis is a wise decision.

W Courses

A “W” course, or Writing course, is a course that meets one of the two writing course requirements in the general education plan. Many departments offer “W” courses: A history course, for example, might require an extensive research paper that will be the primary method of evaluation (instead of exams). In a “W” course, you should expect to have several writing assignments in the class. The goal of this general education requirement is to ensure that all Augustana graduates develop highly competent writing skills, which are necessary in almost every professional career field.

Syllabus

Each instructor will provide a document called a “syllabus” on the first day of class. The syllabus forms an outline for the class and explains the standards and methods by which you will be evaluated. At Augustana, students are evaluated in many different ways, including exams, quizzes, papers, lab reports, group projects, presentations, classroom attendance, participation, and classroom discussion. It is important to understand how you will be evaluated by each professor in order to succeed in the classroom. The syllabus often provides due dates for homework assignments, required readings, and test dates as well. It is important not to lose this information. Professors might not remind you of an assignment or exam because they expect you to be referring to the course syllabus throughout the course.

Faculty Office Hours

Augustana’s small size allows for more personal interaction than at larger schools, including between students and professors. Contacting a faculty member about your work or asking questions is considered normal and is actually highly encouraged. Faculty members are available to meet with students during their “office hours.” A professor’s office hours are usually posted outside their office door and also listed in the course syllabus. Get to know your instructors and seek their help when you are having problems in their courses. The professors here want to know you and are eager to help. But, they expect you to approach them. Don’t wait for them to approach you if you are struggling.

Class Participation

Student participation in class is a very important aspect of the U.S. classroom. Students are expected to ask questions if they want additional information or an explanation. Asking a question is viewed as a sign of interest or engagement in the material being presented. Professors may also ask questions to the class. Responding to a professor’s question is another way to show that you are actively participating in class. In many classes, a certain percentage (up to 20 percent, in some cases) of your grade is based on participation. Sometimes, international students feel shy at first if you are not confident in your English skills. It is only
important that you show an interest in the subject and demonstrate a familiarity with the material. No one cares if you make small mistakes, and it will get easier the longer you are here.

**AUGUSTANA HONOR CODE**

As a community of scholars, the students and faculty of Augustana College commit to the highest standards of excellence by mutually embracing an Honor Code. Ultimately, our purpose is to be an engaged body of academically excellent, highly articulate, and morally centered persons who learn about and examine the world together. We believe that only when we are honest with ourselves and each other can we begin to contribute to the world in a meaningful manner.

Augustana’s Honor Code consists of inter-related elements that guide scholarship and learning; the Honor Pledge, the Honor Board, and a set of judicial procedures that guide the College’s adjudication of academic integrity violations.

Please visit [www.augie.edu/honor](http://www.augie.edu/honor) for more detailed information related to the Honor Code.

**AUGUSTANA CODE OF CONDUCT**

Students of Augustana College have an important responsibility to reflect standards of conduct that are in harmony with the Christian principles upon which the College is founded. Members of the student body are an especially privileged group who are expected to lead in the setting of high standards.

Augustana College has procedures and regulations to provide for a community free from violence, threat, and intimidation, protective of free inquiry, respectful of the rights of others; open to change, supportive of democratic and lawful procedures; and dedicated to the rational and orderly approach to the resolution of human problems. To safeguard the rights and welfare of students, faculty, staff and guests, and to assure protection of the interests of the College as it seeks to carry out its mission, this Code of Student Conduct is grounded upon the following principles:

- The Code of Student Conduct expresses concern with matters that impinge upon academic achievement and integrity.
- The College will not condone conduct that breaks the peace, causes disorder, or substantially interferes with the rights of others whether such activity occurs on- or off-campus.
- The College is concerned with behavior that threatens the physical, emotional, and spiritual health and safety of members of the college community.
- The College is obligated to support and be guided by the laws of the land.

No code of conduct can anticipate every circumstance regarding college policies. The College reserves the right to amend, supplement, interpret, rescind, or deviate from policies from time to
time as it deems appropriate based upon the facts and circumstances surrounding each situation, in its sole and absolute discretion.

Augustana College does not attempt to define every action by formal rules and regulations. In situations not covered by specific regulations, students are expected to use common sense and to act in humane, mature and responsible ways while on and off the college campus. The following define unacceptable conduct:

- Alcohol Abuse
- Assault
- Inappropriate computer use
- Dishonesty
- Illegal Drug Use
- Disruptive Conduct
- Indecent Conduct
- Failure to Comply
- Firearms on Campus
- Harassment
- Sexual Misconduct
- Theft
- Unauthorized Entry
- Weapons

**Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism is defined as the act of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and representing that author’s work as one’s own. It is your responsibility to be aware of plagiarism and to neither intentionally or unintentionally engage in it. Committing plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty could result in strict academic sanctions and your ability to continue studies at Augustana College could be jeopardized. The U.S. is a highly individualistic culture and respect is based on individual accomplishment. Students are expected to know the content of their courses, to think independently and to express their own perspectives and opinions both in class and in written work. Professors can and do find out when academic dishonesty has occurred.

Cheating is a serious offense and could result in institution disciplinary action according to the Augustana Student Conduct Policy. Academic dishonesty can include, but is not limited to:

- Plagiarism.
- Copying from another student during an exam.
- Altering one’s exam after grading for the purpose of enhancing one’s grade.
- Submitting the same paper in more than one class.
- Using any material or device not approved by the instructor during an exam.

Please visit Augustana’s website to view information about the Honor Code and other topics related to academic honesty: [www.augie.edu/honor](http://www.augie.edu/honor)
STUDENT AND CAMPUS SERVICES

Campus Safety Department

Safety is an important concern wherever you choose to live and study. The Midwestern United States, including the state of South Dakota, is some of the safest in the country. Augustana and the city of Sioux Falls have also been recognized for high levels of safety. Still, it is important to remain vigilant and to take common-sense precautions such as staying in a group while walking at night. Augustana’s Campus Safety Department is available 24-hours a day, year-round, including weekends and holidays, to help keep Augustana students safe. In addition to patrolling the campus, Campus Safety Officers provide building access and security, free escorts on campus and in the surrounding community, and an emergency notification system. Please call the campus safety number (605-274-4014) if you have a problem or need assistance.

Augustana ID Card

Every Augustana student will receive an Augustana ID card. Your Augustana ID card is personalized photo identification card that is required to access many things on campus. Do not leave your dorm without it. Your first ID card is free of charge. You will be charged a $15 replacement fee for lost or stolen cards. Your Augustana ID card provides:

**Door Access:** Your ID card gives you access to your residence hall and certain doors on campus after hours.

**Library:** The ID card is also your library card. You need your ID card to check out books, headphones, movies, laptops and use other services at the library.

**Meal Plan:** Your meal plan is stored on your Augustana ID card. When you enter the Commons you will swipe your ID card at the register (like a credit card). You cannot eat in the Commons dining hall without your card (unless you pay in cash).

**Viking Bucks:** You may choose to add “Viking Bucks” to your ID card. This makes your ID card function like a debit card in places where it is accepted: the Huddle, the Bookstore, concession stands at the Elmen Center, and certain off-campus restaurants. (See meal plans for more information.)

**Recreation:** Your Augustana ID gives you access to the Elmen Center, athletic events, theater performances and other campus events – in most cases, for free. You must present your ID to verify that you are a student at Augustana. You will be unable to use the weight room, swimming pool, or check out sports equipment, etc. without your ID.
Augustana Bookstore

The Augustana Bookstore offers all textbooks required by professors for current classes. School supplies, letters, jackets, t-shirts/sweatshirts, and other Augie insignia items are also sold at the bookstore. The Bookstore is located on the main floor of the Morrison Commons next to the mailboxes. Find books or order merchandise at www.augie.edu/bookstore

Mikkelsen Library

The Mikkelsen Library is Augustana’s campus library available to all Augustana students. The library offers many private study rooms that can be reserved. You can also check out computer and media materials, rent movies, and search a larger national database for specific research topics. Check the library’s website for a complete list of services and information about available databases, library hours, and extended hours during exam periods: www.augie.edu/library

Computer Access/Information Technology (IT)

Computer assistance is available at the Computer Help Desk located in the basement of the Madsen Center. Augustana’s IT Department provides free service and support for campus networking, internet access, and other questions about computing at Augustana. Email: helpdesk@augie.edu | Phone number: (605)274-5331 | www.augie.edu/its

Computer labs are available 24 hours day in some residence halls and also in the basement of the Madsen Center. Most computers are equipped with printers and software applications to complement your specific classroom activities. Wireless internet is available in most areas of campus, including your dormitory. The library has laptops that students may check out for a designated amount of time as well.

Student Portal: MyAugie

MyAugie is your individual portal to very important information at Augustana. You will use the student portal to register for classes, view your roommate assignment, sign up for housing “extras” (cable tv, micro-fridge and loft rentals, etc.), view your degree audit and grades, request transcripts, read announcements, view your billing statement, among many other things. The Buzz Book, an online phone and email address directory, is also located on your student portal. All student, faculty, and office phone numbers are listed in the Buzz Book. Visit your student portal here: https://my.augie.edu. Sign-in requires a username and password. Contact the IT department if you are having trouble with your login information.

Augustana Email

All Augustana students receive an Augustana email account, which can be used forever – including after you have finished your studies at Augustana. While you are a student, your Augustana email account is the main method for all college communications. In particular, your
professors will use your Augustana email account to contact you regarding your course work. Check your Augustana email at least once a day!

Tutors

Augustana provides several different types of peer tutoring for students. Many departments provide open tutoring sessions at a scheduled time and place. Individual and group tutoring is also available to students for certain subjects. All of these services are free of charge to Augustana students. Students should see a tutor if they have reviewed a chapter, attempted problems, or reviewed their notes and still find themselves stuck or struggling with a certain topic. For updated tutoring schedules, visit: www.augie.edu/tutoring

Writing Center

To be successful in a college or university in the U.S., international students must learn and conform to particular guidelines and norms related to academic writing. The Writing Center provides free writing tutor services to all Augustana students. It is located in the Humanities Building on the second floor in Room 220.

The Writing Center provides:

- Help with writing assignments (all departments/all majors).
- Advice regarding the requirements of writing assignments.
- Assistance with thinking through and developing your ideas.
- Help with organizing your information and planning your paper.
- Strategies to help you edit and proofread effectively.

Additionally, the Writing Center hosts an English conversation table from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Monday evenings for students hoping to polish their speaking skills.

Find more information, including Writing Center hours, at: www.augie.edu/writing

Postal Services and Mailboxes

Each student is provided a campus mailbox located on the main floor of the Morrison Commons. Each mailbox has its own secure combination that new students will be given at the start of the semester. Your box number and the combination are also listed on your student portal account.

All mail can be addressed to you in this way:

Student’s Name
Augustana College
Campus Box #_ _ _ _
2001 S. Summit Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57197
USA
A post office window (where you can buy postage and send mail) is located in the Morrison Commons near the student mailboxes. For sending larger packages, international mailing, etc., please visit the mail office located in the Central Services building near Tuve Hall.

**Meal Plan**

All students at Augustana are enrolled in “The Unlimited” meal plan. The main dining hall in the Morrison Commons is open from 7:15 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. During this time, students may eat as many times and as much as they like with no extra charge. (Hours subject to change during vacation periods.)

Students swipe their ID card at the door when they enter the main dining hall, the Ordal Dining Room. The cafeteria (referred to as simply “the Commons”) is an all-you-can-eat buffet style eatery that offers several hot entrees for breakfast, lunch and dinner as well many fresh fruits and salads, deli choices, an ice cream machine, homemade soups, a stir-fry station, and more.

The meal plan includes two “transfer meals,” per week, which students can use to eat their evening meal at the Huddle after the main dining hall has closed. Students can add additional transfer meals or Viking Bucks (outlined below) for an additional charge. Visit [www.augie.edu/dining](http://www.augie.edu/dining) for more information about dining at Augustana College.

**Viking Bucks**

Viking Bucks is a declining balance (debit) account that can be used at all on-campus food locations and select off-campus merchants. Viking Bucks can be added to your Augustana ID card. Adding Viking Bucks to your ID card may save you money by helping to avoid extra fees for processing a foreign debit/credit card. To add money to your account and view a complete list of locations accepting Viking Bucks, visit: [www.vikingbucks.com](http://www.vikingbucks.com).

**The Huddle**

The Huddle is Augustana’s campus café. Open longer into the evening than the main dining hall, the Huddle is geared for on-the-go meals. Students pay in cash or with their Viking Bucks. The Huddle serves Caribou Coffee drinks, beverages, fresh pastries, sandwiches, salads, fruits, vegetables, and desserts. The Huddle also includes a grill that has items for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Some popular menu items are hamburgers, burritos, and chicken sandwiches. The Huddle is generally open from 8:00 a.m. to midnight, with more limited hours during breaks.

**Dining in the Residence Halls**

Though not used often by American students, each residence hall is equipped with a full kitchen that students may use to cook their own meals during special occasions or breaks. Since all students in the dormitory share the kitchen, it is not possible for students to cook every meal in this manner. Students eat most meals in the main dining hall.
HyVee, a very large grocery store, is located near 37th St. and Minnesota Ave., within walking distance from campus. Several smaller ethnic grocery stores are located in Sioux Falls as well. A good bakery and food co-op can be found on 33rd St. and Duluth Ave. near campus.

**Elmen Center**

The Elmen Center is the on-campus indoor recreation and sports complex. Services and facilities at the Elmen Center include: free aerobic and group exercise classes, intramural sports leagues, basketball courts and gymnasium, racquetball courts, swimming pool, indoor track, weight room and fitness center, and incentive programs.

**Building Hours:**
- Monday-Thursday: 6:00am-11:00pm
- Friday: 6:30am-12 midnight
- Saturday: 12 noon- 11 pm

Hours often change during holidays and vacation periods. For weight room, pool, or indoor track hours call (605) 274-4637 or visit the following page: [http://augie.edu/rec](http://augie.edu/rec)

**Chapel of Reconciliation**

As a college of the Lutheran Church, Augustana nurtures the search for a mature religious faith and relates faith and values to learning and service. We come from a variety of faith backgrounds and welcome all religious traditions, celebrating the opportunity to learn from one another as we continue on our spiritual journey. As a community, we are committed to knowing and serving our neighbor.

Each weekday from 10:00 a.m. to 10:40 a.m., there is a break in the regular schedule of classes to provide students, faculty and staff the opportunity to participate in worship. During J-term, weekday chapel services are from 11:55 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Services are open to all and include diverse voices from the campus community and beyond. Find more information about faith opportunities at Augustana here: [www.augie.edu/chapel](http://augie.edu/chapel)

**Registrar**

Your official academic record is maintained by the Registrar’s Office. You are allowed to inspect, review, and receive free copies of your Augustana transcript upon request. Students also often visit the registrar’s office to make changes to their major, advisor, to add or drop classes, to request S/U grading, and a number of other administrative functions related to your academic experience at Augustana. Students will find helpful information on the registrar’s web pages, including the academic calendar, course offerings for current and future semesters, and a variety of helpful forms: [www.augie.edu/registrar](http://augie.edu/registrar)
**Business Office**

The business office is responsible for billing, collecting, refunding, reporting, and managing student accounts. The business office can help you with making payments, wire transfers, setting up a payment plan and other related functions. Students often visit the business office throughout the semester to make small payments for things like excursions or special events. If you are financially indebted to the college, you will not be allowed to receive an official copy of your academic transcripts or register for the next semester until your account is settled.

**Career Services**

The Career Center provides a variety of services to students, alumni and employers related to the exploration of career options, internship placement, resume writing, mock interviews, and applying to graduate school. Career Center staff encourage students to visit with them early in their academic career. The Career Center office is located in the Morrison Commons near the theatre entrance. Visit [www.augie.edu/career](http://www.augie.edu/career) or call 605-274-4127 for more information.

**Campus Housing**

As a “residential” college, the vast majority of Augustana students live in college-owned housing. Augustana offers a wide variety of student housing options, including six traditional residence halls, five apartments, and many theme houses surrounding the perimeter of campus. First-year students are housed in two halls: Bergsaker Hall and Solberg Hall. Second, third, and fourth-year students are housed in four halls: East Hall, Granskou Hall, Stavig Hall, and Tuve Hall, as well as various apartments and theme houses.

Residence halls are staffed by both Peer Advisors and Hall Directors whose job is to help you make the most of your residential experience. **Peer Advisors (PA’s)** are second, third, and fourth-year students who have been carefully selected and trained to assist the residents of each floor, promote strong and healthy living communities, and provide opportunities for floor and building interaction and social development. **Residence Hall Directors** are professional staff members who reside in each Residence Hall and manage daily operations, supervise the PA staff, and serve as on-call emergency contacts for our residential communities throughout campus.

**Parking Permits**

All motor vehicles parked on Augustana property by Augustana students, faculty, and staff must be registered officially with the College. Vehicles should be registered at Campus Safety at the beginning of each semester. The College will tow all "non-permit" vehicles parked illegally in the college lots to protect space for vehicles with permits. All persons wishing to park a motor vehicle on campus must apply for a parking permit.
MEDICAL AND HEALTH INFORMATION

Augustana is committed to an environment that promotes the physical and emotional well being of each individual. The Student Health and Counseling office is located in the lower level of Solberg Hall. For hours and more information, please visit: www.augie.edu/health or call 605.274.5552.

Campus Nurse

The campus nurse is available between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Student Health and Counseling office located in the lower level of Solberg Hall on weekdays through 2:30 p.m. during the academic year. The office is not normally staffed during breaks or the summer months. No appointment is needed to see the nurse. It is a free service provided to Augustana students.

Making Off-Campus Medical Appointments

Located at 6110 S. Minnesota Avenue (SE corner of 69th & Minnesota), Sanford Clinic Family Medicine is Augustana’s health service provider. Services include routine outpatient medical care, diagnosis and treatment of illness, immunizations, travel consultation and limited diagnostic testing.

Medical staff at the off-campus clinic may be seen by appointment at the Minnesota Avenue clinic on weekday afternoons. Students must visit the college nurse for evaluation prior to scheduling an appointment at Sanford Clinic. In the event of an urgent health situation, students may contact Sanford Clinic at 605.328.5800. Be sure to identify yourself as an Augustana student.

Medical Emergencies

For serious medical emergencies, call 911 for ambulance or police service. For less urgent emergencies, contact Campus Safety (605.274.4014) for transportation to the emergency room at Sanford Hospital. Hospitals in the U.S. are required to treat you in the case of an emergency.

For non-emergencies, we recommend that you do not go to the emergency room at the hospital. Health care costs in the U.S., particularly in emergency rooms, are very expensive. If you are unsure about the severity of an illness or injury, see the Campus Nurse right away or contact your Hall Director or another Augustana staff member as soon as possible.

Counseling Services

Counseling services for Augustana students are provided by Sioux Falls Psychological Services, a comprehensive and multidisciplinary group of mental health professionals. Students receive confidential, short-term individual counseling or group therapy for a variety of personal issues such as adjustment to college, self-esteem, anxiety, depression and loss. Students may choose to see a counselor on-campus (Solberg Hall) or at Sioux Falls Psychological Services located on
Summit Avenue (across the street from the Administration Building and Mikkelsen Library). There is no cost for full-time students. Students who require extended or long-term therapy may either be referred to other counseling services in the area or can choose to establish long-term or extended treatment plans with Sioux Falls Psychological Services. Counseling support is provided in a private and confidential setting. Information will not be released to any outside agencies (administrators, faculty, parents, and family) without the client’s written authorization.

**Helpline**

The HELPLINE provides confidential assistance to students in times of crisis. This Health & Counseling Services resource is available to students 24-7. By calling the HELPLINE, you are contacting non-college personnel who are available to visit confidentially with you about your concerns and challenges. Call: 605-274-5548.

**Health Records and Required Vaccinations**

All students are required to submit a completed health form that includes a physical examination and immunization record prior to their enrollment at Augustana. Students are required to submit proof of MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) and meningitis vaccinations as well as to have a tuberculosis skin test prior to enrolling at Augustana. Find health forms at [www.augie.edu/health](http://www.augie.edu/health)

**Health Insurance**

Health insurance is required for all students. Augustana has negotiated a favorable rate and policy for international students with HTH to provide health insurance. Participation in the HTH plan is required unless you complete the online waiver (located on your student portal) AND provide a “hard waiver” from your insurance company at the beginning of each school year proving you are covered and outlining the basic coverage amounts. If you have questions related to the waiver process, please contact the Business Office at 605.274.4109.

A link to the HTH health insurance plan brochure can be found from [www.augie.edu/health](http://www.augie.edu/health).

**Dental Care**

Dental care is not included in the HTH insurance plan. We suggest scheduling an appointment at the Sioux Falls Community Health Clinic downtown for routine or emergency dental care. It is located at 521 N. Main Ave. Schedule an appointment by calling 605.376.8793.

**Optical Care**

Optical Care is not included in the HTH insurance plan. Contact the IPO for advice about scheduling an appointment with an optometrist.
GETTING INVOLVED AT AUGUSTANA

You will find many opportunities to interact socially with other students involved in activities you enjoy. Welcome these opportunities as a chance to get away from your studies and to see aspects of American Culture that are not visible in the classroom. Augustana offers a wealth of programs and activities in which students are encouraged to participate. A student activities fee is paid at the beginning of the year that entitles you to free tickets to sporting events, films, and many other activities on campus. You will find cultural and religious associations, sport teams and clubs, volunteer organizations, academic societies, music and theatre groups, student newspaper, etc. If you want to use your leadership skills or gain leadership experience, there are many opportunities on campus. You can run for the international student senate position in the Augustana Student Association or create your own club. All of these activities provide the chance to meet others and work together in activities you enjoy. The best way to learn about and join clubs on campus is to attend the Student Activities Fair in early September. To see a list of clubs and organizations on campus, visit: www.augie.edu/campuslife.

Performing and Visual Arts

Augustana students are well known for their talents in the fine arts. There are a number of band, choral, and orchestral opportunities for students interested in music. The Augustana Theatre Company puts on several theatrical productions each year. The Center for Visual Arts is a state-of-the-art facility for aspiring painters, sculptors, drawers, and potters. Check out www.augie.edu/arts for more information and schedules of performances and exhibitions.

Varsity Sports

Sixteen teams compete in NCAA Division II intercollegiate athletics for the Augustana Vikings. The highest level of athletics in college, varsity sports attract highly competitive athletes who have been recruited from top teams in the United States and overseas. Attending Augustana athletic team games is a great way to meet new people, to immerse yourself in American culture and to show school spirit. Visit www.goaugie.com for schedules and more information regarding competitive athletics at Augustana.

Intramurals and Club Sports

Slightly less “serious” in terms of the time commitment and the nature of the competition, many students choose to play intramural or club sports at Augustana. In intramurals, students compete against other Augustana students. Some games may be highly competitive but the emphasis is on fun and recreation. There are over 70 intramural sports leagues for students at Augustana, including soccer, volleyball, flag football, basketball, ultimate Frisbee, ping pong, laser tag, racquetball, late night activities, and many more. Most leagues offer a competitive division (for intense athletes) and a recreational division (for beginners or just to have fun).

Augustana also offers sports clubs that compete against other schools and require more of a time commitment than intramurals. Augustana does not fund club sports in the same way as a varsity athletic team. Club team members typically raise funds or pay for themselves to travel and participate in tournaments. Current club sports include women’s volleyball, men’s soccer,
martial arts, women’s rugby, and ultimate Frisbee. Visit www.augie.edu/rec for more information about intramural and club sports and how to get involved.

**Augustana Outdoor Program (AOP)**

AOP is an active club offering many recreational activities for outdoor enthusiasts, including rock climbing, kayaking, snowshoeing, skiing, hiking, and many more activities. Participation in AOP is a great way to see the beautiful landscape of this part of the United States and to make friends with American students. Search for “Augustana Outdoor Program” on Facebook to see the group’s next events!

**Augustana International Club (AIC)**

AIC is a relatively new club on campus whose goal is to provide international and intercultural events for all students on campus. Made up of both American and international students, this is a great campus leadership opportunity for international students. Search for “Augustana International Club!” on Facebook to get involved.

**Augustana Student Association (ASA)**

The purpose of the student government, called the Augustana Student Association (ASA) is to advocate for and represent the interests of students at Augustana College. ASA promotes student participation in the overall policy and decision-making process of the college, enhancement of the quality and scope of each student’s education, and promote the general welfare of the student body. International students have their own representative in the student government to make sure their voices are being heard. Find out who your student representative is and use them to vocalize any concerns or ideas to Augustana. Visit www.augie.edu/asa.

**Friendship Family Program**

Augustana offers a friendship family program for international students. The Friendship Family Program is designed to give international students a family contact in Sioux Falls. The family does not provide lodging. Instead, the family befriends a new student, provides monthly home-cooked meals, and/or participates in various cultural or community activities together throughout the year. Friendship families will introduce you to American culture, activities, and family life away from campus. If interested, please submit an application so we can match you with a family. Applications and more information can be found here: www.augie.edu/ffp

Families will invite you to their homes and activities. We hope that you will have time to accept their invitations. Sometimes you will have other commitments or may be busy with your studies. If you cannot accept an invitation, please thank them for the invitation and offer your regrets for not being able to accept their invitation. It is important to respond to invitations with a polite “yes” or “no”. It is not polite to “not respond” to an invitation.
Augustana Cultural Exchange (ACE)

Augustana Cultural Exchange (ACE) is a mentoring program that matches American students (most of whom have returned from a study abroad experience) and experienced international students called “Ambassadors” with a small group of new incoming international students. The Ambassadors serve as small-group leaders and facilitators. The ACE program provides new students with access to peers who can address questions, help new students make connections with others, and provides fun local activities throughout the year. View www.augie.edu/ace for more information.

Rendezvous Program

Managed by the Augustana International Club (AIC), the Rendezvous is a weekly cultural presentation at 3:00 p.m. each Friday in the Back Alley. At the Rendezvous, American and international students gather for discounted coffee or soda at the Huddle and then listen to a brief presentation by a student from a different country each week. The Rendezvous often serves as a meeting point as students make plans for the weekend as well. Staff from the IPO will attend each Rendezvous to provide important information and updates and answer any questions or issues that arise throughout the year. Each new international student is assigned a date during the school year when they will give a short presentation about their country. See the Rendezvous schedule listed in the first few pages for this year’s events.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCURSIONS

The IPO arranges several excursions to tourist and cultural sites in the surrounding region each year. Be sure to sign up for these at the IPO to book your seat!

Weekend in the Black Hills, Mt. Rushmore, Badlands National Park, and Crazy Horse

Get to know your fellow international students on our first and most popular excursion of the year! You will enjoy amazing scenery and landscapes, learn about Native American history, and see South Dakota’s most famous monument - Mount Rushmore. If we are lucky, you might even get to see buffalo and other wildlife like the wild jackalope. (Mid-September)

Day trip to Minneapolis/Mall of America

Minneapolis, Minnesota is America’s 16th largest metropolitan area and a favorite weekend vacation destination for Augustana students. Explore the city (mostly connected by Skyway) and shop at the Mall of America (the largest shopping mall in the United States) complete with an aquarium, theme park, 14 movie screens, and more than 400 stores. (Early December)

Nobel Peace Prize Forum in Minneapolis

Five Lutheran colleges, including Augustana, participate in the Nobel Peace Prize Forum. The colleges, all founded by Norwegian immigrants, sponsor the forum to give recognition to Norway's international peace efforts and to offer opportunities for Nobel Peace Prize laureates, diplomats, scholars, and the general public to share in dialogue on the dynamics of peacemaking and the underlying causes of conflict and war. It is tradition for the previous year’s Nobel laureate to speak at the forum. (March) Visit: http://nobelpeaceprizeforum.org/

Omaha, Nebraska: The Henry Doorly Zoo and Old Market

Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo is located three hours south of Sioux Falls. It is one of the best zoos in the U.S. with a rainforest, desert dome, cat pavilion, Madagascar exhibit, and orangutan house. After the zoo, we will explore the Old Market area (downtown Omaha) with lots of diverse restaurants, parks, and entertainment. (Late April)

Minnesota Twins Professional Baseball Game

Baseball is “America’s Favorite Pastime.” Learn the rules of the game and its role in American culture by taking in a contest at the new Target Field in Minneapolis, Minnesota. (Early May)
CULTURAL ISSUES

International students not only adjust to a new academic environment, they also adjust to a new culture and (often) a new language. The process of cultural adjustment takes time and may be uncomfortable at times. The good news is that new international students at Augustana have a number of resources in their ACE Ambassadors and in IPO staff who have all lived, studied or worked overseas. Sometimes called “cultural informants,” such people can help you if you’re having trouble adjusting or if you have questions about what’s appropriate in your new culture.

Culture Shock
Culture shock results from experiencing a new way of doing, organizing, perceiving, and valuing things that are different from your home culture. It may threaten your basic understanding and unconscious belief that your customs, assumptions, values, and behaviors are “right.” Be aware that everything you observe and interpret in the U.S. is being perceived through your own cultural lens. You may unconsciously judge things around you according to your culture’s standards of right and wrong, acceptable and unacceptable. Your perception is influenced by your values and the culture you grew up in.

Everyone experiences culture shock differently and to different degrees. Some symptoms of cultural shock include: homesickness, boredom, frustration, fatigue, withdrawal from social activities and stereotyping your host culture.

Language can also be a key element of culture shock. Many students experience considerable frustration because they lack confidence in their ability to express themselves adequately in English. They are sometimes reluctant to join in conversation or cannot comprehend what Americans are saying. Americans may speak too fast, have a different accent, or use slang words. Do not panic. Language improves over time. If you find yourself struggling with language, ask native speakers to slow down or explain what they are saying in different words. They will be glad you asked, instead of pretending to understand when you didn’t.

What can you do if you are experiencing culture shock? Adjusting to your new culture depends on you. Staff at the IPO can help in identifying why you are unhappy, withdrawn, or don’t feel well. There are positive steps to help you feel better. Remember that culture shock is a normal part of the cultural adjustment process. You will likely have some symptoms and some of your reactions may be emotional and irrational. Be patient with yourself. Experiencing culture shock can be positive. You will learn about yourself as you go through it.

To get along in a new culture, one must put aside one’s own value judgments about another culture’s value system. Look for reasons your host culture does things differently and try to see events through the eyes of your hosts. Find local friends who are sympathetic and understanding. Talk to them about your feelings and specific situations. They can help you understand ideas from their cultural point of view. Get involved. The more you do and the more people you meet, the easier it will be for you to become more comfortable with your environment.
PHASES OF CULTURE SHOCK:

1. Honeymoon- The honeymoon phase is often the initial phase students experience when arriving in a new country. During this phase, you will frequently do and observe things that are new to you, giving you a sense of adventure. Everything seems new and exciting. Common emotions are: happiness, excitement, interest, stimulation.

2. Cultural Fatigue- Before too long, this sense of excitement and adventure starts to wear off. You may grow tired easily and you may find yourself feeling disgruntled or disappointed with the country and its people. You may start to become homesick and wish that things were like how they are in your home country. Common emotions are: confusion, sadness, frustration, loneliness, and hostility.

3. Learning Adjustment- Little by little you begin to feel more comfortable in your new environment. You are familiar with the new way of life and are more accepting of cultural differences.

4. Integration, Adaption, Biculturalism- Eventually you develop the ability to function in the new culture. Your sense of “foreignness” diminishes significantly. Not only are you more comfortable with the host culture, but also you begin to feel a part of it.
5. Re-entry Shock or Reverse Culture Shock- This phase occurs when you return to your homeland. For some, this can be the most painful phase of all. You’ve grown and changed significantly, but home hasn’t or things have changed at home and you feel left out. Being prepared for this shock is the best way to avoid it.

American Culture

Here is a list of American customs that new students should be aware of in order to make their adjustment to campus a bit easier. You may be aware of some or all of these customs. Please feel free to suggest additions or changes. Keep in mind that the U.S. is a highly multicultural society in comparison to many countries. Much of what is outlined below are generalizations that may apply to many situations, but not to all or to all individuals within U.S. society.

Degrees of Friendship

The way Americans form and maintain friendships may be a difficult thing for international students to understand. Americans often refer to acquaintances as “friends.” Most Americans are very friendly and appear to be very open when you first meet them. Despite this initial openness, it can take a long time for close friendships to develop. Americans tend to make social contacts easily, which sometimes lead to lasting friendships and sometimes not. American society is highly mobile, and as a result friendships can be very casual and transitory. Most people in the U.S. readily welcome new acquaintances. For that reason, many international students consider Americans’ relationships superficial. Close friendships are the result of repeated interaction between individuals and through time. Friendships are relationships that develop over time. It will take some effort on your part to meet people and develop friendships. At first, you may find yourself spending a lot of time with other international students or Americans who have traveled abroad. Residence hall functions, student organizations, and extracurricular activities are a great way to make friends. Here are a few suggestions for making some new friends:

1. **Invite someone to be a study partner.** If you are in a class and get the sense that someone is interested in studying together, invite them to study with you once or twice a week in the library.

2. **Eat with new acquaintances in the Commons.** The dining hall can be an intimidating place. Take a few minutes to look for a familiar face and go sit with them while you eat. Be sure to be an active participant in the conversations that take place at the table. Eating good food and having a good conversation with someone is a great way to develop a new friendship.

3. **Invite someone to breakfast or lunch.** American students are very busy, but they always make time to eat. Ask an acquaintance what time they are eating breakfast, lunch or dinner, and plan ahead to sit with them so they are expecting you. In this setting you can get to know your acquaintance and the people they know.

4. **Ask an American to explain some aspect of American culture to you…or ask them to take you to an event that is “typically American”**. There are a lot of campus activities, community events, and holidays during the school year. Try to experience these opportunities with both American and international friends. Try to do at least half of the “inviting” to events. Don’t wait for someone else to invite you. Create your own fun with new friends.
5. **Join a club or activity outside of class.** Many friendships in the U.S. and in other parts of the world begin with common interests. Do you like soccer? Join the club soccer team or an intramural soccer league. Have you always wanted to learn about politics in the United States? Join the government club. Most clubs on campus are always looking for new members and will be glad to have you join.

**Greetings**

Americans often use expressions that may not be meant literally. For example, someone might greet you by saying, “Hi, how are you?” or “How’s it going?” and then not wait for your response. This is a polite greeting in the US and not always a question. You can respond by saying, “Fine, thank you” or “Good.”

**In Regard to Time**

Americans take the notion of time very seriously. It is important to be on time in the United States. This rule applies to classes, social activities, schedules, deadlines, project due-dates, and appointments. If you are unable to keep an appointment or date you have scheduled with someone, be sure to call and reschedule it. From an American perspective, being on time is seen as a sign of respect. Conversely, being late is considered impolite or even rude. It is interpreted that you do not value the person’s time or the person. If a class or a meeting time is scheduled, it is important that you arrive a few minutes before that time.

While many professors and administrators at Augustana may maintain an “open door policy,” meaning that you are welcome to visit them anytime, most appreciate it if you schedule an appointment ahead of time. Doing so will help them prepare for your visit and will make your time together more productive and efficient.

Most Americans consider themselves to be very busy. Indeed, many try to pack too many things into one day: classes, homework, meals, exercising, participation in clubs and organizations on campus, volunteering, etc. Americans often think of their time as being limited and therefore very valuable. Being respectful of others’ time is polite and will help you make friends.

**Communication Style**

The American view is that time is limited and therefore tasks must be accomplished in an orderly, efficient manner. Americans’ communication style typically favors clarity and straightforwardness. If an American answers “no” to a request, it means “no” and it is not a time for negotiating. “No” is not seen as a negative word. If an American invites you to an event that you cannot or do not want to attend, it is expected that you simply answer no instead of not replying or not showing up. Americans appreciate honesty and straightforwardness.

**Alcohol**

Augustana is an alcohol-free campus, sometimes called a “dry” campus. In the United States, it is illegal to purchase or consume alcoholic drinks, including beer and wine, until you reach the age of 21. It is also a serious offense to provide alcohol to minors (persons under 21 years of
age). Open alcoholic beverage containers may not be carried in a car. Laws governing alcohol can vary by state. If you are unsure of what is legal, be sure to ask.

Smoking

The United States is becoming increasingly “smoke free.” This means you cannot smoke in certain areas. All restaurants in South Dakota are non-smoking. The Augustana campus and all its buildings are smoke free. If you are a guest in someone’s home or next to a non-smoker, it is polite to ask permission before you smoke in case anyone objects to your smoking. Narcotic drugs or marijuana may not be possessed or sold without a prescription.

The English Language

Do not hesitate to speak English. It may be difficult for you in the beginning, but your English will improve with time and the more you practice. Ask questions and accept help with the language. Speak English whenever Americans are present. Although speaking your native language is much easier for you, the best way to grasp a new language is to practice with English native speakers. You do not need to apologize for your English ability—after all, how many Americans speak your language?

Using a Common Language in Groups

Augustana is home to students from nearly 50 countries. Some countries have many representatives at Augustana. It is easy for large groups of students from a particular country to speak their own language while they are together. Doing so, however, excludes others from joining your conversation. If there are people around you who do not speak your native language, please speak a language they do understand. This is considered polite and will help you make friends. In most cases, the common language for everyone will be English. But, ask your American friends if they speak other languages. Many are studying Spanish, French, German or other languages and they need to practice!

Expressions of Appreciation

It is proper etiquette to express your appreciation to individuals who have invited you to a dinner or to their home for the weekend. A simple, sincere thank you note is sufficient. If you are invited to spend a weekend with a family and would like to take the host a gift, a small souvenir from your country, flowers, or a small box of candy are appropriate ideas.

Dating

American men and women usually have informal relationships when dating. Relationships range from simple, casual friendships to strong emotional and physical commitments. Your “relationship status” may not be clearly defined and you may not always understand what is expected of you in a relationship. The acceptance of a date is solely an agreement to spend a specified amount of time together. Although you may feel embarrassed, it is best to express your feelings and intentions in order to avoid misunderstandings that could lead to even greater discomfort. If you have questions or concerns about appropriate behavior, talk to American
friends or an IPO staff member. Unwanted sexual attention can be a serious legal matter in the United States.

**Bargaining**

In the United States, there is no custom of bargaining for items you wish to purchase from a store. Fixed prices are marked on items displayed in stores. You may negotiate a price when buying a car or for items at a garage sale.

**Personal Hygiene**

Wikipedia describes hygiene in the following way: “the set of practices perceived by a community to be associated with the preservation of health and healthy living.” There is a set of standards of hygiene recommended for different situations and what is considered hygienic can vary between different cultures, genders and groups. Some regular hygienic practices may be considered good habits by a society while the neglect of hygiene can be considered disgusting, disrespectful or even threatening.” As a member of a college and a resident in a large dormitory, you need to be concerned about good hygiene for your own sake and for the health and wellness of those around you. The hygiene standards of your own cultures and communities may differ. We want you to have a solid understanding of general American practices and expectations.

**Americans are very concerned with personal cleanliness.** Because you live in a community and in a large residence hall, your personal body hygiene becomes very important for yourself and for those around you. It affects community health and social acceptance.

Our advice:

1) Take a shower once a day and to use soap, shampoo and warm/hot water.
2) Wash your clothes very regularly. The clothes you wear soak up perspiration odor, so it is important to keep your clothes clean. Most Americans wear their clothes once and then put them in the laundry pile to be washed.
3) Wear deodorant. We all sweat and perspire during the course of a day, even if it is not hot outside or if we haven’t been exercising. Deodorant will keep you smelling fresh.

**Roommate**

Learning to live in close quarters with a person you do not know very well presents a challenge for Americans and international students alike. It should be a goal to create an atmosphere between you and your roommate that permits space for studying, relaxation and sleeping. Open communication, active listening and respecting privacy can help establish a deep friendship. Attempt to become acquainted with each other’s background, attitudes, habits and moods so you know what to expect of each other. It is important to ask each other questions and settle on agreeable rules about guests (how often, how late, how long), sleep times, study times (quiet spaces), comfortable room temperatures, music, cleanliness and hygiene, property and sharing. Relationships work best when everyone is flexible and willing to compromise. Your peer advisor and hall director are excellent resources for any problems or miscommunications that may occur.
VISA AND IMMIGRATION INFORMATION

Passport

Please keep your passport and other immigration documents in a safe place. Augustana’s business office has a safe if you prefer not to store such documents in your room.

Visa

A visa is a stamp that the U.S. consulate or embassy gives foreign nationals in their passports in order to enter the United States in the specific classification (i.e. student status) they request. The validity of the visa stamp pertains only to the period when it may be used for admission to the United States. It does not indicate how long you may stay in the U.S. Visitors may remain in the U.S. with an expired visa as long as their certificate of eligibility is valid and the proper immigration status is indicated on their I-94 card.

Form I-94

The I-94 is a small white card given to foreign nationals at the port of entry to the United States. An immigration officer validates and staples the I-94 into the passport. This is a very important document. It indicates the visa classification you are given upon entry and the length of time you may stay. A notation of D/S (Duration of Status) will be noted on the I-94.

Status

Every visa is issued for a specific purpose and a specific class of visitors with its own set of requirements that the visa holder must follow and maintain.

F-1 Students

F-1 immigration status is reserved for students pursuing a full course of study at an academic institution. This visa is solely for the purpose of study. As a student admitted under an F-1 status, you are permitted to be present in the U.S. as long as you comply with the rules and regulations set forth by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). You can lose legal status and be considered “out of status” if you do not comply with the applicable immigration laws regulating your stay in the U.S.

Certificate of Eligibility

This certificate is an immigration document that correlates with the particular immigration status you hold. An I-20 is used for F-1 students and F-2 dependents. The certificate of eligibility for an exchange student on a J-1 visa is called a DS-2019.
Maintaining Legal Immigration Status

One role of the International Programs Office is to assist you in complying with the rules and regulations of the USCIS. If you have any questions about your immigration status and USCIS regulations, please speak with an advisor at the IPO. It is important for students to understand immigration status and the consequences of violating that status. This can jeopardize your current visit or any future plans for returning to the U.S. In order to maintain your status, you must comply with the following rules and regulations on the next page:

1. Reportable Changes

You are required to report any changes in the following to the IPO: name, phone number, address, program level or major, falling below required credit hours, employment, and transfer to another school. Changes must be reported within 10 days of the change. The IPO will update the SEVIS system notifying USCIS of the change.

2. Full Time Study

USCIS checks each F-1 student’s record shortly after the beginning of each semester to verify that they are enrolled full-time. For undergraduate (bachelor-level) programs, full-time study equals 12 credits per semester. The credit load must be carried throughout the entire term. Students are not allowed to drop a class if it will cause them to drop below the minimum credit load required even if they are failing a class. If you are thinking about dropping a class, please set up a time to meet with one of your advisors to discuss the matter.

3. Online Courses

Web-based courses may count up to a 3-credit maximum towards meeting the full-time study requirement. Approval of online coursework or distance education should be obtained from the International Programs Office prior to registering for the course(s).

4. Extension

Should you and your advisor determine that you require additional time to complete your program, you may request an extension. This must be completed at least one month prior to the expiration date on your current I-20. Only students who have continually maintained status may be eligible for an extension.

5. School Transfer

If you should choose to transfer from Augustana College to another school, you may do so if you have maintained your status at Augustana and upon release of your immigration record to your new school.
6. Documents

You must keep your passport and other documents valid at least six months into the future. If your passport has expired or will expire shortly, it is your responsibility to have it revalidated.

7. Travel

Prior to traveling outside the U.S., you should speak with an IPO advisor. Your I-20 must be endorsed to travel. We will review your U.S. visa and passport with you. You should contact the Embassy or Consulate of the country you will be visiting to determine the visa requirements for entry into that country and the process to obtain a visa. Immigration and identification documents should be accessible at all times when traveling, especially when traveling outside the regional area. This includes travel within the U.S.

8. Communications

All students are assigned an Augustana email address. The IPO uses email as the primary means to communicate messages of interest to all international students and for contacting individual students on matters of importance. It is crucial that the IPO has a valid email address and a working phone number to contact you. Please read your emails frequently and respond to them on a timely basis.
EMPLOYMENT

As an F-1 student, you must not work on or off campus unless authorized under the USCIS regulations. You MUST inform the IPO if you plan to begin employment. Working without permission is a serious violation of your student visa and could cause you to fall out of legal immigration status.

On-campus Employment

F-1 students are permitted to work on campus on a part-time basis (no more than 20 hours) during the academic year. Students are allowed to work 40 hours per week during the summer and during breaks when classes are not in session providing they have maintained their full-time status. On-campus employment for international students at Augustana is very limited. In the past, the Elmen Center and Sodexo (the campus food and catering service) have been the primary employment options for international students.

Off-campus Employment

International students are not permitted to work off-campus without prior authorization of USCIS. Work without authorization is considered illegal and is a serious offense. Students may be eligible to apply for curricular practical training (employment related to your major) after you have been in F-1 status for 9 months.

CPT (Curricular Practical Training)

CPT is temporary employment authorization directly related to an F-1 student’s academic program. CPT is typically done on a part-time basis (up to 20 hours a week) when school is in session and on a full-time basis (over 20 hours a week) during vacation periods. CPT employment must be deemed an integral part of the student’s curriculum by the student’s academic department. You must receive authorization before beginning an internship or work position. Students must maintain lawful F-1 status for one full academic year (generally, nine months) to become eligible for this benefit. Students who are finished with program requirements cannot be granted CPT. Students must have an offer of employment in order to apply for CPT. CPT is employer and date specific. You can only work for the company you have authorization for and only for the specific dates of employment listed on your I-20. If you use 12 months or more of CPT, you will completely lose the optional practical training (OPT) benefit.

OPT (Optional Practical Training)

OPT allows students to engage in off-campus employment for up to 12 months after degree completion. OPT is defined as temporary employment for practical training directly related to a student’s major or area of study. The idea is that students can gain practical experience in their field of study to round out their academic experience before returning to their home country. Students must maintain lawful F-1 status for one full academic year to become eligible for this benefit. If you wish to apply for OPT you should do so at the very beginning of your final semester of study. It can take 90-120 days for USCIS to approve an application for OPT.
Regulations require you to apply before graduation. Contact the IPO well in advance if you plan to apply for OPT.

**Severe Economic Hardship**

In order for an I-20 form to be issued for an incoming international student, the student must show that they have the necessary funding to study and support themselves in the United States. If a student’s source of funding should suddenly change, through circumstances over which the student has no control, the student may be eligible to apply for off-campus employment authorization based on “severe economic hardship”. The student must document their case carefully and prove to the USCIS that the change in funding source came unexpectedly. Contact the IPO for more information if you believe you are eligible for this benefit.

**Social Security Number**

In order to work in the United States, it is necessary to apply for a social security card.

International students are generally NOT eligible to apply for a social security card unless they have been offered a job (see the previous sections on work eligibility and requirements).

To apply for a social security number, please visit the Social Security Office at 5021 S. Nevada Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57108 phone number # 877-274-5421. Office hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary and no fee is charged. The office can be busy at certain times of the day or year so plan for about an hour waiting time. Once you are approved, it will take approximately two weeks for your card to be mailed to you. You must meet with the IPO at least 48 hours prior to applying for a Social Security Number. You must be in the US for no less than ten days before applying.

You must bring the following:
- Passport, visa, and I-94 card
- I-20 or DS-2019
- Letter showing job offer or employment (or letter from sponsoring organization)
- Letter from IPO
- Completed Social Security Number application

Your Social Security Number (SSN) is a unique, lifelong identification number that serves many purposes such as tracking income taxes, government benefits, credit histories, and insurance claims. You should treat your SSN as confidential information and avoid giving it out unnecessarily. You should keep your Social Security card in a safe place with your other important papers. DO NOT carry it with you unless you need to show it to an employer or service provider.
Taxes

Foreign nationals who are studying, teaching, or engaged in research activities in the United States are subject to federal and state income taxation on any income earned in the US from teaching and research assistantships. Interest earned on checking and savings accounts are also subject to taxation. Income tax returns must be filed each calendar year before April 15.

BANKING

There are many financial institutions in Sioux Falls that provide banking services. Most of our international students bank with Wells Fargo due to its proximity to campus and positive previous experiences. You are free to choose any financial institution when looking for banking services. Augustana does not endorse any financial institution. It is best to find a bank that can best provide the services you need at the lowest cost. A few banks near campus are:

Wells Fargo (26th St. & Minnesota Ave.)
1801 S. Minnesota Avenue
604.575.7460

Meta Bank (33rd St. & Minnesota Ave.)
2500 S. Minnesota Ave.
605.977.7500

U.S. Bank (33rd St. & Minnesota Ave.)
2501 S. Minnesota Ave.
605.988.9800

Cor Trust Bank (29th St. & Minnesota Ave.)
2101 S. Minnesota Ave.
605.335.1400

Some things to look for or ask about when choosing a bank are:
- Minimum balance requirements
- Location(s)
- Interest rates on checking accounts
- Banking hours: weekends or drive through service for evenings
- ATM access/fees
- Finance charges
- International wire transfer fees

A good website to see current exchange rates is: [http://www.xe.com/](http://www.xe.com/)

Checking Account

Most Americans use checking accounts for paying bills and to avoid carrying large sums of paper money. Be sure to record all information about deposits made to your checking account and immediately add the deposited amount to your balance. Record all information about transactions you make and immediately subtract that amount from your balance. Failure to keep an accurate, up-to-date record of the money in your checking account could result in a service charge. Most banks provide online access to your accounts where you can view an online
statement regarding your current balance. Your cancelled checks (checks that you have written and have already been cashed) will be included. Be sure to examine the statement closely so that you and the bank agree about how much money you have in your account.

**Debit/ATM Card**

Many banks offer a debit/ATM card to customers with a checking account. This card can often be used at retail stores and restaurants in place of a check or cash. It can also be used at Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) for withdrawals and deposits. Your debit or ATM card might say Visa on it like a credit card, but unlike a credit card the money on this card comes straight out of your checking account. If you use an ATM at a bank other than your own, you may be charged a fee for the use of that ATM. Remember to note any transaction in your checkbook register. Make sure to check with your bank concerning possible fees associated with your debit/ATM card, particularly if you plan to use it outside the U.S. Protect your bank card and personal identification number (PIN) number as you do your cash and credit cards.

**Savings Account**

A savings account enables you to save money and accumulate interest on your savings. Interest is paid either monthly or quarterly. Although you can draw money from your savings account, this service is limited. The difference between a savings account and a checking account is that you receive a higher interest rate on your savings account and are allowed fewer transactions because the purpose is to “save your money.”

**Overdraft Charges**

Do not “overdraw” or write checks for more money that you have in your account. The bank will charge you a penalty for this (about $30), and the business you wrote the overdrawn check to will charge an additional fee (from $20-$35). You may lose your check-cashing privilege at your bank and the place where you wrote the check. “Bouncing” a check means writing a check for more money than you actually have in the account. This can cause you a major expense and a great deal of trouble. It is against the law to “bounce” a check. It is considered theft. Theft over $100 is a felony crime with a penalty of a jail sentence of three to five years.

**Credit Card**

Credit cards are convenient, especially if you have unexpected expenses. Credit cards are different from debit cards because they are not directly connected to your bank. You charge a purchase to the card and pay the amount back later when you receive a monthly bill. Please be aware that any purchases made using a credit card must be paid back. Many credit cards that are available to students have a high interest rate that is charged if you don’t pay off your bill each month. Credit cards can be dangerous because it is easy to use a credit card to make purchases but difficult to pay the credit card bill. Use good judgment and stay within your budget if you choose to have a credit card.
Scams

Several Augustana students have been the victims of scams in recent years. Use common sense: if something seems too good to be true, it probably is. Always check with the IPO if you are unsure about a website or a particular financial transaction.

A bank will never ask for your account, credit card or debit card information over the phone. They already have it. If someone is claiming to be the bank and asking for this information, it is probably a scam. (Banks may verify other personal information such as your address, phone number, etc. to prove that it is you, the account owner, they are speaking with.)

Many transactions are relatively secure, but there are lots of fraudulent websites out there, particularly ones that seem to be offering unbelievable deals. Stick to well-known and secure websites. Ask an American friend on the IPO if you are unsure.

Despite the spam emails you may receive, no one in Ghana or India or Canada or China is really going to send you a million dollars you inherited from a long lost relative “if you just send them your account information.” No one gives other people money without a good reason.
WEATHER IN SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakotans rejoice in four very distinct seasons when it comes to the weather. Spring and fall are known for their warm days and cool nights. It tends to rain more in the spring while the fall tends to be slightly drier. Summer can be quite hot and humid at times. The winter months are cold and often bring snow.

Because of the daily variation in temperature, particularly during the spring and fall months, people in South Dakota often dress in “layers:” clothes that can easily be added or removed depending on the temperature at the moment.

The IPO maintains a “thrift shop” with donated winter items from previous students and community members. Check at the office as the winter months approach. If we have items in your size, they’re yours to keep during your stay at Augustana. We are also happy to make recommendations of affordable shops where new and used winter coats, gloves, hats, boots and other items can be purchased.

Severe Weather

Blizzards are the most dangerous of winter storms due to their high winds, poor visibility, deep drifts, and heavy snow. Sometimes these winter storms can cause loss of electricity, heat, and telephone service and may prevent travel until the roads can be cleared. Sioux Falls experiences fewer of the problems associated with blizzards than less populous areas of South Dakota. Several layers of clothing are recommended for adequate protection when walking in freezing temperatures, even for only a few blocks. It is important to protect all exposed skin (including the face) when temperatures are below freezing. Campus Safety sends school closure alerts through email and text message, but students are responsible to know and prepare for the severity.
of the weather outside. Remember that weather conditions can change very suddenly. A saying in South Dakota is, “If you don’t like the weather, just wait five minutes.”

**Tornadoes**

South Dakota (Sioux Falls area included) experiences the possibility of tornadoes every year. Tornado season generally runs May-July, though some have been recorded as early as March and as late as September. Tornadoes are not a weather phenomenon to take lightly. Taking proper safety precautions can eliminate their threat to human life.

Tornadoes are unpredictable and can be very destructive. Sioux Falls has a warning system with a siren that will ring if there is a Tornado warning. Do not rely on this due to the unpredictability of the storm. Use television and the internet for weather updates.

Important terminology:

- **Tornado watch**: weather conditions are right for the possibility of a tornado formation
- **Tornado warning**: a tornado has been spotted

If there is a tornado watch, stay indoors until weather improves. If there is a tornado warning, find shelter in the lowest possible place. This could be a basement or the innermost room of the building. Stay away from windows and any heavy furniture or appliances. Bathrooms are often good locations. Kneel on the floor and cover your head with your hands. If you are outside, do not try to outrun the storm. Find a low-lying spot and crouch down with your arms over your head. Most buildings on campus have signs indicating where to go during a tornado. Know where these locations are, particularly in your dormitory.

Fortunately, few tornadoes occur during the months school is in session at Augustana so most students never have to worry about tornadoes on campus. Still, it is good to be prepared in the event one does occur.
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

Augustana’s central location in Sioux Falls provides easy waking access to most things students need off-campus. And, many American college students have cars. International students often make new friends who are happy to provide transportation. Sometimes international students choose to pool resources to purchase and share an inexpensive car, though there are several financial and legal considerations (see the next section) in purchasing your own vehicle. Bikes, taxis, and the city bus system are also good ways to explore the city.

Bikes

The Augie Green Club has purchased Augie Green bikes that students are allowed to check out for free with their Augie ID card at the Campus Safety desk in the Morrison Commons. These bikes are available 24/7 for students to check out for a 24-hour period to use for fun or as a form of transportation.

You may wish to purchase your own bike for more regular use. Scheel’s, Two Wheeler Dealer, Harlan’s, and Spoke-N-Sport, all sell affordable bikes. It is common for families to sell used bikes at a “garage sale,” usually held in the driveway of a private home. Be on the lookout in the neighborhood surrounding campus for garage sales with used bikes. It can be an affordable way to purchase your own.

Sioux Falls is home to an extensive bike trail system. Check out the following link for a map of the trail system: http://www.siouxfalls.org/parks/bike/trail/view-map.aspx The Sioux Falls bike trail is a 21-mile ride that circles the town of Sioux Falls and goes through many neighborhood parks. Below is a map of the main bike trail route.
Bus Service

The City of Sioux Falls offers bus service from Monday to Saturday. The scheduled arrival times are different on Saturday than the regular weekday schedule. There is no bus service on Sunday. The most commonly used bus route by students is Route 2, which has a stop on Augustana’s campus. The green bus shelter is located on the east side of campus near the entrance to the Commons Drive on Grange Ave. Route 2 travels downtown to the transit center where you may transfer to a different bus route. On its way back south from the transit center, Route 2 stops at the Empire Mall district and the Southwest Transfer Center (another spot where you may switch bus routes) before coming back to Augustana’s campus. A map of Route 2 is pictured below. To view a detailed schedule of stops and other bus routes in the city, visit the transit website at: [http://www.siouxfallstransit.org/routes](http://www.siouxfallstransit.org/routes)

For bus service to locations outside of Sioux Falls, Greyhound and Jefferson bus lines provide transportation throughout the region. Visit: [www.jeffersonlines.com](http://www.jeffersonlines.com) and [www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com).
Taxi Services

Sioux Falls has many taxi companies available for your use, and can be an affordable and safe way to travel to destinations outside of walking distance. Taxis should be called in advance. Giving a tip to the taxi driver is optional, but appreciated. The two taxi services listed below have received good reviews from our students, though there are many choices in Sioux Falls.

**Sioux Falls Taxi Service**  
1300 West Russell Ave.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-1329  
(605) 334-3484

**Citywide Taxi**  
5601 West 12th Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106-0246  
(605) 332-1234

Air Travel

The Sioux Falls Regional Airport (FSD) serves Sioux Falls and the surrounding region. Major airlines such as Delta, American, and United offer direct flights to Minneapolis, Chicago, Denver, Atlanta, Detroit, and Dallas. Visit [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com), [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com), or [www.united.com](http://www.united.com).

Budget carriers like Frontier and Allegiant provide direct service to the following cities: Denver, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Orlando, Daytona Beach, and Tampa. Visit [www.allegiantair.com](http://www.allegiantair.com) or [www.flyfrontier.com](http://www.flyfrontier.com).

Search engines such as [www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com), [www.priceline.com](http://www.priceline.com), [www.orbitz.com](http://www.orbitz.com), or [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com) may help you search for the least expensive airfare to a particular destination.

If arranged in advance, the IPO is pleased to provide transportation for international students from the Sioux Falls airport to Augustana’s campus.
OWNING AND OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE

Drivers License

You are allowed to drive a vehicle in the state of South Dakota if you possess a current license in your home country or an international driver’s license. If you wish to purchase or rent a vehicle, you will find it easier to do so with a South Dakota Driver’s License. You must pass a written test, an eyesight test, and a driving test in order to get a South Dakota Driver’s License.

You will need to supply a current passport, visa, I-94 card, I-20, social security card or letter from IPO indicating you do not need a SSN, and an address verification letter.

It is highly advisable to study for your written test and to practice for the road test. You will need to obtain an instruction permit in order to practice for your road test if you do not possess an international driver’s license or a driver’s license from your home country.

South Dakota Identification Card

If you need a form of identification (normally necessary for check cashing) and do not have a driver’s license, you can obtain a South Dakota State ID Card. The cost is $20. You may apply to this at the Department of Motor Vehicles at 415 N Dakota Street. It may be a good idea to purchase this card if you are over 21 and plan to purchase alcohol often. Many establishments in South Dakota will require international students to bring their passport as documentation if they do not have a driver’s license. This can be very unsafe, especially if you are not in a proper state of mind to keep track of such an important document.

Automobile Registration

If you buy a car, you must register it at the Department of Motor Vehicles at 415 North Dakota Street. Requirements for registering a car vary depending on whether the car is new or used. Once you have registered your car, you will receive a registration card. You must keep this card in your vehicle at all times.

Automobile Insurance

South Dakota Law requires that any person who licenses and/or operates a motor vehicle must show proof of financial responsibility. Most people comply through the purchase of personal automobile insurance. There are many local insurance companies you can request quotes from to compare and select the right coverage for you. Insurance rates vary from company to company. They depend on the value of the car, the amount it is driven, the age of the drivers, and the past driving records of the drivers. You must carry proof of insurance (insurance card) in your car at all times in case of an accident. If you are at fault in an accident, you are responsible to pay for the other car’s damages if you don’t have insurance.
Seat Belt Law and Child Restraint Systems

South Dakota law requires all front seat occupants to wear safety belts at all times. Children under age five must be properly secured in an approved child restraint in motor vehicles. All passengers between the ages of five and 18 must wear a safety belt.
FOODS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Sioux Falls offers over 500 restaurants with a variety of ethnic cuisines. You are likely to find something similar to food from your home country at the restaurants below, but be sure to try a meal or two from other countries as well – especially with your international friends from those countries!

**Touch of Europe** (Eastern European)  
337 S Phillips Ave  
605-336-3066

**Golden Bowl Chinese Restaurant**  
2600 South Spring Avenue  
605-332-2768

**Puerto Vallarta Restaurant** (Mexican)  
2520 S. Louise Ave  
605-336-7522

**HuHot Mongolian Grill**  
2101 W. 41st  
605-334-7400

**Lalibela Restaurant** (Ethiopian)  
1001 West 11th St.  
605-331-4595

**Carino’s Italian Grill**  
2310 S. Louise Avenue  
605-361-7222

**Sushi Masa** (Japanese)  
423 South Phillips Ave  
605-977-6968

**Baladna Mediterranean Kitchen** (Halal)  
1712 S. Minnesota Ave  
605-274-0778

**1st Wok** (Chinese)  
523 West 10th Street  
605-338-2588

**Shahi Palace** (Indian)  
2527 S. Shirley Ave  
605-361-5050

**Carnival Brazilian Grill**  
2401S. Carolyn Ave.  
605-361-6328

**Coco Palace** (Thai)  
2530 S. Louise Ave  
605-361-7252

**Pho Quynh** (Vietnamese)  
1100 W. 12th St.  
605-332-0779

**Lam’s** (Vietnamese)  
1600 E. Rice Street  
605-274-9898

**Khorasan Kabob House** (Afghani)  
2412 W. 41st St.  
605-338-0175

**Nick’s Gyros** (Greek fast food)  
1512 W. 41st St.  
605-335-1588

**Inca** (Mexican)  
3312 S. Holly Ave.  
605-367-1992

**Sanaa’s** (Mediterranean)  
401 E. 8th St.  
605-275-2516

**McNally’s Irish Pub**  
6211 Old Village Place  
605-271-7170

**RedRossa** (Italian)  
3412 S. Western Ave.  
605-339-3675
Tipping: Tipping your server is a widely practiced social custom in the U.S. It is not mandatory, but most servers expect a tip. In some instances, a clearly displayed “service charge” or “gratuity” will be added to the bill, especially for a party of six or more. Wage laws allow employers to credit an amount of earned tips against the minimum wage, allowing them to pay tipped employees less than minimum wage. Servers rely on tips to complete their livable wage. A tip of 15-25% is customary based on the quality of the service. In most major cities, 20% is considered to be a “good tip.”
SAVING MONEY

Second Hand Stores (Thrift/Consignment Shops)

Thrift stores sell used items such as clothing, kitchen supplies, and furniture. Be sure to inspect the items that you are interested in closely. They may be damaged or in need of repair. Prices are usually much less expensive than purchasing new items. Unlike most American stores, second-hand stores are sometimes flexible in price. You might be able to bargain for a lower price. Examples are:

Goodwill     Saver’s             Salvation Army
3400 S. Norton Ave.  4008 S. Shirley Ave.  800 N. Cliff Ave.
605-731-1930   605-362-4790   605-338-6649

Garage Sales

Rummage or garage sales often offer excellent bargains on used merchandise. They are typically held on weekends at the seller’s garage or driveway. Buyers are encouraged to come to the home and buy the items desired. Garage sales are advertised in the classified section of the weekend newspapers. Prices are sometimes negotiable at garage sales.

Dollar Tree

The dollar store is a great place to go to buy household items. Everything is priced at $1. The quality of the product can be less due to the price. Often the items work well for international students who want to save money. The Dollar Store is located on the corner of 41st and Minnesota.

The IPO

The IPO maintains a “thrift shop” with donated items from previous students and community members. If we have items in your size, they’re yours to keep during your stay at Augustana. We are also happy to make recommendations of affordable shops where new and used winter coats, gloves, hats, boots and other items can be purchased. We are also happy to take donations of quality used items for future students’ use when you graduate or depart campus.
PLACES OF WORSHIP

Sioux Falls offers a variety of churches, temples, synagogues, and mosques. The Midwestern Region of the United States of which South Dakota is a part is predominately Christian, but places of worship for many other religions exist. The Islamic Center of Sioux Falls is not a mosque, but does offer services for the Muslim community. We have provided a small list of nearby places of worship along with contact information. Please Google a particular denomination or check with the IPO if not listed below.

Augustana Chapel of Reconciliation (Lutheran)       Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church
2001 S. Summit Ave                                   1936 South Summit Ave
(605)274-4546                                         (605)334-5301

Christ the King Church (Catholic)       Mt Zion Temple
1501 West 26th Street                                523 West 14th Street
(605)332-5477                                         (605)338-5454

Islamic Center of Sioux Falls       First Baptist Church
4054 S. Western Ave.                               1401 South Covell Ave.
(605)333-2005                                         (605)336-0966

First Presbyterian Church       Calvary Episcopal Cathedral
2300 S. West Ave                                    500 S. Main Ave
(605)336-2886                                         (605)336-3486

Asbury United Methodist Church       Faith Temple Church
2415 South Western Ave.                            2121 West 33rd Street
(605)332-8861                                         (605)332-2303

All Souls Unitarian Universalists       Our Savior’s Lutheran Church
2222 South Cliff Ave.                             909 West 33rd Street
(605)338-8652                                         (605)336-2942
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Request copies of your Augustana transcript in person at the Registrar’s Office. We recommend that you request several copies for your personal records, your school back home (if you are an exchange student), employment purposes and/or for graduate school applications. Transcripts are free if you request them in person at the Registrar’s Office before you depart campus. Once you depart campus, you may request additional transcripts via your portal. Official paper copies of transcripts are fee. Official electronic transcripts are assessed a $5 processing fee.

Change your address for summer mail delivery or if you are graduating, for permanent delivery. You should have received a “Change of Address” form in your campus mailbox. Complete the form and return it to the Post Office window in the Commons before you depart campus. (Note: first-class mail will be forwarded; second-class and bulk mail will be recycled.) The Common’s Post Office will forward your change of address to the Business Office. If you do not have a campus mailbox, please stop by the Business Office to change your mailing address.

If you are returning to Augustana College next semester, come to the International Programs Office to get your I-20 signed.

Notify IPO of your flight information and need for ride to airport. (Please note: depending on your flight time and date, the IPO staff may not be able to provide a ride to the airport. Please contact friends to see if they are available. If necessary, you may need to hire a taxi. Taxi cost is approximately $15 one-way.)

Check airline luggage restrictions. (Note: students are having more and more problems at the airport with luggage. Airlines have set strict limits and are charging high fees if you have more bags or more weight in your bag than allowed)

Check-out with Business Office to settle any outstanding charges and begin to process your housing damage deposit refund. The College will not be able to process any transcript requests if you have an unpaid balance. If you are graduating or not returning to the College, please leave your credit card number at the Business Office so they can refund any portion of your housing damage deposit that is due to you. Damage refunds may take 7-10 business days to process.

Sell books back to bookstore or on the black market. Return rented books.

Get packing supplies (boxes, packing tape, bubble wrap, etc.) for luggage. These supplies are available at Walgreens, Shopko, Lewis Drug and Wal-Mart.

Check out of room or apartment. Contact your Peer Adviser or Apartment Manager. Review conditions sheet. Talk with Hall Director. (CLEAN your room first.)
housing damage deposits will be affected if you do not clean your room and if you do not complete an official checkout with your P.A. or Hall Director. Post items you may want to sell online or on notice boards around school.

If you are graduating or not returning to the campus, we recommend that you write old-fashioned thank-you notes to your professors, friendship family, friends, housing staff, etc. (Facebook is ok, but a hand-written note is special.)

Sponsored students on programs with IREX, World Learning, Am. Councils or IIE need to follow their departure checklists.

**IF RETURNING TO AUGIE NEXT YEAR**

Come to the International Programs Office to get your I-20 signed.

Put your things in storage. (Note: dates and times will be advertised on our Facebook site.)
- Figure out where to park your car. Talk to Campus Safety about long-term summer parking.
- Boxes/Suitcases can be stored in the basement of Solberg. Label all boxes/suitcases with your name, contact info overseas and number of items. (Ex: Box 1 of 5) (Watch Facebook for dates and times for storage drop-off.)
- ASA can store large items such as furniture. Contact ASA for times, costs and drop-off locations.
- Ideas for donating books/clothing/furniture that grads will not be taking: Goodwill, Savers, IPO will take items that future students can use: warm coats and clothing.

**GRADUATES**

Update and/or start your alumnus/alumna account. Contact Mary Toso (605-274-5530) with any questions of how to stay in touch with other Augustana alumni.

Stay in touch with the IPO. We are always interested in your success! If you haven’t done so already, join our Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/207661708884/
THE FINAL WORD

Most international students look back on the time they spent studying and living in the United States as one of the most challenging yet one of the best experiences of their lives. Remember that anything new or different takes time to get used to. Try to suspend judgment and get involved in new experiences at Augustana and in the Sioux Falls area. Be active and participate in as much as you can. Your studies are very important, but studying abroad provides many opportunities for you to expand yourself and your interests. Be ready to make a special effort to meet other international and local students at Augustana. Many other students, including the Americans, may be feeling a little lost and anxious during their first weeks at a new place. Take advantage of this fact and speak to as many people as you can. Know that we are excited you’re here and we’ll do everything we can to make sure you have a great experience at Augustana College. As President Oliver says, “It’s a great day to be a Viking!”
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CERTIFICATION OF UNDERSTANDING

Directions: By signing below, you agree to the following:

- I will make every effort to maintain full-time continuous enrollment (minimum 12 credit hours) and a satisfactory grade point average during my entire stay at Augustana. If I need a reduced course load or am faced with academic difficulties, I will consult with my academic advisor.

- If I wish to transfer to another school, I must contact the IPO to request a transfer.

- I will inform the IPO immediately of any changes of personal data (name, address, phone number, SSN number, marital status, etc.) I am aware of my obligations to inform the IPO of a change within 10 days.

- I will take responsibility to ensure that my visa status-related documents (I-20 or DS-2019, and passport) remain un-expired and will apply for extensions and renewals of these documents in a timely fashion. I understand that passports must be renewed at least 6 months in advance of the expiration date and I-20 or DS-2019 forms must be renewed a minimum of 30 days before the expiration date.

- I will manage my funds carefully, in order to be able to pay all tuition and living expenses. I will pay school fees in a timely fashion when due. If an unavoidable problem exists where a payment delay is necessary, I will meet with the IPO advisor to review my options.

- I will not work on or off campus without first obtaining written authorization from the IPO. I understand that to do otherwise will violate my F-1/J-1 status and will make me ineligible for any kind of employment in the U.S., program extension, and/or could ultimately jeopardize my stay in the U.S. I will work no more than a total of 20 hours per week during fall, interim, and spring semesters. I understand that I lose eligibility for work authorization upon completion of my degree requirements or through lack of enrollment.

- I will bring requests to the IPO office in a timely manner realizing that I must give the IPO 3-5 business days for requests to be processed and completed.

_____________________________________  __________________________
Signature       Date
Notes: