



## Recommended Packing List for New International Students at Augustana University

Packing for college can be a challenge, whether you are traveling five kilometers or 10,000. **We recommend that students subscribe to the philosophy of “less is more” (meaning, pack light).** Sioux Falls, with a metro population of 270,000, is home to a wide array of retail and thrift stores so you can find almost anything you need once you arrive. The International Programs Office and Augustana’s friendly ACE Ambassadors will provide transportation for your initial shopping trips after your arrival in Sioux Falls to help you pick up the necessities. Here are our recommendations for essential items to pack, as well as some optional items to bring with you to Augustana:

### What to pack in your checked luggage:

- **Clothes and shoes:** pack enough versatile clothing pieces that you know you will wear but not too much that you won’t have space for them in your dorm room - here are some suggested items and quantities for what you could bring:
  - 3-5 pants/bottoms, (1-4 skirts/dresses/shorts)
  - 3-5 shirts/tops/blouses, 2-3 sweaters/cardigans/sweatshirts
  - underwear, socks, pajamas
  - clothing accessories if needed/wanted
  - 1-2 pairs of sneakers/trainers/casual shoes
  - optional: 1 pair of flip flops/shower shoes/slides/sandals, 1 pair of formal/dress shoes
  - optional: 1 set of professional attire, 1-2 sets of cultural clothing (there are several occasions and events where you will have an opportunity to wear your traditional clothing)
- **Personal belongings:** for example, books and/or games, photos of family/friends, a few of your favorite packaged foods from home, favorite pillow, etc.
- **Toiletries:** (if needed/wanted - you can also buy these once you arrive in Sioux Falls) toothbrush, small toothpaste, deodorant, make-up, lotions, small shampoo/conditioner, etc.
- **Electronics:** chargers for electronics, **electrical converters and travel adapters that work in the US** (outlets in the US are different from much of the rest of the world), graphing calculator (if you have one already)
- Small gifts for friends/Friendship Family and/or items that illustrate your home culture
- ***Documents: Copies of passport, visa, and DS-2019 or I-20***

\*If you’re coming from a cold part of the globe: feel free to pack some winter clothes if you wish (warm jackets, tights, warm socks, scarves, hats/headbands, gloves/mittens, winter shoes/boots)

\*If you’re coming from a warm part of the globe: you can purchase winter clothes after you arrive

***For January Interim and Spring Semester arrivals: you will want to dress warmly when you leave, as it will likely be very cold in Sioux Falls when you get off of the airplane!***

### What to pack in your carry-on baggage:

- *Printed-out, signed I-20 or DS-2019 and receipt for SEVIS I-901*
- *Passport that contains student visa page*
- *Proof of negative COVID-19 test\* (see [U.S. COVID-19 Travel Information](#))*
- Flight information and booking reference
- Final high school or college transcript(s) **and** Augustana University admission letters
- A copy of your completed health forms (including records of your immunizations)
- Credit card (please check that it works internationally before departing for the US) and US dollars/cash (*there is nowhere in Sioux Falls to convert currency so please get U.S. dollars in advance!*)
- Necessary medications (if you have any that you need to use during the flight) and prescriptions for drugs brought to the US
- If you have a health condition, a letter from a doctor explaining your diagnosis and prescription medication needs (an English translation would be helpful)
- Contact information (address, phone numbers, etc.) for Augustana University
- Electronics (if you already have them): phone (we will give you a SIM card upon arrival), tablet, laptop computer, etc.
- A set of clothing, underwear, toothbrush/toothpaste in case of a canceled flight or lost luggage

### What to buy when you get to Sioux Falls (if you would like to):

- Twin size bedding sheets and blankets, pillows
- Towels
- Toiletries, personal care and grooming supplies
- Small garbage can/waste basket for dorm room
- School supplies, backpack
- Laptop computer (if you didn't bring one with you - you will need one for school)
- Laundry hamper and laundry supplies
- Bath caddy/shower basket
- Food and beverages for your room
- Small appliances like a water kettle, rice cooker, etc.
- Dishware and silverware, dishwashing soap and sponge, etc.
- Cooking and baking supplies
- Basic medicine (pain relief, cold medicine, vitamins, etc.)
- If you would like/optional: room decorations, furniture for dorm room, storage bins, etc.
- \* Cell phone and phone plan/SIM card - in some situations, students might have difficulty getting their phones from home to work in the US, so they will need to buy a new one

### What **NOT** to pack for your trip to the US:

- Undocumented drugs and medications
- Food (unpackaged food from animals or plants is not admissible into the US and you might receive a fine at the border if you try to bring them in)  
For more information, visit [U.S. Customs and Border Patrol](#)
- Illegally copied products (pirated music/movies, software, etc.)
- ***Liquids in your carry-on baggage must be very small (travel size) and sealed in a clear plastic bag. It generally is not a problem to pack larger liquid items (shampoo, etc.) in your checked bag. For more specific information visit the [TSA guidelines](#).***