



International Students Program
Pre-Arrival Information



Congratulations! Arriving in a foreign country to live and study can be quite an adventure. We want to help you as much as we can to make a smooth adjustment to living in Colorado. This pre-arrival booklet was designed to help answer some of the questions you may have as you prepare to travel. Please read through this information and let us know if you have any questions before or after your arrival at Arapahoe Community College.

By now you have completed the admission process and have been accepted to attend ACC. You should have received (or will be receiving) the I-20 Certificate of Eligibility. This information may help you plan your departure from your home country and your arrival in the United States



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Passport

Make sure your passport is current and will not expire in the next six months. If your passport is going to expire soon, the consulate may not give you a visa.

It's a good idea to make photocopies of your passport and keep them in a separate place in case your passport is lost or stolen. Leave one set of copies in a safe place at your home and carry another set with you when you travel.

Visa

You need to apply for an F-1 Student Visa from the United States consulate in your home country. Please make sure to keep a copy of the visa in a safe place.

The visa will allow you to enter the United States. The visa does NOT control or limit your stay in the United States. If you are flying into the U.S. from a foreign country, you will receive another document on the plane before landing. This is the I-94 Admission Card. You should fill out the card and have your passport and I-20 ready upon arrival at the airport.

When you arrive in the U.S. and proceed through immigration control, the official will look over your documents, keep page 1 of the I-20, stamp and return pages 2, 3 & 4 to you, and stamp and staple the I-94 to your passport. **Keep all of these documents in a safe place.**

Money

Don't bring a lot of money in foreign currencies with you. Bring U.S. dollars. The best idea is to carry a credit card and a minimal amount of cash.

This is an **estimate** of how much to bring for your first semester:

\$7,000	for tuition and fees, books and insurance
\$5,000	for renting an apartment and setting up utilities and phone
\$1,500	for food
<u>\$ 500</u>	for miscellaneous
\$14,000	

You should bring some of your money in cash. Try to get some \$20 bills and some \$1 bills. It is not always easy to receive change when using large bills,

such as \$100. \$1 bills are handy to use as tips when using taxis, in hotels and in restaurants. ***Don't bring LOTS of cash, however, because if it gets lost or stolen -- it's gone.***

When you register at ACC for classes you will need to pay your entire tuition for the semester. Tuition is approximately \$7,000 per semester. You will also need to purchase your books and supplies and there may be additional fees for some courses. Tuition can be paid in full upon registration or you may set up a payment plan. Please log onto your MyACC portal, Student Finance Tab, and Payment Options to set up tuition payment. You will be dropped from your classes unless you pay your tuition by the established deadlines.

Banking



As soon as possible upon arriving you will need to open a bank account. A checking account is the type of bank account most students will need. It allows you to deposit money and then use a debit card against the balance. You can also use an ATM (automated teller machine) card to access funds from your account. You will need your passport, another form of identification, an address and some money to open an account. If you open your account with a cashier's check or bank draft, be aware that it might take a week or more for the check to "clear". It is better to use traveler's checks or cash to open the account so you can have access to your money immediately.

Credit Cards

You can pay for your tuition and fees at ACC using a major credit card such as VISA, MASTERCARD, or DISCOVER. You can also use any of these cards in the bookstore and for most of your purchases in the U.S. You might consider getting a credit card from your home country if you plan on using one. It is sometimes difficult for foreign citizens to receive one in the U.S.

Clothing

Everyone has personal preferences when it comes to fashion and clothing. You might like to know, however, that people in the Denver area usually dress casually. Denim jeans, shorts, cotton shirts, pants, dresses and skirts are

acceptable attire for women. Men wear denim jeans or shorts with either T-shirts or long/short sleeved shirts.

Packing

You do not need to bring a lot of clothes with you from your home country. The Denver area has many stores from which you can shop when you arrive. Since you will probably be doing your own laundry here, it is best to have clothes that don't need a lot of special washing and ironing. "Wash and wear" clothes are just fine. Cotton or cotton blend clothes are very practical during warm weather and are usually easy to care for.

Because it does snow and can get cold in Denver, you will need a winter coat, gloves and a hat. Warm clothes such as sweaters, socks and boots are also helpful to have with you.

Other things to bring:

- ◆ Sandals, hiking shoes, athletics shoes, dress shoes
- ◆ A traditional national costume or dress from your home country. (This will be fun to wear to festivals or special occasions if you are invited to speak about your culture).
- ◆ Cosmetics, shaving and hygienic items
- ◆ Family photos, small photo albums, or sentimental items. These items will help you get over "homesickness" and will be fun to share with your new friends here.
- ◆ Small gifts from your country for host families or friends to whom you want to express appreciation.
- ◆ A bilingual dictionary if your native language is not English.
- ◆ Prescription medicine; **always** carry the doctor's prescription with you when you enter the U.S.

Items you can purchase when you arrive:

- ◆ Bed sheets (linens) and towels
- ◆ Blankets and pillows
- ◆ Alarm clock
- ◆ Hair dryer or curling iron
- ◆ Laundry and housekeeping supplies
- ◆ Study lamp
- ◆ Clothes
- ◆ Cooking and eating supplies
- ◆ Personal hygiene items

Weather



The summer months of June, July and August can get hot. Daytime temperatures average a high of 88°F. Nights are cooler. Please remember that Americans use the Fahrenheit temperature scale. If you're not familiar with this scale, it's helpful to remember a few simple equivalencies:

Scale	Celsius (Centigrade)	Fahrenheit
water freezes	0°	32°
room temperature	22°	72°
body temperature	37°	98.6°
water boils	100°	212°

September, October and November can be quite beautiful in Colorado. The daytime temperatures can still be quite warm, but can become very cool at night. It is not unusual for it to snow in Denver during this time.



The winter months, December, January and February can become quite cold at times. The average high in January is 43°F with a low of 16°F.

The Spring months of March, April and May can still be cool weather and we sometimes get snow in March.

Your Health Before Arriving

Before you leave your home country you should have a complete physical and dental examination. You should let your doctor know you will be studying in the United States and possibly will be here for several years. Ask your doctor what medical care or monitoring you might need while you are away from home for that long. Find out how you can get medication that you might need. Your home doctor might be able to help by referring you to a source for prescription drugs in the U.S. Get copies of your medical records translated into English if your doctor recommends it. Have your teeth checked thoroughly by your family dentist. Get all of your dental work taken care of before you come to Colorado. There are excellent dental care facilities in Denver, but dental work can be very expensive and it is not covered by most health insurance plans. If you need dental care or orthodontic care while you are in Denver, talk to the International Student Advisor to help locate a suitable facility.

Your Health After Arriving

Colorado is in an arid climate and makes for a healthy place to live, but it is wise to remember a few important things. Because the air here is dry, newcomers don't always realize that they are losing water from their bodies. It is very important to drink plenty of water every day to replace the water you are losing.

You may also find it necessary to use a moisturizing cream on your face and hands if they get too dried out. To guard against sunburn make sure you use a sunscreen product if you will be participating in outdoor activities. Don't stay out in the sun for too long if you can avoid it.

Medical Insurance

Arapahoe Community College has a mandatory health insurance policy for international students. This means that you are required to have health insurance coverage while you are enrolled here as a student. All international students must purchase insurance. Students need to bring in proof of insurance purchased in their country.



Arriving at the Airport

Denver International Airport in Denver is the closest airport to Arapahoe Community College. On arrival, collect your baggage and then proceed to a shuttle or taxi.

You can also drive to Denver. Major highways connect the city to all parts of the United States.

Living Arrangements

ACC is a commuter college; therefore, we do not offer or provide student housing, either on or off campus.

Apartment Locators:

<http://www.apartmentguide.com>

<http://www.forrent.com>

A home stay program is available for international students through Spring International School. Spring School is in the English Language Institute located across the street from ACC. Spring School can be reached at 303-797-0100 or information can be found on their website: <http://www.spring.edu>.

Location of Arapahoe Community College

If you are staying at a hotel, the best way to get to ACC is by taxi. You can call a taxi from your hotel. Ask someone at the front desk to help you.

Arapahoe Community College's address is 5900 South Santa Fe Drive, Littleton, Colorado, 80160. The telephone number for the International Student Advisor is 303-797-5904. The Advising Center is located on the 2nd floor of the Main Campus Building. This is a four-story building that is visible as you enter the campus from Santa Fe Drive.

We are excited to welcome you to ACC. If you have any questions, please feel to contact us.

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