



WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY



WELCOMES YOU TO WEST VIRGINIA



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WELCOME PACKET

Dear International Student:

Welcome to West Virginia State University (WVSU)! We are very proud that you have chosen to join us and our international student body from around the world.

The purpose of this Welcome Packet is to provide relevant and helpful information to assist you as you prepare to join us in the United States.

Studying in a foreign country is a challenging and memorable experience. However, we are aware that adjusting to a new environment is not always easy, nor is it the same for each person. To minimize the difficulties you might have, we are here to provide you with all the assistance and support possible to help you during this transition period.

Safe travels and we are glad to have you!

Office of International Affairs
304 Ferrell Hall
Institute, WV 25112

Phone: (304) 204-4094

Email: international@wvstateu.edu

Website: <https://www.wvstateu.edu/international.aspx>

Facebook: wvstateu

YouTube: [youtube.com/WVSU1891](https://www.youtube.com/WVSU1891)

Twitter: @wvsuOIA | @WVStateU

Instagram: Wvstateuoia



INSTITUTE, WV

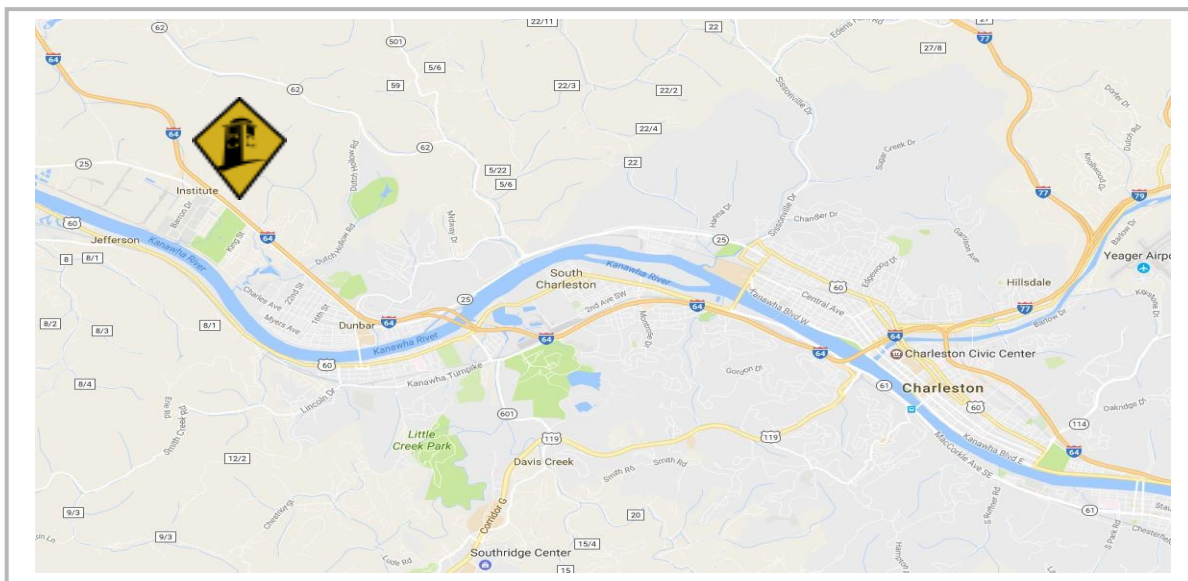
ABOUT OUR LOCATION AND THE REGION



Welcome to West Virginia State University!

West Virginia is located in the eastern United States, in the heart of the unique Appalachian region. Originally known for its logging and coal industries, West Virginia is quickly becoming a leader in 21st-century industries including manufacturing, energy, technology and more. The state features more than 45 state and national parks, a rich cultural heritage (particularly in music) and a wide array of possibilities for work, life and play.

WVSU is in close proximity to Charleston, the government and culture capital of the state. With a metro population of around 224,000, you'll find a city big enough to offer the opportunities you want, but small enough to feel like home.



OBTAIN YOUR VISA

PAY YOUR SEVIS FEE AND

MAKE YOUR VISA APPOINTMENT

STUDENT VISAS



Sign Your I-20 and Pay Your SEVIS I-901 Fee

As soon as you receive this packet along with your I-20, you should pay your SEVIS fee.

Unless otherwise exempt, you must pay a SEVIS I-901 fee to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. To pay the I-901 fee, go here: <https://www.fmjfee.com/i90fee/>. Be sure to keep your receipt because you will need to show proof of payment when applying for the visa.

Continuing students transferring from another U.S. institution and dependents applying for an F-2 visa usually do not need to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee.

Currently, citizens of **Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria or Gambia** are not allowed to pay the SEVIS fee online. If you are a citizen of one of the above countries, you must pay either by mail or at a Western Union office (if accessible). **WVSU F-1 School Code:** PHI214F10263000

Apply for Your Student Visa (Form I-20 for F-1)

As soon as you make your SEVIS fee payment, you should make your visa appointment.

Contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate for instructions on how to obtain your student visa. Apply for your visa early to prove time for visa processing.

Visit the following website for complete information on applying for your visa from the U.S. Department of State: F-1 Students: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html>

F-1 students in the U.S. who are transferring to WVSU.

If you are transferring directly from another U.S. institution, please request to have your I-20 record released to WVSU. We will then create a WVSU I-20 for you to pick up upon your arrival at WVSU.

If you plan to travel outside the U.S. before your first term at WVSU, please contact us to make arrangements to get your WVSU I-20 prior to departing the U.S. you will need the WVSU I-20 to re-enter the U.S.

If you are unable to obtain a visa before the start of the term, please contact WVSU immediately at international@wvstateu.edu or (304) 766-3084.

Canadian Students are not required to obtain a student visa. You will need proof of payment of the SEVIS fee. Submit your I-20 to the U.S. Border Patrol when you enter the United States or to the inspector at a U. S. port of entry at a Canadian airport. You may be required to show evidence of sufficient funds and additional identification and/or verification of admission. Please make sure that all of your documents are readily available to you.

Your passport should not expire for at least six months while in the U.S. Before visiting the U.S. Consulate for your visa interview, please read carefully the **Instructions to Students** on page 3 of your I-20.

TRAVEL CHECKLIST

DON'T FORGET THESE THINGS

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME



Please complete everything on this checklist before you leave home.

- Confirm your passport is valid for at least six months after the date you arrive in the U.S.
- Apply for and receive your F-1 student visa.
- If you receive your measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine before coming to the U.S., bring confirmation of the vaccination (in English) from your doctor with you to orientation.
- Make sure to have your room and board already planned before your departure if you do not plan to stay on campus. (NOTE: It is mandatory for freshman and sophomore students to stay on campus.)
- Contact international@wvstateu.edu to share your airport arrival time and schedule transportation from the airport to WVSU. (See section below for details.)

WHAT TO CARRY ON THE PLANE

- Valid passport and F-1 visa
- Original I-20 (F-1 visa)
- Paper receipt of your SEVIS Fee payment-Form I-901
- All papers from the WVSU Office of International Affairs
- Evidence of funding for your tuition fees and living costs, including sponsor letter if appropriate
- Enough money for your first few weeks
- Health forms and immunization documentation
- Official transcripts or test scores needed to present during orientation
- Insurance documents, if applicable
- Any valuable items
- A copy of all prescriptions for medicines, eyeglasses and contact lenses, written in English

IMMUNIZATIONS

WVSU requires all students to have measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination. You must bring proof of receiving this vaccination or start the vaccination series during your first week of class. **Proof of MMR must:**

- Include your name and birth date
- Show proof of two vaccinations for MMR-Measles, Mumps, Rubella
- Be at least 28 calendar days between the two vaccinations
- Include day, month and year of vaccinations
- Be signed by a doctor, nurse or school official and dated after the last MMR
- Be translated into English

Immunization Recommendations

Review your records with your doctor before departing to ensure they are up-to-date. The following are vaccinations recommended by the American College Health Association:

Tetanus and diphtheria	Hepatitis B	Meningococcal
Varicella (chicken pox)	Tuberculin skin test (TB screening) *	

**The screening for tuberculosis is recommended for all students from regions where TB is common (areas of Africa, Asia, Central and South America). Individuals with a positive skin test will be referred for medical evaluation. If you had a BCG vaccination during childhood, please bring those records. BCG vaccine can result in a false positive.*

HEALTH INSURANCE

WVSU requires all international students to have health insurance. The WVSU Student Health Insurance Plan is automatically added to your invoice.

If you have health insurance from your home country and would like to remove the WVSU Student Health Insurance Plan, you must verify that your insurance company provides equal or greater coverage than required by the state of West Virginia.

If you have your own health insurance and it is approved at least four weeks prior to your program start date, the charge for the WVSU Student Health Insurance Plan will be removed from your account. You must alert the Office of International Affairs of your health insurance plan within the first two weeks after you arrive.

Most travel insurance policies purchased in your home country will not meet the university's insurance requirements.

Sponsored Students If your sponsor's health insurance coverage meets the waiver requirements, you will not be charged. Please confirm this prior to arrival.

PRESCRIPTIONS Bring a copy, in English, of ALL prescriptions for medicines, eyeglasses and contact lenses with you to the U.S.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Health care services are provided on campus at the Thomas Care Clinic inside the WVSU Student Union for illnesses affecting students such as cold, flu, upset stomach, etc. WVSU will cover the co-pay for the visit.

There are some costs students will be individually responsible for, should the need arise, including:

Cost of any medication	Cost of any dental services
Cost of referred specialist	Cost of hospital services
Cost of emergency transportation (ambulance)	Cost of optical services (glasses, etc.)
Cost of X-rays or laboratory work done outside the Care Clinic	



GETTING HERE

ARRIVING IN WEST VIRGINIA

ARRIVING IN THE U.S.



Let us know you are coming!

Please provide your flight arrival details (flight number, airline name, arrival date and time) 14 days before arrival to international@wvstateu.edu.

When booking flights, remember that you should arrive in Charleston, West Virginia (**CRW**) at least one day before the start of classes listed on your I-20.

Entering the U.S.

As an F-1 student, you are allowed to enter the U.S. no earlier than 30 days before the program start date listed on item #5 of your I-20. If you arrive after the start date listed on your I-20, you may be denied entry to the U.S. Be sure to have the following documents with you on the plane and ready to present at the U.S. port of entry:

- Original I-20
- Valid passport
- F-1 visa
- SEVIS I-901 fee payment receipt
- Documentation of finances for your first year of studies

Form I-94

Customs and Border Protection has automated the I-94 process for travelers applying for admission at U.S. ports of entry. Air and sea travelers no longer need to complete paper form I-94. If the I-94 number is needed, you may obtain and print a paper I-94 at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>

U.S. Customs Declaration Form

You also will receive the U.S. Customs Declaration form to complete during your flight. You must complete this form and present it to the immigration official when you enter the U.S.

ARRIVING IN CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

Yeager Airport (CRW)



The airport is located approximately 20 minutes, by car, from campus. Be sure you are arriving in Charleston, West Virginia, **NOT** Charleston, South Carolina. **Be sure the airport code is CRW.**

If you live off-campus and need transportation, consider Uber, Lyft or taxi service to get you to your destination. Details on these services are listed in our “Transportation Information” section.

WVSU Airport Transportation Service

If you are registered for on-campus housing and need airport transportation, you must email your arrival details 14 days prior to arrival to: international@wvstateu.edu. This service is not available to early arrivals or students living off-campus. If you have arranged airport pickup with WVSU, please wait by the baggage claim area and a WVSU staff member will meet you at the designated time.

If your flight is delayed, you cannot find the WVSU staff member for pickup, your baggage is lost or you experience any other problems during your travel to West Virginia, call the WVSU Office of International Affairs immediately at (304) 204-4094 (during business hours). If it is after hours, we will supply a contact number of the Logistics Coordinator.

Residence Hall Move-In Dates

On-campus housing accommodations in the residence halls will not be available until the weekend before your program start date. The specific move-in date for your program will be sent to you with confirmation of your housing reservation. If you arrive before your on-campus housing is ready, you will need to stay in a local hotel. Students must fill out the housing application as early as possible before arriving to secure a room on-campus.

Cash and Credit/Debit Cards

Carry smaller bills when you arrive for food, phone calls and other inexpensive purchases. The most accepted credit cards in the U.S. are Visa and MasterCard. It is best to apply for a credit card in your home country, as it is not easy for international students to obtain credit cards in the U.S. If you would like to take cash from your credit or debit account, you can use a Plus, Cirrus, Interlink or Star Network bank card to make a cash withdrawal from machines on campus and in Charleston.

Transferring Money

Some countries have strict rules about transferring money to the U.S.

- Make arrangements with your government and learn your bank’s procedures for transferring funds abroad.
- Transfer enough money to cover expenses for one term in addition to tuition paid. The amount of money you will need each term varies with your living situation and lifestyle.
- You should have access to at least \$500 or more to cover cellphone deposit/plan and other living expenses.

Cellphones

Many students may need to change their cellphone plans once they arrive in the U.S. While some companies require a two-year contract to get service, there are also monthly plans available with some carriers. Don't worry, we will help you with this once you arrive.

Orientation

You will be notified of the time and location of orientation. Please check your email regularly. At orientation, you will:

- Take English and math placement tests
- Confirm all required health/admissions documents
- Pay any balances owed
- Learn about student visa regulations

Be sure to bring the following with you to orientation:

- Passport, visa and I-20
- Transcripts or test scores
- Proof of MMR immunization-Measles, Mumps, Rubella

All new students will take English and math evaluations to determine their appropriate course level. You will be able to register for your classes only after you have taken the placement test, all admissions documents have been verified, full payment of tuition has been made and you have fulfilled the immunization requirement. The placement test can be waived if you have taken the SAT/ACT. Please bring your test scores if you have them.

Late Registration Fee

Students who arrive late or do not complete the registration requirements on time may be subject to a late registration fee of \$250. This fee will be charged to your student account, and you will not be able to register for your classes until all balances have been paid. **Students may not arrive later than three days into the semester.**

Textbooks

We will provide you with information about your textbooks after you arrive. The cost of textbooks may be \$500-\$2,000 per year. Books can be purchased on campus at the university bookstore.

The cost of textbooks is not included in tuition.



LIVING HERE

ON-CAMPUS AND OFF-CAMPUS

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Undergraduate and English as a Second Language students are required to live on campus for their first two years at WVSU.

Students may choose a single room in either a traditional residence hall or suite style. Once housing assignments are made, we will email your housing confirmation and assigned building. Room numbers will not be available until you arrive. You must fill out the housing application as soon as possible before arriving.

- Graduate students may live in residence halls if space is available.

WVSU requires first- and second-year students enrolled for 12+ credit hours to live in residence halls and participate in a meal plan. This excludes summer sessions and is applicable until students attain junior status (58 credit hours), reach age 21, have graduated from high school two years prior to the academic year or exemption is granted by the Office of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs. Your room will include:

- Bed with extra-long twin mattress (Twin XL)
- Desk and chair
- Closet
- Window covering
- Amenities including TV cable connection, Ethernet port and free wireless internet

If you do not bring bed or bath linens, there are stores near campus where you can buy these and other necessities. You will also need to bring or purchase a pillow.

On-Campus Housing Options

Dawson Hall-Single or Double



Keith Scholars Hall-2, 3 or 4 BR



Appliances

U.S. electrical outlets are 110 volts AC. If you are bringing a small appliance and other electronic items, you may need a voltage adapter.

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

Many housing options are available to graduate students and other students not living in campus housing. WVSU has limited apartments available on campus.

Apartment Finder is a useful tool for finding off-campus housing:

www.apartmentfinder.com/West-Virginia/Charleston-Apartments

HOTELS

If you arrive before the move-in date for your program, you will need to make arrangements with campus housing for a temporary assignment at a daily rate or stay in a local hotel.

DINING ON CAMPUS

The meal plan allows students to enter WVSU dining halls during mealtimes. This plan gives students access to a dining facility every day at WVSU, including most break periods. (Students have a certain number of meals per meal plan.)



On-campus dining options:

- Goldston Dining Room (Located at James C. Wilson University Union)
- Mondo Subs (Located at James C. Wilson University Union)
- BRB - Be Right Burger (Located at James C. Wilson University Union)
- Starbucks (Located at James C. Wilson University Union)
- William F. Pickard Café (Located in Judge Damon J. Keith Scholars Hall)

DINING OFF CAMPUS

There are a variety of dining options available on campus as well as in Charleston and surrounding areas. In addition, there are grocery stores nearby where vegan, vegetarian and Halal options are available.

Groceries

- International Groceries & Spices, 5304 MacCorkle Ave. SE, Charleston, Tel: (304) 926-6101
- Kroger, 5450 Big Tyler Road, Charleston, WV 25313, Tel: (304) 776-5063
- Kroger, 981 Dunbar Village Plaza, Dunbar, WV 25064, Tel: (304) 768-6481
- ALDI, 434 12th St. Dunbar, WV 25064, Tel: (855) 955-2534
- Capitol Market, 800 Smith St., Charleston, WV 25301
- Asian Market, 226 Seventh Ave. South Charleston, WV 25303

Restaurants

- Little India Restaurant, 1604 Washington St. East Charleston, WV 25311, Tel: (304) 720-3616
- Sitar of India, 702 Lee St. East, Charleston, WV 25301, Tel: (304) 346-3745
- Sushi Garden, 800 Smith St., Charleston, WV 25301, Tel: (304) 344-1905
- Pho Vinh Long, 601 D St., Charleston, WV 25303, Tel: (304) 720-7333
- Asian Grill Restaurant, 1110 Fledderjohn Road, Charleston, WV 25314, Tel: (304) 720-8880
- Fujiyama, 5780 MacCorkle Ave. SE, Charleston, WV 25304, Tel: (304) 343-7788

GETTING AROUND

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION



Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority

www.rideonkrt.com

The area's bus transportation system drop-off and pick-up location for campus is outside of Ferrell Hall, along Barron Drive. Please open the link below for detailed bus schedule information:

<https://rideonkrt.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/KVRTA-Rt-3i-Web3c.pdf>

C&H Taxi, (304) 344-4902 www.chtaxi.com

Greyhound Long-Distance Bus Service www.greyhound.com/en

Charleston, WV Bus Station

300 Reynolds St., Charleston, WV 25301, Tel: (304) 357-0056

Uber

The mobile application Uber allows you to request a driver to any location by using your smartphone or tablet. If GPS or location services on your device are turned on, all you need to do is click "set pick up location" and Uber will show you what drivers are close to you and quote a price for pickup. You can also set your location manually by typing in an address. Uber prices are much cheaper than traditional taxi services. Payment is set up by putting your credit or debit card number into the application. Your card is charged automatically after your ride is completed. Uber drivers are often less than 10 minutes away, so there should not be a long wait.

Lyft

The mobile application Lyft also allows you to request a driver to any location by using your smartphone or tablet. It works the same way as the application Uber (see above). Drivers for Lyft are often also drivers for Uber.



CAMPUS SAFETY

IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND INFORMATION

WVSU is generally very safe, and West Virginia has one of the lowest crime rates in the U.S. However, this does not mean crime never happens. The university's Public Safety Division is comprised of law enforcement officers who serve the campus community. Keep in mind that your safety begins with you.

Please do not engage in any activity that puts you in danger. Here are some tips on how to stay safe:

- Review our Emergency Procedure Guide.
- Do not walk alone late at night. At night, use well-lit and well-traveled routes. Avoid dark, vacant areas.
- Always lock your doors and windows.
- Trust your instincts. If you do not feel comfortable in a situation, leave.
- Use the WVSU Help Phones, identified by a blue light, located on campus.
- Use the buddy system or the WVSU Public Safety officers if an escort is needed.
 - All Emergencies: 911
 - University Public Safety: **(304) 766-3353, (304) 766-3181** (after business hours)
 - <https://www.wvstateu.edu/about/administration/public-safety.aspx>



LIVING HERE

DOCUMENTS AND PERSONAL NEEDS

HOW TO GET A DRIVER'S LICENSE

In order to obtain a driver's license in West Virginia, the first step is to apply for a learner's permit. Please follow the steps below:

- Acquire a West Virginia driver's manual from a local Division of Motor Vehicles center, and study the guide.
- Take the following documents with you to the Kanawha City Department of Motor Vehicles at 5707 MacCorkle Ave., South East, Suite 400, Charleston, WV 25317:
 - U.S. Social Security card or a letter from the Social Security Administration (SSA) denying the issuance of a Social Security card. (Please see section on following page for information on how to obtain a Social Security card.)
 - Two (2) proofs of WV residency
 - A valid passport
 - A form I-94
 - A visa issued by the U.S., if the applicant is from a nation whose citizens are required by the U.S. to obtain a visa
 - All original documents to verify status and length of authorized stay
 - A form I-20 and written verification of attendance at the school listed on form I-20 if the applicant's status is F-1 or F-2
 - Written verification from an employer, if the applicant's status is H1-A, H1-B, H-3 or H-4
 - A form DS 2019 and written verification of attendance at the school listed on form DS 2019 if the applicant's status is J-1 or J-2
 - Check or money order of \$5
- Take your eye screening and knowledge test at the Kanawha City Regional DMV Office of Charleston. Once you pass these, you will be issued your Instruction Permit.
- Schedule a road test either online or by calling (304) 558-3900.

For more information, visit www.transportation.wv.gov/DMV

The WVSU campus is located an equal distance between two DMV offices:

Kanawha City Regional DMV Office of Charleston
5707 MacCorkle Ave. SE
Charleston, WV 25317
(304) 558-3900 | (800) 642-9066

Teays Valley/Winfield Regional
116 Liberty Square
Hurricane, WV 25526
(304) 558-3900 | (800) 642-9066

HOW TO GET A SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

In order to work, you will need a U.S. Social Security card with your Social Security Number on it. Please note that you must first have a job, as you cannot get a Social Security card without a job.

To apply, you will need to follow these steps:

1. Complete the application for a Social Security card (form SS-5)
2. Visit the Social Security Office:
Charleston Social Security Office
500 Quarrier St., Suite 300
Charleston, WV 25301 Tel: (800) 772-1213
3. Bring your: I-94, Form I-20, Passport, and Complete SSN application along with
 - Letter from your employer. (It must identify you, your employment start date, the number of hours you will be working, supervisor's name and telephone number and Employer Identification Number.)
 - Letter from your designated school official (DSO)

Note: You **MUST** have a job to apply for a Social Security card. However, if you wish to apply for a driver's license in the state, you will need to apply for the Social Security card and get the Social Security card denial letter to take to the DMV. For more information, visit: www.ssa.gov

OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT



You may need to open a checking or savings account with a bank after arriving. Many banks allow you to open accounts with them online or over the phone. But as an international student, it is much easier to go in and meet with them in person. (**NOTE: Huntington Bank is close in proximity and has ATMs on campus.**) Once you have chosen a bank, go to a branch with the following items:

1. Passport, I-94, I-20
4. Secondary identification (e.g., a school ID card or driver's license)
5. Your full name, U.S. address (on a utility bill or apartment lease or contract), U.S. phone number, campus phone number and the university address
6. Money you intend to open the account with (amount varies by bank)

Pharmacies

If you need medications, local pharmacies in the Charleston area will have them in stock. Over-the-counter medications, such as aspirin or ibuprofen, are available without a prescription. Others are only available through a doctor's prescription. Visit WVSU's Thomas Care Clinic for additional guidance.

Pharmacies near WVSU

- Walgreens, 101 Goff Mountain Road, Cross Lanes, WV 25313, Tel: (304) 769-0590 (3.11 miles)
- Rite Aid, 1101 Myers Ave., Dunbar, WV 25064, Tel: (304) 768-1284 (2.12 miles)
- CVS, 121 10th St., Dunbar, WV 25064, Tel: (304) 768-0023 (2.3 miles)

THINGS TO DO

RECREATION AND FUN



MOVIE THEATERS

Regal Nitro Stadium 12, 12 JW Drive, Charleston, WV 25313, Tel: (844) 462-7342
www.regmovies.com/theatres/theatre-folder/regal-nitro-stadium-12-8099

Marquee Cinemas-Southridge 12, Southridge Center, 331 Southridge Blvd., Charleston, Tel: (304) 746-9900
www.marqueecinemas.com/location/26192/Southridge-12

Park Place Stadium Cinemas, 600 Washington St. East, Charleston, WV 25301, **Tel:** (304) 345-6541
www.ghtctheatres.com/location/24157/Park-Place-Stadium-Cinemas

ATTRACTIONS

Apartment Earth Gallery, 221 Hale St., Charleston, WV 25311, Tel: (304) 993-8384
www.facebook.com/apartmentearth

The Art Store, 233 Hale St., Charleston, WV 25301, Tel: (304) 345-1038
www.theartstorewv.com The Art Store is dedicated to showing original 20th-century and contemporary American art by locally, regionally, and nationally recognized artists.

The Charleston Ballet, 100 Capitol St., Charleston, WV 25301
www.thecharlestonballet.com Since its debut performance in April 1956 under the skillful direction of founder Andre Van Damme, the Charleston Ballet has presented well over 175 original works as well as many traditional ballet stagings.

Charleston Civic Center, 200 Civic Center Drive, Charleston, WV 25301, Tel: (304) 345-1500
www.charlestonwvciviccenter.com The Charleston Civic Center hosts concerts, fairs, sporting events, conferences and much more.

The Charleston Light Opera Guild, 411 Tennessee Ave., Charleston, WV 25326, Tel: (304) 343-2287
www.charlestonlightoperaguild.org The Charleston Light Opera Guild was founded in 1949 by a group of vocal teachers and talented amateur performers who sought an outlet for musical talent in the Kanawha Valley

Clay Center for the Arts & Sciences, One Clay Square, 300 Leon Sullivan Way, Charleston, WV 25301
Tel: (304) 561-3570 www.theclaycenter.org The stimulating Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences is a multimillion-dollar facility with performance and gallery spaces.

Cultural Center and State Museum, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25305, Tel: (304) 558-0220
www.wvculture.org Located on the State Capitol grounds, the Cultural Center includes the interactive West Virginia State Museum, archives, two libraries and the state theater.

Gallery 11, 1025 Quarrier St., Charleston, WV 25301, Tel: (304) 342-0083
www.galleryeleven.com Gallery 11 offers a diverse group of award-winning artists' work from West Virginia.

J.Q. Dickinson Salt Works, 4797 Midland Dr., Malden, WV 25306, Tel: (304) 925-7918
www.jqdsalt.com A seventh-generation salt-making family harvests an all-natural salt by hand, from an ancient ocean trapped below the Appalachian Mountains of the Kanawha Valley.

Kanawha Players, 311 D St., Charleston, WV 25303, Tel: (304) 343-7529
www.kanawhaplayers.org Kanawha Players is the second-longest continuously operating amateur theater company in the country.

West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, One Clay Square, Charleston, WV 25301, Tel: (304) 561-3500
www.wvsymphony.org The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra is West Virginia's premier performing arts organization, presenting more than 50 concerts annually to audiences throughout the Mountain State.

SPORTS AND OUTDOORS

WVSU Athletics

Facebook: WVSU Yellow Jackets

Twitter: @WVSU_GoJackets

Website: www.wvsuyellowjackets.com

Women's Sports: Basketball, Softball, Cross Country, Volleyball and Tennis

Men's Sports: Baseball, Basketball, Football, Golf and Tennis

ACE Adventure Resort, 1 Concho Road, Minden, WV 25879, Tel: (800) 787-3982
www.aceraft.com This adventure resort offers activities from whitewater rafting to rock climbing.

Appalachian Boarding Company, PO Box 744, Scott Depot, WV 25560, Tel: (304) 693-2955
www.appalachianboardingcompany.com From the mile-high mountain lakes of the Pacific Northwest to the crystal clear waters of the Caribbean Sea, Appalachian Boarding Company has paddled them all and everywhere in between. We've found there's nothing more wild and wonderful than the waterways in West Virginia right here at home in Appalachia.

Appalachian Power Park, 601 Morris St., Charleston, WV 25301, Tel: (304) 344-2287
www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t525 Don't pass up a West Virginia Power baseball game (Class A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates).

Cato Park, 200 Baker Lane, Charleston, WV 25302
www.charlestonwv.gov/government/city-departments/parks-recreation Cato Park is the largest and most-used park in Charleston.

Charleston Family YMCA, 300 Hillcrest Drive East, Charleston, WV 25311, Tel: (304) 340-3527
www.ymcawv.org Full-service fitness and aquatic facility.

Kanawha State Forest, 7500 Kanawha State Forest Drive, Charleston, WV 25314, Tel: (304) 558-3500
www.kanawhastateforest.com Located just seven miles south of Charleston, Kanawha State Forest is in close proximity to the heavily populated Kanawha Valley and is a recreational haven.

South Charleston Memorial Ice Arena, 20 RHL Blvd., South Charleston, WV 25309, Tel: (304) 744-4423
www.memorialicearena.cityofsouthcharleston.com

A Note about Cultural Items

There are many opportunities for international students to share their culture on campus during festivals and special events. Please consider bringing your national dress or other clothes associated with a hobby or sport

you enjoy in your country such as sports attire, dance costumes, etc. You also may wish to bring items such as photos, books, souvenirs, recorded music and musical instruments.

FAITH & CULTURE

RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

- India Center: www.indiacenterwv.com
- Muslim Association of Huntington (41 miles away): www.mahuntington.org
- Blessed Sacrament Church: www.blessedsacramentwv.org
- St. Anthony Catholic Church: www.stanthonywv.com
- Temple Israel: www.charlestonwv.com/listing/temple-israel-.aspx
- Congregation B'nai Jacob: www.bnaijacob.com

TYPICAL WEATHER WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Charleston, West Virginia, has a temperate climate, which means that the city experiences four distinct season changes. Please take the below into consideration when packing:

- Temperatures range from 5° Celsius (41° Fahrenheit) in January, 20° C (68 F) in April, 30° C (86° F) in July and 20° C (68° F) in October.
- On average, the hottest months of the year are July and August. Although the temperatures during the summer months don't seem extremely hot, the humidity seems to add a few degrees to the heat.
- The coldest months of the year on average are January and February. Snow or rain can be expected during the winters in Charleston, but rain is more common.

You will need clothing for both warm and cold seasons. Prepare to layer clothing. Also take or prepare to buy umbrellas and/or raincoats in case of rain.

