A Message from the Office of International Programs

On behalf of all of us at the Office of International Programs, welcome to The University of Mississippi! We are delighted and honored that you have chosen The University of Mississippi for your academic pursuits, whether at the undergraduate or graduate level, English training or short-term studies.

The University of Mississippi is a vibrant academic community with a tradition of student-centered leadership. Our students, scholars, faculty, researchers and staff of which you are now a part, represent more than 80 countries and even more cultures. We value and embrace "difference"; we are eager to learn from you and with you, and hope you may do the same by engaging actively in campus life - in your academic programs and your research, in service to the community at large, and in the myriad of cultural, social and spiritual opportunities that abound here every day.

All of us at the Office of International Programs understand that the process of adjusting to life in the USA and to your new home with us here in Oxford, MS will undoubtedly encompass a whirlwind of activity and emotion. Go easy on yourself as you settle in, ask questions when you don't understand, and reach out to others in the process. Do know also that we are here to assist you - we'll help you as we can, or point you in the direction as to where the answers may lie. We also hope that our International Student Orientation Handbook may help address some of the questions you may have this time, be they practical, cultural or conceptual in nature.

You are an "Ole Miss" student now and very much a part of the Ole Miss family, now and always. As a student and as a future alumnus/alumna, you are critical to the University's continued success. We are where we are today because of the loyalty and support, the generosity and continued engagement of our alumni. Our international alumni have opened doors for us as part of our mission to develop international collaborations with institutions, have recommended studying at the University to their families and friends, and have put the University on the map in account of their academic and professional recognition and successes. We look to you to help us gain even wider recognition around the world.

Again, a heartfelt welcome to The University of Mississippi. We are here to help and support you, and look forward to knowing you!

The Office of International Programs
331 Martindale

Greet Provoost
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Director
Assistant Director
Regina George
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Kay Tyler
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Kim Russell

A Brief History of The University of Mississippi

When it chartered The University of Mississippi on February 24, 1844, the Mississippi Legislature laid the foundation for public higher education in the state. The University opened its doors to 80 students four years later, and for 23 years it was Mississippi's only public institution of higher learning. For 110 years, it was the state's only comprehensive university. The University of Mississippi is alive with a history of achievement that chronicles the development of the state and its people.

Mississippi's flagship university established the fourth state-supported law school in the nation (1854) and was one of the first in the nation to offer engineering education (1854). It was also one of the first in the South to admit women (1882) and the first to hire a female faculty member (1885).

Ole Miss also established the first College of Liberal Arts, School of Law, School of Engineering, School of Education, accredited School of Business Administration, Graduate School, School of Nursing, and accredited bachelor's and master's accountancy programs in the state. It has the only School of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, School of Dentistry and School of Health Related Professions in Mississippi.

More than 100 programs of study offer superior academic experiences that provide each graduate with the background necessary for a lifetime of scholastic, social and professional growth. This pursuit of excellence is best seen in the fact that Ole Miss ranks first in the state and seventh among the country's public colleges and universities in the production of Rhodes Scholars, including the state's first African-American honoree.

From its first class of 80 students, Ole Miss has increased its total enrollment to 15,289 on its main Oxford campus; Southaven, DeSoto and Tupelo campuses; and its health sciences campus. The University of Mississippi Medical Center faculty also constructed the world's most comprehensive computer model of the body, and the campus was selected as one of five national sites to test GE's new twin magnet MRT (magnetic resonance therapy).

For example, faculty in Oxford helped develop an acoustic stethoscope for use in high-noise environments, a tornado-warning device, a vaccine for poison ivy, the first and only Teacher Corps program in the state, and one of the nation's premier regional studies programs. The University is a center for Faulkner studies, offering one of the finest collections of the Nobel Prize winner's works and maintaining his Rowan Oak home as a literary shrine.

University of Mississippi Medical Center surgeons performed the world's first lung (1953) and heart (1964) transplants in man, and its physiologists defined the role of the kidneys in controlling blood pressure. Medical Center faculty also constructed the world's most comprehensive computer model of the body, and the campus was selected as one of five national sites to test GE's new twin magnet MRT (magnetic resonance therapy).

Today, faculty, staff and students are pushing forward the frontiers of knowledge, imagination and expertise necessary for a productive life in an increasingly complex society and competitive world. They play a significant role in the country's research efforts through federally funded facilities on the Oxford campus, including the Jamie Whitten National Center for Physical Acoustics, the National Center for Natural Products Research, the National Food Service Management Institute, the Marine Minerals Technology Center, the Center for Water and Wetlands Resources, and the Center for Computational Hydroscience and Engineering.
Bragging Rights

Chartered as the first public university in Mississippi.
One of the first public universities to offer engineering education.
One of the South's first universities to admit women, and the first to hire a female faculty member.
First public university in Mississippi to shelter a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious undergraduate honor society.
University of Mississippi Medical Center surgeons performed the world's first lung transplant in man and transplanted the heart of a chimpanzee—a man's closest genetic relative—into the chest of a dying man.
UM produced its 25th Rhodes Scholar in 2009. It has produced five Truman Scholars, seven Goldwater Scholars, a Marshall Scholar and five Fulbright Scholars. For its sustained success in producing Truman scholars, UM was named in 2004 as one of three Truman Foundation Honor Institutions in the nation.
The American Academy of Forensic Scientists ranks the UM degree in forensic chemistry among the top five in the country.
In a national competition, a team of Ole Miss MBA students bested 22 teams from the nation's premier business schools, including those at Carnegie Mellon, Yale, Columbia and University of Pennsylvania (Wharton School).
With a $368 million endowment, Ole Miss ranks favorably among universities nationwide in endowment per student.
The School of Accountancy places 100 percent of its graduates in well-paying jobs. Many of those students have employment offers as early as 18 months before they graduate.
The School of Pharmacy ranks fifth among America’s 92 pharmacy schools for total extramural funding for research.
The National Center for Natural Products Research was selected by the FDA to help develop standards for ensuring the safety and effectiveness of dietary supplements.
The National Center for Physical Acoustics is developing an acoustical system for detecting land mines. The system was used to ensure the safety of workers during the World Trade Center cleanup.
With $6 million from the Freedom Forum, the University created the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics, whose mission is to create better understanding of the media and politicians and the role of the First Amendment in our democracy.
The Pediatric Surgical Center in the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children, the only pediatric surgical facility in the state, boasts seven operating rooms and expanded treatment areas, including a pediatric dental clinic and pulmonary and gastroenterology procedure rooms.
Sports Illustrated ranked tailgating in the Grove, a multi-acre green space in the heart of the Ole Miss campus, as one of America’s premier college events, placing it No. 3 on a list of 100 things to do before graduating.
The Ole Miss Student Media Center (radio, television, newspaper, magazine and yearbook) staff is second in size to only The Clarion-Ledger, the state’s largest newspaper.

Checklist of Things to Do When You Arrive

There is so much to do and see when you arrive for Orientation. Often, things are forgotten and left undone by new students who become overwhelmed with the amount of information given to them at one time. We want to make it easier for you by providing a checklist of things to do while at Orientation. Make it your mission to have all of these items checked off as soon as possible (exchange students, please skip this step and see Vanessa).

1. Register at the Office of International Programs (OIP) - submit copies of immigration documents and information sheet.*
2. Attend Orientation for International Students.*
3. Have Ole Miss ID Card made.
4. Setup Ole Miss Email Account.
5. Setup P.O. Box (required for receiving mail if living on-campus).
6. Purchase Meal Plan (required for freshmen and those living on campus).
7. Submit final transcripts to OIP (required for all undergraduate transfer students).
8. Meet with Academic Advisor to discuss your course schedule and have Advisor hold removed from your account.
9. Visit the Student Health Center to have your Health Center hold removed from your account after submitting immunization records and having TB X-ray taken.
10. Register for classes using the MyOleMiss portal.
12. Pay your Fees.

*The International Hold will be removed after attendance at OIP Orientation, copies of immigration documents, and information sheet by OIP.
Higher Education in the U.S.1

The United States has no central system of higher education. Institutions vary in significant ways. You might be surprised at the amount of freedom you have in selecting your courses and your program of study. Because you want to make the right decisions about your educational goals, this freedom can be stressful. Take an easy or moderate course load during your first semester. You can lose confidence if you take on too much and don't succeed.

In the U.S., students begin "higher education" after completing 12 years of primary and secondary education. Institutions of higher education include two-year colleges (also known as "community" or "junior" colleges), four-year colleges, universities, institutes of technology, vocational and technical schools, and professional schools such as law and medical schools. Higher education is available in public and private institutions, institutions affiliated with religious groups, and profit-making institutions—a wide variety. Size varies, too. Some excellent colleges enroll fewer than a thousand students; many large universities enroll fifty thousand or more students.

Because post-secondary institutions in the U.S. are not regulated or managed by the federal government, their philosophy, policies, and practices vary considerably. In the paragraphs that follow, we focus on the most common degrees.

Undergraduate Education

The undergraduate bachelor's degree typically takes four years to complete. At most institutions the four years are known as the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior years of undergraduate study. Many students complete their first two years at a junior or community college, earning an associate's degree, and then transfer to a four-year college or university to complete two more years for a bachelor's degree.

The curriculum of many undergraduate programs is based on a "liberal arts philosophy," that requires students to take courses from a range of subjects to form a broad educational foundation. During the first two years, students have the opportunity to explore various fields of study such as social sciences, humanities, and natural or physical sciences. At The University of Mississippi, these courses are referred to as "core curriculum" or "general education requirements." By the end of the second year, students at most institutions are asked to choose a specific field of study—known as the "major"—on which to focus for the remainder of the undergraduate program.

Graduate Education

Graduate education can result in a variety of degrees. The most common include the master's in arts (MA), sciences (MS), business administration (MBA), fine arts (MFA), law (LLM), social work (MSW), and specialist in education (EdS). The most common final degrees are doctorates in a variety of fields (Ph.D.), education (Ed.D.), law (J.D.), science (D.Sc.), and religion or divinity (D.D.).

Credits and Grades

Master's degrees are the most frequently awarded graduate degrees, usually obtainable after one or two years of graduate level study. A doctorate usually takes five to seven years to complete. Unlike undergraduates, graduate students begin specialized study on the first day of classes.

Graduate Assistantships

Graduate assistantships are available for graduate students to work in their respective fields while receiving a stipend and/or full tuition waiver. In a graduate assistantship program, students are often expected to work 20 hours a week, usually as a teaching assistant or a research assistant. In return, they generally receive compensation similar to a part-time job as well as payment for tuition and/or related costs.

It is important to note that graduate assistantships do not equate to scholarships or stipends that are awarded without further action on the part of the student. There are certain duties graduate assistants are expected to perform and those duties will depend on the academic department, the student's degree requirements, and the graduate student's advisor(s) and chair, as well as the terms set forth in the graduate assistantship agreement itself.

Credits and Grades

Most colleges and universities use a credit system in which each course is allotted a specific number of "credit hours" representing the number of hours the students in the course spend in class each week. At The University of Mississippi, a normal course load for undergraduate students is 12 to 15 credits, or 4 to 5 courses per semester. This means that you will be in the classroom between 12 and 15 hours each week, or more if you take courses requiring lab or studio work. Graduate students usually take 9 credit hours each semester.

Academic performance in each course is evaluated by the professor using a number or letter grade. At the end of the semester, you will receive a number of credits corresponding to the course you have successfully completed. Your credit hours are multiplied by your grades to determine your grade point average (GPA). GPAs provide a general indication of your overall academic performance and are used by admissions officers and employers interested in your academic history.

The grading system used by most colleges and universities to evaluate students' academic performance is based on a four-point scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good/Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>Passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Passing</td>
<td>Failing</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failing</td>
<td>Failing</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Undergraduates are expected to complete their studies with a C average or better; graduate students are expected to complete their studies with no less than a B average.

Adapted from:


Academic Advising

Academic advising varies greatly among institutions and between the undergraduate and graduate levels. Undergraduates at The University of Mississippi will receive individual advice and guidance from academic advisors and program coordinators.

Academic advisors and program coordinators identify degree requirements and help you balance your course load, so you do not have to take too many demanding classes in one semester. An academic advisor can also tell you which classes have prerequisites and other restrictions. Seek the advice of your academic advisor at any time to discuss important educational issues. If you have difficulties in a particular course, your academic advisor can help you find the assistance you need. Some academic advisors are not aware of immigration regulations relating to your academic course load, so it is recommended that you discuss academic changes with your international student advisor as well.

Orientation

Orientation is a term used by U.S. institutions of higher learning to describe a formal program of introduction to the institution. The purpose of Orientation is to help you become familiar with the institution’s rules and regulations. Most international student offices offer an Orientation specifically for international students, as is the case at The University of Mississippi. The Orientation may be a short session or it may last several days, depending on the size and type of institution you attend. The Orientation you will attend at The University of Mississippi will cover immigration regulations, academics, cultural adjustment, finances and shopping and student activities.

Adapted from:


A Typology of Classes
Lectures are the primary form of undergraduate instruction in U.S. institutions. Lecture courses at The University of Mississippi may enroll between 25 and 125 students. Regardless of whether attendance is or is not recorded, you are expected to attend classes. Material covered in a lecture class may be closely related to the reading assignments or may be completely new material. Doing the reading before attending class is a sure way to improve your comprehension of the lecture.

Some courses are taught in a discussion format. You may be expected to read, review, and write about course material in preparation for the discussion. Discussion is considered an important element of American education. "Class participation" may count for a certain percentage of your grade. If you do not feel confident about giving your opinion in class, be ready to answer basic questions about the material. You can also ask questions to the instructor after class or during his/her office hours.

In so-called independent studies you may study a topic under the direction of a professor but without any classroom instruction. Such arrangements are usually reserved for advanced undergraduates (juniors or seniors). They generally involve a great deal of reading and allow you to focus on a topic of particular interest to you.

Seminar courses usually enroll fewer students. They often cover specialized topics and involve discussions and presentations by the students under the supervision of the professor.

Internships are practical work or training experiences that allow students to apply in a work situation what they have learned in class. The University of Mississippi offers academic credit for internships to international students on F-1 status only if such experience is required as part of your degree program and within the stipulations of the U.S. Department of State.

Assignments
The typical undergraduate course at The University of Mississippi involves three hours of lectures each week, reading assignments, tests, a mid-term examination, and a final examination, as well as one or more research papers or projects. Science courses may also involve an additional lab. Keeping up with the work is important!

International students are sometimes dismayed by the amount of reading assigned for their courses, especially if English is not their native language. It is important, therefore, to be clear about the role of the reading assignments in a course. In some courses, the reading is central; you must read the textual and class materials carefully in order to succeed. In other courses, readings may be supplementary or optional. It is not always possible to thoroughly read everything that is assigned. You will have to prioritize: read the most important material first and carefully; then skim the less important assignments.

If you find yourself falling behind or feeling terribly pressured about your assignments, discuss your problem with the professor or your academic advisor. The Academic Support Center and the Writing Center have tutors and writing assistants available to help you as well. Their assistance is free of charge.

Research papers may seem overwhelming at first. You will be expected to learn how to express yourself clearly or eloquently in written English, use the research tools in the library, and become familiar with American academic writing styles and conventions. Books on writing and research skills are available at the bookstore and the library. Among these include:


In your writing, you will be expected to know when and how to "paraphrase" or summarize another writer's ideas in your own words. If you are not a native English speaker this may seem difficult at first as you may be tempted to quote your sources word for word. Because this practice can lead to a charge of "plagiarism" (see below), it is essential that you acquire the skill of paraphrasing. You will find that if you truly understand the ideas you are dealing with, you will be able to express them clearly. You can ask a Writing Center Tutor to read your papers, point out passages that are unclear, and help you find phrasing that conveys your meaning. You may have to sacrifice the elegance of the original quotation, but your paper will gain coherence from the effort you put into synthesizing all of the material you use.

Plagiarism is the use of another's words or ideas without acknowledgment of their source. Although in some cultures incorporating the words of revered scholars is an important part of the style of academic writing, it is not acceptable in the United States. Instead, it is considered a serious offense. The consequences of proven or even suspected plagiarism can be severe (for example, a failing grade or expulsion from class or the college). Borrowed words and ideas must always be clearly documented. If you expect to experience writing difficulties, you should get help as soon as possible.

An important distinction exists between group work and individual work. In general, papers, homework assignments, and tests should be done individually, and evidence (or suspicion) of collaboration can result in a failing grade for the work or expulsion from the class or institution. Studying with others is a good idea, but before you collaborate with others on homework, papers, or tests, make sure the professor has specifically authorized such collaboration.

Tests
Examinations come with a variety of names at The University of Mississippi: quiz, test, writing exercise, mid-term, final, etc. Examinations may call for specific, short replies or for longer responses in the form of essays. Often examinations are a combination of both forms. So-called objective questions have only one right answer. Types include true-false, "fill in the blanks," multiple choice, and matching. They cover a broad range of material and demand a particular type of study. If the class is large, you may be asked to record your answers on a machine-readable form. In such cases, be sure you understand how you are to mark your answers on the answer sheet. If you don't understand, be sure to ask.

Many exams include one or two questions requiring essays of several pages, or several questions requiring only a paragraph or two. Essay questions generally specify how you are to approach the material. The questions may be long or short. Terms often used in essay questions are analyze, compare and contrast, criticize, define, describe, discuss, evaluate, explain, illustrate, interpret, justify, outline, prove, review, summarize, and trace. You will become familiar with these terms soon enough, but if you have trouble, see your instructor, your academic advisor, or your international student advisor.

Some professors will offer review sessions before an exam. Others will provide students with a "study-guide" or a list of questions of which some may be on the exam. It is in your best interest to attend review sessions and work through the questions on the study-guide in preparation for your exam.
Division of Student Affairs

Student Affairs is a vital component in providing an environment in which University of Mississippi students can succeed. Staffed by dedicated educators who are passionate student advocates, the division provides extraordinary support services and learning opportunities for all students. Student Affairs staff believe in and model respect for all members of the university community. Fulfillment comes in helping students reach their full potential for the betterment of society and the world.

Below you will find a brief overview of the departments that comprise Student Affairs. Please call on any of us if you need assistance.

Dr. Brandi Hepner-LaBanc
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
238 Lyceum
(662) 915 - 5050
bhl@olemiss.edu

University Writing Center
J.D. Williams Library RM310
(662) 915 - 7689
http://cwri.olemiss.edu/writing-centers/
Hours of Operation:
Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.- 8 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

The University Writing Center offers a free support service for student writers in all disciplines and at every level of development or ability. The Center’s main purpose is to offer student writers one-on-one consultations concerning class assignments or any other writing projects. Writing consultants are trained peertutors who are academically successful themselves. Students may make appointments by telephoning ahead of time and then meet with a consultant to discuss writing concerns such as brainstorming the audience, developing ideas/critical thinking, documenting research, making stylistic choices, organizing the assignment, presenting documents, understanding an assignment, and using correct grammar.

Students have the most effective writing consultation experiences when they make appointments early in the writing process and have specific questions on which to focus. Writing consultants do not estimate the grade a student might receive for an assignment but offer constructive criticism and encouragement to all.

The UM Libraries include the J.D. Williams Library and the Science Library. J.D. Williams is the general library for the university community and houses the main collections of books, periodicals, music, videos, DVDs, microforms and government publications. UM Libraries hold 1.4 million volumes and more than 3,000 current periodical and serial subscriptions. The libraries also provide access to more than 150 electronic databases, 37,000 electronic journals and 27,000 electronic books.

The library offers many kinds of services to assist students in getting the materials they need for study and research. Librarians can help students identify where to get started with their research and assist in obtaining materials from other libraries.

IT Helpdesk (100 Weir Hall)
(662) 915 - 5222
www.olemiss.edu/helpdesk/
IT Helpdesk Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

The IT Helpdesk, Helpdesk Store, IT Labs, IT Multimedia and the Faculty Technology Development Center are located in the Galtney Center for Academic Computing. This facility offers wireless access and numerous hard-wired network ports throughout the building and even outside in the patio area.

The IT Helpdesk, centrally located in Weir Hall, is available to assist anyone in the university community with issues related to software, hardware and networking. It provides support for e-mail, web pages and other applications that run on the university’s campus-wide systems.

The IT Labs are the only general-use labs on campus and provide a wide range of computers and software for students to use. The main lab has PCs, Macs, printers, scanners and a copy machine. During the fall and spring semesters, the lab is open 24 hours a day on weekdays. They also offer a conference room that can be reserved for quiet study space or for meetings. The room features one PC, a projector and a screen so students can also use this space to rehearse class presentations.

Dean of Students
422 Student Union
(662) 915 - 7248

The Office of the Dean of Students is the primary contact for students on the Ole Miss campus. This office fulfills a variety of student needs. Personnel in the office serve as advisers to student government and student organizations, including fraternities and sororities. Other duties include providing crisis intervention, multicultural programming, administering student judicial proceedings, providing volunteer opportunities and developing leadership training.

Academic Support Center
350 Martindale

The Academic Support Center’s mission is to offer professional, quality advising and support to the UM community. The center collaborates openly with University departments and offices in an effort to facilitate the educational experience. It places particular emphasis on advising enrolled students who have not declared majors. ASC advisers are knowledgeable about curriculum requirements for all undergraduate degrees and can help students explore possible majors while fulfilling lower-division requirements in order to ensure a timely graduation.
The Academic Support Center's Health Professions Advising function provides one-on-one advising, close tracking of students' programs of study and assistance with students' professional school application portfolios. Health Professions Advising is committed to helping students achieve their professional goals in medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, nursing and allied health fields including cytotechnology, dental hygiene, health-informatics and information management, clinical laboratory science, medical technology, radiologic science and occupational therapy.

University Counseling Center
Corner of All American Drive and Poole Drive
(662) 915-3784

For most students, the college years represent unique challenges. It is a time of significant personal growth and decision making regarding your values, interpersonal relationships, career and other life goals—all within a stressful academic environment. Even the most successful student may experience considerable difficulty with these challenges. Problems often encountered by students include difficulties with academics and interpersonal relationships, family problems, self-identity issues, loneliness, low self-esteem, depression and anxiety. The University Counseling Center offers services designed to complement the university's academic mission by assisting students with their personal and educational development through a variety of psychological services.

Let's Talk
Let’s Talk is a program that provides easy and free access consultations with counselors from the University Counseling Center in an informal, friendly format with a focus on immediate problem-solving. Consultants hold walk-in, no appointment necessary hours from 12 to 2 pm at four sites across campus Monday through Thursday. OIP hosts the Thursday consultation.

Personal Counseling and Therapy
Personal counseling and therapy is aimed at helping persons cope with life stressors and develop more positive ways of using strengths. The goal of counseling is to help clients take more effective control of their lives. Types of personal issues addressed include college adjustment, depression, anxiety, relationship concerns, substance abuse, eating disorders, grief/loss issues and family problems.

Group Counseling and Therapy
Support groups and therapy groups are offered as a means of helping students gain greater self-awareness, interpersonal sensitivity and coping skills in a safe environment. Depending on need and interest, group offerings can target such issues as eating disorders, substance abuse, relationship issues, parenting issues, assertiveness, self-esteem and adjustment to college life.

Crisis Intervention
A counselor is on call 24 hours a day for emergency assistance. Crisis-intervention services are coordinated through the Office of the Dean of Students.

Psychiatric Consultations
Upon the recommendation of the professional staff, appointments can be made with the center's consulting psychiatrist, who is available for psychiatric evaluations, medication consultations and management, and other psychiatric services.

Assessment
The Counseling Center offers testing as it relates to therapy and counseling as well as referrals for other types of psychological assessments.

Consultation
Counseling Center services also are available to faculty, staff and students facing a variety of issues including how to respond to a student or colleague with a psychological problem and how to make a referral.

Career Center
303 Martindale Center
(662) 915-7174

The Career Center's services and programs are designed to facilitate students' transition from academia to the world of work. To accomplish this, the Career Center offers the following services for students from the first year through graduation:

career and life planning classes (EDLD 301) for juniors and seniors
career counseling and assessments
career information center with both technology-based and traditional paper methods of self-exploration and occupational assessment, as well as a broad range of materials listing employment opportunities
internet-based applications designed to assist students with a wide variety of career-related issues opportunities to connect and interview with employers for part-time and summer jobs, internships and full-time positions
workshops, seminars and personal assistance in developing resumes and cover letters, mastering interviewing techniques and conducting a job search

Student Disability Services
234 Martindale (662) 915-7128
http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/sds

The University of Mississippi is committed to ensuring equal access to an education for enrolled or admitted students who have verified disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) provides reasonable classroom accommodations to verified students with physical and nonphysical disorders. University policy calls for accommodations to be provided on an individual and flexible basis. It is the responsibility of students with disabilities to seek available assistance from the university by contacting SDS in a timely manner. A student request for reasonable accommodations/modifications intake form must be completed and current documentation form a licensed healthcare professional submitted before eligibility for accommodations can be confirmed. Students are strongly encouraged to apply for accommodations well in advance of the start of classes. For a copy of the intake form or for additional information, contact the staff at the SDS office.

Equal Opportunity and Regulatory Compliance
217 Martindale
(662) 915-7735

The University of Mississippi is committed to ensuring equal access to an education for enrolled or admitted students who have verified disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) provides reasonable classroom accommodations to verified students with physical and nonphysical disorders. University policy calls for accommodations to be provided on an individual and flexible basis. It is the responsibility of students with disabilities to seek available assistance from the university by contacting SDS in a timely manner. A student request for reasonable accommodations/modifications intake form must be completed and current documentation form a licensed healthcare professional submitted before eligibility for accommodations can be confirmed. Students are strongly encouraged to apply for accommodations well in advance of the start of classes. For a copy of the intake form or for additional information, contact the staff at the SDS office.
entitled to seek relief by submitting a complaint to the executive director of equal opportunity and regulatory compliance. If informal resolution is not possible, the complaint procedure outlined in the university’s current Sexual Harassment Policy will be followed. University policy prohibits retaliation against any complainant or witnesses involved in an investigation. The executive director also coordinates complaints regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Title IX of the Education Amendments.

University Police and Campus Safety
Kinard Hall Wing C
(662) 915-7234

The University Police Department (UPD) is a service-oriented department dedicated to educating and working with the university community and to ensuring a safe, tranquil environment. UPD is a full-service law-enforcement agency operating 24/7/365 and is responsible for campus police and security-related matters. UPD police officers, who have arrest powers and are armed, routinely conduct vehicle, bicycle, motorcycle and foot patrols on campus. UPD officers enforce state laws as well as University policies and regulations. Parking Services is a unit within UPD. Students are required to register their vehicles annually with Parking Services. Students are issued a parking decal based upon their residences. Parking Services provides a color-coded parking guide/map so students know where they can legally park.

Alcohol and Drug Education Program
Erin Murphy Cremeans, MS, CHES
Assistant Director of Student Health for Health Promotion
elmurphy@olemiss.edu, (662) 915-5055

The alcohol and drug education program, including BASICS and JADE, coordinated through the Office of Health Promotion, is dedicated to teaching students and the Ole Miss community about making healthy choices and responsible decisions regarding the use of alcohol and drugs. Our goals are to prevent alcohol and drug problems from occurring, as well as to intervene in the early stages of a potential problem. We provide multiple forms of early intervention and prevention, such as educational programs for residence halls, Greek organizations and the university community as a whole. Additionally, we provide individual assessment and educational programs for students who have violated University policies and/or local laws regarding alcohol and drug use. Finally, we provide assessment and referral for students concerned about their alcohol and/or drug use.

Your Health

Health Insurance
As an international student, you have invested a considerable amount of time, energy and money to come to the United States to study. A major medical problem could be unexpected and costly for you. Therefore, all international students must have health insurance.

The University of Mississippi requires all international students to maintain health insurance coverage as a condition of enrollment and maintenance of status. This is to protect you, the student, when you need medical care in the United States.

In addition, all dependent family members of J-1 Visa holders are required by federal regulation to have health insurance at all times while in the U.S. Failure to maintain the required health insurance will result in release from the University of Mississippi and the requirement that you leave the U.S. immediately.

All international students with F, J, and certain other visa types will be enrolled in a health insurance program at the time of registration each semester. It is important to read the brochure describing what is and is not covered by insurance. Participation is mandatory and may not be waived.

Medical Care Procedures
When you visit a doctor’s office, a member of the doctor’s staff will ask you for a medical history before you are examined. The purpose of this is to obtain background information needed to treat you and to determine if there are any medications which should not be used. When asked to complete the history, be as exact and honest as possible, as these records will be used to determine your treatment. Medical records are private information, and cannot be released without your explicit permission.

Never pretend you are another person when you go to the doctor’s office or use another person’s insurance card. This is an extremely dangerous practice. Using someone else’s insurance and medical information may lead to you being treated based upon someone else’s medical history and medical facts, and it could severely injure or even kill you if the wrong medical care is given. Using another person’s identity for insurance purposes is a felony known as insurance fraud, and may be punishable with jail time, hefty fines, and may also carry serious immigration consequences.

Health Centers
Student Health Services
Hours of Operation:
Monday—Thursday 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
(662) 915-7274

The University provides a student health service for eligible international students. Families of students are not eligible for services at the Student Health Center. The Student Health Service is open and its services are available as long as the University is open. No clinical services are available during weekends and holiday periods.
The Health Center is staffed by medical professionals, including several doctors and nurses. Most services are provided on a walk-in basis. Appointments are made for certain gynecological exams, men's health visits, and minor surgical procedures. Office visits are free for current students. Small charges are made for lab work, X-rays, equipment, supplies, etc. These are posted to your Bursar bill unless paid at the time of service. Always carry your current insurance ID card with you. The Health Center staff are available to assist with filing insurance claims. All visits are considered confidential.

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Local Health Care Facilities

Oxford has two general clinics that you can use if the University Student Health Services is closed. These two clinics provide affordable health care. It is much more cost effective to choose one of the two clinics listed below if your health emergency is not severe or life threatening rather than going to the Emergency Room at Baptist Memorial Hospital.

Acute Care + Family Clinic of Oxford
2200 South Lamar Boulevard, Suite A, Oxford
(662) 234-1977
Walk-Ins welcome. No Appointments Necessary.

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Treatments:
Minor emergencies, annual physical exam, acute & chronic health conditions, women's health conditions, high blood pressure, diabetes

Urgent Care Clinic of Oxford
1487 Belk Boulevard, Oxford
(662) 234-1090
Walk-Ins welcome. No appointments necessary.

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Treatments:
General practice medicine, health screening, laboratory tests, physical examinations, X-rays

Emergency Room - Baptist Memorial Hospital
2301 South Lamar, Oxford
EMERGENCY ROOM: (662) 232-8175
GENERAL EMERGENCY NUMBER (for fire, police, and hospital): 911

Only in case of a MAJOR EMERGENCY such as a severe accident, broken bone, excessive bleeding, difficulty breathing, heart attack or other life-threatening situations, should you go to the Emergency Room at the Baptist Memorial Hospital of North Mississippi in Oxford.

Other Health Insurance Considerations
Medications and Prescriptions

If you are seen by a doctor, you may be given a prescription for medications to help you recover from illness or injury. When you are given this, it needs to be filled by a licensed pharmacist. Be sure you understand the medication's possible side effects, what you should and should not eat and/or drink with the medication, and how often you are to take it. Never exceed the recommended dosage of any medication.

Dental and Vision Care

Dental and Vision care is separate from medical care in this country, and most health insurance does not cover dental or vision procedures. Separate dental and vision insurance must be obtained for dental or vision coverage. Employees of the University can purchase dental insurance through Human Resources. Vision or eye-care insurance can be purchased from a variety of insurance companies found online.

Counseling Services

The University Counseling Center offers students and their families free personal counseling. In the United States, we believe in talking about our problems to others, especially professionals, who can help us, and it is not considered a sign of weakness. If you find that you are having problems you cannot deal with such as stress, relationship problems, or depression, please consider seeing one of the licensed professionals at the Counseling Center. Counseling records are entirely confidential and will in no way affect your stay at the University or in the United States. Such records are released only with your written permission.
Culture Shock

What is culture shock?
Culture shock refers to the anxiety experienced by an individual when changes occur in his/her environment. These changes include the absence of familiar surroundings, family and support systems. It may be experienced by any person who spends an extended period of time in a new or different culture. The new culture’s signs, symbols and social cues can produce frustration and anxiety. This shock of adjustment is normal and perhaps universal.

Common signs and symptoms of culture shock:
- anxiety, sadness depression
- frustration, despair, disorganization
- anger, confusion, loneliness
- lack of energy
- loss of enjoyment in daily activities
- withdrawal from others
- headaches, stomach pains
- loss of appetite, changes in sleep patterns, tearfulness

Ways to cope with culture shock:
- know that your reactions are normal
- speak with your International Scholar and Faculty Advisor
- seek professional help if needed
- participate in adjustment programs like Planet Partners
- seek others from your own cultural background who have adjusted to the experience
- seek other new international students, scholars and faculty for support
- talk to your supervisor and colleagues about expectations and research/teaching goals
- keep a sense of humor

Even the most successful person may experience considerable difficulty in adjusting to a new environment. The University Counseling Center can help with this adjustment and with culture shock. The Counseling Center offers services designed to complement the University’s academic mission by assisting staff and faculty with their personal and professional development through a variety of psychological services.

Services of the University Counseling Center
In addition to counseling and therapy, the University Counseling Center offers several services for students and faculty. For fuller descriptions of those services, please turn to the Student Support and Other Services section of this handbook.

Other Health Concerns

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services
Alcohol and drugs, both legal and illegal, are an aspect of reality in any society and on any university campus. They create many problems for both domestic and international students. If you feel that you have an alcohol drug problem, do not be ashamed, but please see your International Student Advisor in the Office of International Programs if you wish to seek help. Discussions will be kept private and confidential.

Alcohol is legal in Mississippi for persons who are 21 years of age or older—purchase or use of alcoholic beverages, beer, wine, or liquor by anyone younger than 21 is illegal and can result in arrest. It is against the law to have alcoholic beverages on the University campus. Signs of having alcohol problems include drinking to cope with pressures, going to work intoxicated, drinking more and more to achieve the same effect, experiencing loss of memory and showing frequent moodiness without apparent cause if you find yourself or a friend in this situation, GET HELP!

Drug usage, both using illegal drugs and abuse of legal drugs, is another problem. As an international scholar or faculty member, you need to know that if you are ever convicted of possession or use of an illegal drug, no matter how small an amount, you will be deported and forever forbidden to reenter the United States.

Sexual Concerns
University campuses have much more sexual freedom, or at least the image of that, than most students have found in the past. There have been some changes in the moral views of non-marital sex in the United States. The important thing to remember is that you, as an individual and adult, have to make up your own mind to this matter, should not be forced into any situation that you are not entirely comfortable with, and you are responsible for your decision and its consequences.

If you decide to engage in sexual intercourse, to avoid unwanted pregnancy you should obtain birth control. The Student Health Center will provide necessary, confidential information about this. Do not wait until you find your partner is pregnant to get help. As intercourse involves two persons, the responsibility of prevention falls jointly on the male and female. The Student Health Center can help decide what sort of protection is needed, tell you how to use it for maximum effectiveness, and about any possible side effects.

If you or your partner becomes pregnant, get counseling and health care information immediately. If you decide to follow through with the pregnancy, the mother and child will need care and you will need to find out how to care for the new child upon birth. If you wish to pursue other options (i.e., abortion or adoption), you will need information on those alternatives. The International Student Advisor or physician can assist you in obtaining information. This needs to be decided as early as possible—doing so until the pregnancy is advanced.

Personal Hygiene
Another concern is sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs). To avoid an STD, use of a condom or abstinence is strongly advised. More information is available through the Student Health Center. There is a general obsession with personal hygiene in the United States, as may be evident from watching the television advertisements. It is not unusual for Americans to bathe at least once a day, change into clean clothing at least once a day, and wash our hair daily. We tend to find natural body odors very unpleasant, and in addition to frequent bathing, use perfume, cologne, and underarm deodorant on a daily basis.
University of Mississippi Policies

The University of Mississippi Policy Directory is a central location for accessing University-wide policies. University policies are listed by descriptive category for quick easy access.

For more information on University-wide policies please visit:
http://secure4.olemiss.edu/umpolicyopen/index.jsp

MBook
The M Book, The University of Mississippi Handbook of Standards is published by the Office of the Dean of Students for the benefit of all students at The University of Mississippi. Every student enrolled at the University is expected to become familiar with the contents of this book. The M book serves only as a complement to the University Policy Directory and the Undergraduate Catalog/Bulletin. While this book is a compilation of many different policies, students should understand that this publication is not a complete listing of University policies but only a guide to assist students with understanding their rights, responsibilities, obligations, and the operating order of the University. Furthermore, students should understand it is their responsibilities to become familiar with all policies governing this institution.

To access an online copy of the M Book please visit:

The University of Mississippi Alcohol Policy

As is true on most college and university campuses, many of the offenses committed against people and property at Ole Miss are a direct result of alcohol misuse and abuse. Such behavior interferes with the University’s educational mission and shows a lack of respect for one’s self, for others within the University community and for the community at large. Thus, the University of Mississippi prohibits the abusive or unlawful sale, manufacture, possession, distribution and consumption of alcohol.

Students, recognized student organizations, or others found in violation of this policy will be subject to campus disciplinary action, as well as potential civil liability and/or criminal prosecution. Visitors to the University campus who violate this policy may be subject to civil liability and/or criminal prosecution as well as other consequences in the discretion of the University. Such consequences may include limiting one’s access to campus or campus events and losing season ticket privileges, among other things.

This policy applies to the conduct of any student organization in connection with an event sponsored by that student organization, whether on- or off-campus. It is unlawful, and therefore violates this policy, for any person under the age of twenty-one to possess or consume alcohol.

The University of Mississippi prohibits unlawful driving under the influence of alcohol.

The University of Mississippi prohibits inappropriate behavior that is a direct result of alcohol consumption. Any student or other person publicly intoxicated will be found in violation of this policy.

The distribution of alcohol without a permit is unlawful and thus a violation of University policy. Any possession or distribution of alcohol in plain view may be confiscated.

The University prohibits the possession of items that provide for common distribution of alcohol on or off University property and are of a nature that promote abusive consumption of alcohol and thus violate this policy.

For more information on University-wide policies please visit:
http://www.olemiss.edu/alcohol/2strikes.html

Drugs and Drug Paraphernalia

Druguse, including the misuse of prescription drugs, unfortunately is a prevalent problem at college and university campuses, and The University of Mississippi has not been spared. The University unequivocally prohibits the use and possession of drugs on its campus. The specifics of the drug policy are outlined below:

The University of Mississippi prohibits the use, possession, distribution, sale, manufacture and delivery of illicit drugs including the misuse of prescription medications, by members of its community. Illegal drugs, including prescription drugs for which the person does not have a valid prescription, are subject to confiscation.

The University of Mississippi prohibits the possession, sale, and distribution of drug paraphernalia (e.g. pipes, bongs, roach clips, rolling papers, etc.). These items are strictly prohibited and are subject to confiscation. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action and students may also be subject to criminal prosecution and/or civil liability.

The Office of Equal Opportunity and Regulatory Compliance (EO/RC) is responsible for ensuring the University’s compliance with federal regulations regarding fair treatment, off campus, staff and students, to ensure equal employment opportunity and to ensure equal access to quality education for students. EO/RC is responsible for investigating complaints of discrimination and services as a liaison between the University and federal enforcement agencies concerned with equal opportunity and non-discrimination.

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**Effect of Law Enforcement on Immigration Status**

1. **Violation of the Law**

   Any violation of the law can affect a foreign student’s immigration status. Offenses such as petty theft, drunkenness and disturbing the peace ordinarily will not directly affect the student’s status, but these offenses are kept on record and are occasionally reviewed by the U.S. Immigration authorities. Although a single offense usually is excused, if a student has committed several minor violations, he/she may be subject to deportation. For a more serious criminal violation, there is always the possibility of deportation. Violations of the drug laws and moral offenses are considered especially serious.

2. **Dismissal from the University**

   Foreign students who violate the rules of the University and are suspended or dismissed are no longer students. Since being a full-time student was one of the conditions of original entry, loss of student status results in a violation of immigration status as well.

3. **Revocation of Passport**

   Visa holders also must consider the attitude of their home government toward their conduct while in this country. A government can cancel one’s passport making it impossible to continue to stay in the U.S. It is also important to know that once individuals have been deported from the U.S., they need special permission from the U.S. Attorney General before they are permitted to re-enter.

The legal system in the United States seeks a balance between personal freedom and the requirements of an orderly society. They are based on English common law and have grown over a long period of time into a very complex system involving the United States Constitution, federal laws, laws of the 50 states, local ordinances, court decisions, and various regulations. It is impossible to describe the whole of U.S. law, but certain basic principles of special interest to foreign students are discussed briefly below.

The Rule of Law means that Americans are governed by laws, not by individuals. The United States Constitution is the supreme law of the land. All other laws must be consistent with the Constitution.

Due Process and Equal Protection under United States Law

The 5th and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution guarantee “due process of law” to all persons, including foreign students and other non-immigrants in the U.S. Due process of law requires that orderly legal procedures be followed to establish guilt before a person can be put in jail or otherwise punished. In the United States, a person is considered innocent until proven guilty.

The 14th amendment guarantees to every person, non-immigrants included, “equal protection under the law.” Equal protection under the law means that the law applies to everyone equally, regardless of age, sex, race, or wealth, and that no law may discriminate between persons or classes of persons. There are, however, laws that apply only to certain classes of people, such as non-immigrants. As long as there is a reasonable basis for these laws, they satisfy the requirement of fairness and legality. These laws may limit and modify basic rights. Except for these special immigration laws, foreign students are subject to the same laws as American citizens. They are also guaranteed the same protection under the laws and the same civil rights as American citizens.

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**Important USCIS Matters for Students**

This section provides important guidance on maintaining legal immigration status. Please read carefully!

Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is the government agency that oversees lawful immigration to the United States. The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) is governing body of immigration law.

Although the Office of International Programs (OIP) advises on immigration matters and occasionally sends out reminders about maintaining legal immigration status, it is ultimately the visa holder’s responsibility to make sure that she maintains valid legal immigration status.

Immigration Information for Students with F-1 Status

Maintaining legal status while an F-1 student is the responsibility of the international student according to U.S. law. The role of the OIP is to provide guidance and assist students in understanding the regulations. Because the prevailing interpretations and sometimes the rules themselves change, it is important to follow the news in the OIP email newsletter and consult with OIP on matters related to your nonimmigrant status. The majority of the F-1 regulations are found at INA § 101(a)(15)(F), INA § 214(m), IIRIRA § 641, 8 C.F.R. § 214.2(f), 8 C.F.R. § 214.3, and 8 C.F.R. § 214.4.

**Guidelines for Maintaining F-1 Status**

Ensure that your 1-94 card is marked DIS (duration of status). You will be asked to return the 1-94 card when you exit the U.S. A new 1-94 is given for each entry. Keep your passport valid for at least 6 months into the future.

Report your residential and mailing address to OIP within 10 days of a change. OIP is required to enter your address into your SEVIS record. Report change to your legal name (name in passport) to OIP within 10 days of change.

Enroll full time in the program listed on your 1-20.

- Full time for undergraduate students is 12 hours per semester.
- Full time for graduate students is 9 hours.
- The summer session is considered the annual vacation and enrollment is not required unless you have a 1-20 with a summer start date or your academic department requires enrollment to meet progression/graduation requirements.

- No more than 3 credits per semester of on-line/distance education courses may be counted toward the full course of study requirement.

- Consult with OIP before dropping below full time or withdrawing from the university in limited circumstances, less than full time enrollment or a leave of absence can be approved. OIP must evaluate whether it is allowable within the regulations before the student drops below full time.

- Make “normal progress” toward completion of your program. Normal progress is the time it takes the average student to complete the program of study.

- If your major or degree level changes, you must obtain a new 1-20 from OIP.

- Be aware of the expiration date on your 1-20 (listed in #5 of the 1-20). Apply for an extension of your program before the expiration if studies will require additional time.

- Work only as allowable according to the F-1 regulations. See employment section for details.

Obtain a signature from OIP on page 3 of the 1-20 before taking out of country trips.

Talk to OIP about your post program completion plans. F-1 students may stay in the U.S. for 60 days following completion of the program listed on the 1-20. Degree-seeking students may also be eligible to stay longer.

As amended by Wabash College.
SEVIS

The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is the system that the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) uses for electronic reporting and recordkeeping. All who want F-1, F-2, J-1 or J-2 status must have their information entered into SEVIS. The OIP is the only office on campus with the ability to see or enter information into SEVIS. There are certain things that OIP must report in SEVIS including your address and whether or not you are enrolled full time each semester. If a student violates their status, an entry must be made in the SEVIS record and ICE may choose to follow up directly with the student.

Employment Options for All F-1 Students

F-1 students are allowed to work provided that the employment is on campus and not more than 20 hours per week while school is in session. On campus employment means that the work is done as a student employee of the university or as a graduate assistant. The hours worked as a graduate assistant do count toward the 20 hour limit. During the summer, if the student is not enrolled but is expected to continue enrollment in the fall, work may exceed 20 hours per week, but must still be on campus. During school breaks in the semester that last a full week, the 20 hour limit may also be exceeded. Students who work will need to apply for a Social Security card in order to be paid. The International Student Advisor can assist with this process.

F-1 Degree-Seeking Students Who Have Been Enrolled for at least One Academic Year

The regulations provide two additional work options to F-1 students who have been enrolled for at least one academic year and are degree seeking. These are Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT). Both provide CPT and OPT provide the opportunity to work off campus and in some cases for more than 20 hours per week. They each require specific authorization which will be noted on the I-20 and in the SEVIS record of the student. It is important to plan ahead and work with the International Student Advisor to apply for the correct authorization. Workshops are given throughout the semester on these work categories.

F-2 Dependents

The spouse and children (under age 21) of an F-1 are eligible for F-2 status. Each dependent must be issued a separate I-20 and in the SEVIS record of the student. It is important to plan ahead and work with the International Student Advisor to apply for the correct authorization. Workshops are given throughout the semester on these work categories.

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F-1 students are allowed to work provided that the employment is on campus and not more than 20 hours per week while school is in session. On campus employment means that the work is done as a student employee of the university or as a graduate assistant. The hours worked as a graduate assistant do count toward the 20 hour limit. During the summer, if the student is not enrolled but is expected to continue enrollment in the fall, work may exceed 20 hours per week, but must still be on campus. During school breaks in the semester that last a full week, the 20 hour limit may also be exceeded. Students who work will need to apply for a Social Security card in order to be paid. The International Student Advisor can assist with this process.

F-1 Degree-Seeking Students Who Have Been Enrolled for at least One Academic Year

The regulations provide two additional work options to F-1 students who have been enrolled for at least one academic year and are degree seeking. These are Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT). Both provide CPT and OPT provide the opportunity to work off campus and in some cases for more than 20 hours per week. They each require specific authorization which will be noted on the I-20 and in the SEVIS record of the student. It is important to plan ahead and work with the International Student Advisor to apply for the correct authorization. Workshops are given throughout the semester on these work categories.

F-2 Dependents

The spouse and children (under age 21) of an F-1 are eligible for F-2 status. Each dependent must be issued a separate I-20 and in the SEVIS record of the student. It is important to plan ahead and work with the International Student Advisor to apply for the correct authorization. Workshops are given throughout the semester on these work categories.
On campus employment is an option if the student has gotten written permission from the RO or ARO and report in SEVIS including your address. If a student violates their status, an entry must be made in the campus with the ability to see or enter information into SEVIS. There are certain things that OIP must do when F-1,F-2,J-1 or J-2 status must have their information entered into SEVIS. The OIP is the only office on migration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) uses for electronic reporting and record keeping. All who want to work only as allowable according to the J-1 regulations. See employment section for details.

**Guidelines for Maintaining J-1 Status**

Ensure that your 1-94 card is marked DIS (duration of status). You will be asked to return the 1-94 card when you exit the U.S. A new 1-94 is given for each entry. Keep your passport valid for at least 6 months into the future. Report your residential and mailing address to OIP within 10 days of a change. OIP is required to enter your address into your SEVIS record.

Report change to your legal name (name in passport) to OIP within 10 days of change. Enroll full time in the program listed on your DS-2019:
- Full time for undergraduate students is 12 hours per semester.
- Full time for graduate students is 9 hours.
- The summer session is considered the annual vacation and enrollment is not required unless your DS-2019 has a summer start date or your academic department requires enrollment to meet progression/graduation requirements.
- Changes to the subject/field code on the DS-2019 are generally not allowable for J-1 students.

The J student category is divided into different levels (non-degree, student Bachelor’s, student Master’s, student: Doctorate and student intern). It is possible to matriculate from a degree category to a higher degree category, but not possible to go from non-degree to degree nor to change from one degree to a lower degree level.

Consult with OIP before dropping below full time or withdrawing from the university. In limited circumstances, less than full time enrollment or a leave of absence can be approved. OIP must evaluate whether it is allowable within the regulations before the student drops below full time.

Be aware of the expiration date on your DS-2019 (listed in box 3). Apply for an extension of your program before the expiration if studies will require additional time. Non-degree students are limited to 24 months total stay.

Work only as allowable according to the J-1 regulations. See employment section for details.

Obtain a signature in the travel validation box of the DS-2019 before taking out of country trips.

Talk to OIP about your post program completion plans. J-1 students may stay in the U.S. for 30 days following completion of the program listed on the DS-2019. Some students may also be eligible to apply for an additional period of stay for Academic Training which provides the opportunity to gain work experience in the U.S.

**SEVIS**

The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is the system that the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) uses for electronic reporting and record keeping. All who want F-1, F-2, J-1 or J-2 status must have their information entered into SEVIS. The OIP is the only office on campus with the ability to see or enter information into SEVIS. There are certain things that OIP must report in SEVIS including your address. If a student violates their status, an entry must be made in the SEVIS record and ICE may choose to follow up directly with the student.

**Employment Options for J-1 Students**

On campus employment is an option if the student has gotten written permission from the RO or ARO of their program sponsor. The RO/ ARO must issue the authorization before the work begins and can give it for up to 12 months at a time. On campus employment is limited to 20 hours per week while school is in session. During the summer, if the student is not enrolled but is expected to continue enrollment in the fall, work may exceed 20 hours per week, but must still be on campus. During school breaks in the semester that last a full week, the 20-hour limit may also be exceeded. Students who work will need to apply for a Social Security card in order to be paid. The International Student Advisor can assist with this process. Academic Training is an option for some J-1 students. Academic Training allows a student to gain employment experience related to their program of study at an off campus site. Those interested in the specific details of Academic Training must speak with the RO/ARO of their program.

**Two Year Home-Country Physical Presence Requirement [212(e)]**

Some Exchange Visitor Program participants and family members who were admitted to the U.S. or who adjusted their status to J must return home for a minimum of two years after completing their educational or cultural exchange program before they can change or adjust their status. This requirement applies to those whose:

1. Exchange program was financed to some extent by the U.S. Government or the student’s home country government;
2. Skill appears in the Exchange Visitor Skills List as identified by the student’s home country government;
3. Purpose in coming to the United States was to receive graduate medical education or training.

A preliminary evaluation of whether or not you are subject was made at the consulate and will be marked on your visa. An additional review was done at the port of entry and will be marked on the DS-2019. These endorsements are not always correct. For more details about whether you are subject and the affects of the two year home country requirement, contact your program sponsor. It is also possible to apply for a waiver of the requirement.

**J-2 Dependents**

The spouse and children (under age 21) of a J-1 are eligible for J-2 status. Each dependent must be issued a separate DS-2019 though they are not required to pay the SEVIS fee. The status and length of stay for the J-2 is dependent upon the J-1 maintaining legal status. Each J-2 must have health insurance coverage consistent with the J-1 regulations. Those interested in enrolling as a dependent on the J-1’s plan may speak to OIP for details if the J-1 uses the plan offered to University of Mississippi students. J-2s may also apply to USCIS for work authorization. The International Student Advisor can assist with J-2 applications to USCIS for employment authorization.
The University and Oxford offer plenty of opportunities for students to stay active and entertained apart from the academic setting. With easy access to bikes, trails, sports clubs, fitness facilities and parks, students have many options for physical activities. The Oxford Square and outlying areas provide a plethora of choices for restaurants, shopping and other entertainment.

Campus Programming

Serving as a programming resource for the University, the Department of Campus Programming often partners with campus organizations and departments to sponsor a variety of events and activities. Under the leadership of the Department of Campus Programming, the Student Programming Board (SPB) provides campus entertainment and opportunities for student involvement in programming. The SPB is formed by students to promote the activities of student life through special events, pageants, musical entertainment and a monthly movie series. The SPB is a diverse group of student leaders who are committed to serving the Ole Miss student body and enhancing the collegiate experience by providing more than 125 entertaining events each year.

Campus Recreation

Ole Miss students will quickly find opportunities to engage in numerous recreational programs and services administered by the Office of Campus Recreation. Structured and unstructured, traditional and nontraditional recreational opportunities are offered throughout the school year. The components of campus recreation include the Intramural Sports Program, Sport Clubs Program, Ole Miss Outdoors, Ole Miss Fitness, Aquatics Program and Recreation Facility Management.

Intramural Sports

The Intramural Sports Program is very structured and offers individual, dual and team sports in men's and women's divisions of play. The co-re division places men and women together on teams to compete against other co-re teams. Participation in intramural sports is not required, and a person does not have to be highly skilled to participate. Most sports leagues are established based on various competition levels of the participants. Intramural activities range from traditional sports such as flag football, basketball and slow-pitch softball to nontraditional sports such as disc golf, whiffle ball and Wallyball. Some activities are scheduled over an extended period (fivesixweeks), while others take place during one or twoafternoons or evenings. Most teams play once a week, and contests are scheduled during the lateafternoon and evening. We encourage all students to get involved in the Intramural Sports Program. It's a great opportunity to compete with friends and meet other students, faculty and staff. Winning a championship and getting a championship T-shirt is challenging and something to be proud of.

Ole Miss Sport Clubs

Interested in practicing and enhancing your skills, and competing against other colleges and universities? The Ole Miss Sport Clubs Program provides an outlet for your interests. The primary goal of the Ole Miss Sport Clubs Program is to produce "student-led, student-run" organizations that enhance the participants' teamwork and leadership abilities while also maintaining a safe, fun and friendly environment. Ten indoor and outdoor sport clubs are currently active at Ole Miss.

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Participation is strictly voluntary and is meant to be a learning experience for all. Whether your interest is in karate, hapkido, fencing, volleyball, rugby or soccer, we hope you check out the Sport Clubs Program.

Ole Miss Outdoors

Ole Miss Outdoors (OMOD) is a multifaceted program offered through the campus recreation office that exposes participants to the great outdoors. OMOD offers a variety of services, including the Outdoor Resource Center, trips and clinics, a gear-rental program, the OMOD Clubs and the Rebel Challenge Course. OMOD emphasizes adventure, environmental awareness, challenge, education, personal development, safety and fun with a variety of exciting outdoor activities and opportunities. Even students who feel unskilled and uneducated can achieve their goals with the help of the OMOD staff. If you are interested in kayaking, backpacking, rafting, caving or sailing, check out Ole Miss Outdoors.

Ole Miss Aquatics

Water covers more than three-fourths of the earth's surface. It is the essence of all life on earth and has the power to move mountains. In the Turner Center, we have harnessed more than 700,000 gallons of this water for the use of the Ole Miss family. The 65-meter-by-20-yard pool is open seven days a week for instructional and recreational use. Visitors to the pool may find kayak roll clinics, scuba classes or swimmers working on their strokes.

Ole Miss Fitness

It doesn't take long to notice that walkers and joggers are a part of the Oxford and Ole Miss landscape. If you want to get a good workout or engage in a fitness program, check out the Ole Miss Fitness Center. Located on the third floor of the Turner Center, the Fitness Center offers almost 10,000 square feet of fitness equipment, including cardiovascular and selectorized equipment and freeweights. Personal trainers are available to assist you with a program geared to your needs. Throughout the day, group fitness classes taught by certified instructors are offered. Land classes and water classes (in the pool) are offered, including cardiovascular and selectorized equipment and free weights. Personal trainers are available to assist you with a program geared to your needs. Throughout the day, group fitness classes taught by certified instructors are offered. Land classes and water classes (in the pool) are offered. Popular classes include Yoga, Indoor Cycling, Aqua Fit, Power Pilates and Zumba.

The Turner Center houses four basketball courts, two volleyball courts, three badminton courts, seven racquetball courts, swimming pool, multipurpose room, fitness center, classrooms/labs, 176-seat auditorium and office. The Outdoor Sports Complex located on the southwest end of campus encompasses 12 acres of lightly field space. It is used for intramurals, sports clubs and informal recreation. The complex also includes two sand volleyball courts, 18-hole disc golf course and the Rebel Challenge Course. Campus recreation also manages 16 tennis courts. Six of the courts are next to the Turner Center, and 10 courts are near the baseball stadium.

Employment Opportunities

The Office of Campus Recreation is one of the biggest on-campus employers of students and offers a wide range of job opportunities. Students who work for campus recreation develop valuable leadership, organizational and management skills that will benefit them upon graduation. The campus recreation crew is always looking for new members.
Entertainment Around Town

Rowan Oak
Rowan Oak, the home of Nobel Prize winning author William Faulkner, is cared for by the university. Tours are available.

Oxford Park Commission
The Oxford Park Commission (OPC) manages several local parks which are open for use by university students and their family members. OPC also offers many instructional programs and sports clubs for both adults and children. Some of the facilities include:

Activity Center
Corner of Price St. and Molly Barr Road
The Activity Center features two indoor basketball courts, a gymnastics room, and several multipurpose rooms. Located next to the Activity Center is the John Leslie Tennis Complex which features eight lighted tennis courts. The courts are free and open to the public.

Avent Park
Park Drive
The park includes four lighted tennis courts, a picnic pavilion, walking trail, baseball field, playground and quiet areas.

FNC Park
Oxford's newest complex. The 75+ acre park features 5 soccer, 8 baseball, and 3 softball fields. The park also features a walking track and BMX bike park.

Oxford Swimming Pool
Washington Avenue
The pool is an Olympic-size pool, and features a wading pool and picnic area. The pool is handicapped accessible.

Price Hill Park
Price Hill Road
The park consists of a baseball/softball field, park pavilion, playground, spray pool, and an outdoor basketball court.

Movie Theatre
Oxford Studio Cinema
1111 West Jackson Ave.

Roller Skating
Skate Place
County Road 301

Shopping

Shopping in the U.S. is generally "self service" and in most cases, prices are not negotiable. This means there is usually no bargaining. Automobile purchases and used furniture or items at a yard/ tag sale are exceptions to the no bargaining rule. For these types of purchases, it is expected that the sticker price may not be the final price.

Another thing that affects the final price is sales tax. Sometimes a merchant will include sales tax in the posted price, but this is not the usual practice. Sales taxes vary depending on the classification of the item(s), the state and sometimes the city where the item is purchased. Most items in Mississippi require a 7% sales tax to be added to the sticker price.

It is best to shop around since prices can vary from one store to another and many stores will offer periodic sales. For clothing, the end of the season is usually a time when prices will be marked down significantly.

In the United States, many stores are specialized and carry a particular category of goods such as grocery stores for food and related items. There are also department stores or discount stores which do not specialize and carry a wide variety of merchandise.

Grocery Stores
There are many sources for groceries in Oxford, ranging from large stores to local farmer's markets. Testing food before purchasing it in the grocery store is not allowed. Some stores will be able to order items for you that they do not normally carry. Speak to the manager to make such a request. The purchase of alcohol is not possible on Sundays and is limited to those ages 21 and above. Wine and spirits are sold in separate stores rather than in the grocery stores.

Large grocery stores in the area include Kroger, Big Star, and Walmart. Walmart also sells general living supplies and clothing. The Farmer's Market Store (open year round) is a smaller venue featuring produce (some local), meat, bulk spices and some international foods. The seasonal Farmer's Markets operate only on certain days of the years and offer local items for sale.

Please turn to the Dining and Housing section of this handbook for the addresses of these grocery stores.

Apparel: Specialty shops, department stores, discount stores, and thrift shops carry clothing, shoes and accessories. Some shops may only carry items for women or may only sell shoes and accessories. Department stores include J.C. Penny, Belk, and Neilsen's. Walmart also sells apparel and there are many smaller shops around the Oxford Square and other retail areas of town.
Ways to Get Involved

International Student Organizations
International student organizations sponsor many interesting programs and events on campus. These programs and events offer an opportunity for international students to share with the University community the culture and customs of the many different countries represented by our international community. International student organizations also host social events for new and continuing students in an effort to encourage student interaction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African Caribbean Association</td>
<td>Gil Obajeni @ go.olemiss.edu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Student &amp; Scholars Association</td>
<td>Yuanbin Wang @ go.olemiss.edu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan Student Association</td>
<td>Hkandoi @ go.olemiss.edu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Connections Club</td>
<td>Adham Hagag @ go.olemiss.edu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese Students Association</td>
<td>Nguyen @ go.olemiss.edu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Student Organization</td>
<td>Harsh Kandoi @ go.olemiss.edu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean Students Association</td>
<td>Hyunjun Park @ go.olemiss.edu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin American Student Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/laso305">www.facebook.com/groups/laso305</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim Student Association</td>
<td>Aahagag @ go.olemiss.edu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies’ Club</td>
<td>Vietnamese Students Association Steven Nguyen/Katelyn Nguyen @ go.olemiss.edu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies’ Club</td>
<td>Vietnamese Students Association Steven Nguyen/Katelyn Nguyen @ go.olemiss.edu</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Cultural Connections Club
http://dos.orgsync.com/org/umccp/C3
Cultural Connections Club is aimed to unite people from different backgrounds. The goal of the club is to build bridges of global friendship and understanding. It is for the international students, faculty and staff, as well as Americans who are new to campus so that they could share their experiences and build their networking systems. This club is also for those that are interested in meeting people from different countries and learn from each other. Within the club the members talk about cultural topics, play games, watch movies, go out to eat, do outdoor activities, and celebrate holidays.

The International Learning Exchange (ILEX)
http://dos.orgsync.com/org/umccp/ILEX
The International Learning Exchange (ILEX) offers 52-hour workshops/round table discussions for international community at the beginning of each semester. These discussions provide hands-on information and a chance to network and practice English, as well as to promote other services and groups of the CCP and counseling services on campus.

Events

International Ladies’ Club
http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/stu_counseling/groups.htm
The International Ladies’ Club is a group for women interested in meeting other women from different cultures and sharing experiences about living in the U.S. and other countries. Female international students, faculty, staff, and spouses/partners are welcome to join, as well as American women interested in building cross-cultural friendships. Ladies’ Club activities include socializing, discussing cultural differences and similarities, playing games, going sight-seeing, and celebrating holidays.

Student Government
The Associated Student Body (ASB)
http://dos.orgsync.com/org/umasb
The purpose of this organization is to deal effectively with matters of student affairs, to perpetuate the best traditions of The University of Mississippi, to promote the best understanding between faculty and students, to govern all matters which are delegated to the ASB by the administration of the University of Mississippi, and to work with the administration in all matters affecting the welfare of the student body, and to supervise all student body activity in order that it may be conducted for the best interest of the student body as a whole and to the credit of The University of Mississippi.

Campus Programming
The mission of the Department of Campus Programming is to enhance the social, cultural, and educational opportunities for students and the university community through innovative and entertaining activities and programs. Serving as a programming resource for the University, the Department of Campus Programming often partners with campus organizations and departments to sponsor a variety of events and activities. Committed to the development of leadership and citizenship among students, the Department of Campus Programming strives to promote excellence in student activities programming.

Under the leadership of the Department of Campus Programming, the Student Programming Board (SPB) provides campus entertainment and opportunities for student involvement in programming. Multicultural programs, pageants, musical entertainment, special events and the movie series are among the more than 125 events sponsored each year.

Educational Events
Events are announced in the free student newspaper, The Daily Mississippian. The events are listed under the campus calendar section of the newspaper.

Recreational Events
Ole Miss students will quickly find opportunities to engage in numerous recreational programs and services administered by the Office of Campus Recreation. The components of campus recreation include the Intramural Sports Program, Sports Clubs Program, Ole Miss Outdoors, Ole Miss Fitness, Aquatics Program and Recreation Facility Management.

Volunteering
The mission of the Office of Volunteer Services is to connect students, faculty, and staff of The University of Mississippi with the volunteer and service opportunities within the Oxford/Lafayette County community. Additionally, this office is available to serve as a resource for information on community service, philanthropy and service learning. Through programs, service trips and events, the Volunteer Services seeks to give students hands-on service experience.
Recreation and Entertainment

Religious Organizations

The University of Mississippi is a state institution and is therefore wholly nonsectarian. However, there are campus religious groups for student participation.

Oxford's Religious Establishments

The area code for all numbers is 662

Apostolic Sanctuary of Praise
Temple of Jesus Christ
31 County Road 166
236-2230

Baptist Student Union Center
423 South 5th St.
234-9166

Beverly United Methodist Church
West Spring Hill
236-4488

Caravans Baptist
15 CR 607
234-4331

Christ the Rock Apostolic Church
352 Highway 30 East
234-4676

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
3501 South Lamar Blvd.
234-7586

Clear Creek Baptist Church
56 County Road 313
234-7255

College Hill Presbyterian College Hill Road
234-9200

Covenant
105 Colonial Road
234-1426

Episcopal Church at Ole Miss
P.O. Box 266
801-5472

First Assembly of God
17 CR 2001
234-2757

First Baptist Church
403 Van Buren Ave.
234-2357

First Presbyterian Church
Old Highway 7 South
234-1151

First Presbyterian Church
222 Van Buren Ave.
234-1757

First United Methodist Church
Riverdale Road
236-5509

Grace Bible Church
829 North Lamar Blvd.
238-2919

His Harvest Ministries
3 CR 104
236-7477

Kingdom Hall-Jehovah's Witnesses
Highway 30 East
234-5000

New Salem Missionary Baptist Church
234 CR 26b
236-9064

North Oxford Baptist Church
308 CR 101
236-9101

Oxford Church of Christ
409 North Lamar Blvd.
234-1735, 234-1790
www.occoc.org

Oxford Mosque
398 McEory Drive

Oxford University Methodist
424 South 10th St.
234-5278

Peace Lutheran Church
407 West Jackson Ave.
234-6668
www.peacelutheran-oxford.org

Second Baptist Church
611 West Jackson Ave.
234-2768

St. John's Catholic Church
403 University Ave.
234-6073

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
113 South 9th St.
234-1269
www.ecomosford.org

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
13 CR 2051
234-1757, 234-1790

United Methodist Church
234-9366

West Spring Hill MB Church
234-8151

*This list is not comprehensive. Information was retrieved from the Oxford Tourism Web site at www.oxfordcvb.com and the BellSouth Yellow Pages. It is intended to be an informational guide only. University of Mississippi does not endorse any of the establishments listed.

Transportation

By Foot
Ole Miss is located within walking distance of many restaurants, pubs, clothing shops, and recreational venues on West Jackson Avenue and The Historic Oxford Square. Most places in Oxford are just a 15 to 20 minute walk from campus. The Lafayette-Oxford-University (LOU) Pathways website provides a central listing of these walkable areas. Currently, Rebel Ride has a limited schedule, but the goal of those who started this program is to increase its availability. Currently, Rebel Ride is an alternative transportation system implemented by students in the Fall 2000 semester. Rebel Ride provides transportation for all students to and from the Oxford Downtown Square and campus primarily on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights currently. Rebel Ride has a limited schedule, but the goal of those who started this program is to increase its availability. Those students who have been working closely with the University want to see a long-term plan to raise funds and increase Rebel Ride's visibility and value. More information about Rebel Ride can be found at http://www.olemiss.edu/rebelride/
By Personal Automobile
Transportation off campus is usually by automobile. Parking on campus is restricted and requires that faculty, staff, and students register their vehicles with the University Police Department for a parking decal. Maps are available at the campus police station showing the restricted areas.

Speed limits are posted for your safety. The limit on speed is strictly enforced. Breaking the speed limit is not only dangerous, but results in high financial penalties.

Repeated violations can result in the loss of your Driver's License.

Car Maintenance
Keeping a car in good condition is expensive, even when you take good care of it. Frequent changes of oil, new tires, and the escalating price of gasoline all figure into the expense.

Automobile insurance is expensive, but it is unlawful to drive without up-to-date liability insurance. If a car, motorcycle, or scooter is not insured, the owner of the car is financially responsible for any accident and damages connected with the car including personal injury to occupants of the cars involved. If you are stopped by a police officer and do not have proof of insurance, you will be assessed a fine and be required to appear in court. If you're involved in an auto accident and do not have insurance, you will lose your driver's license and car tag.

Drivers must carry with them at all times a valid Driver's License from their home country, a valid International Driver's License or a valid Mississippi Driver's License. A Mississippi Driver's License is obtained by studying a driver's manual (provided by the Mississippi Highway Patrol), then passing a written examination.

Purchasing a Car
When purchasing a car, it is usually best to first consult Consumer's Report, a non-profit consumer's journal available in the main library. You will be able to review the frequency of repair and suitable prices for specific used and new automobiles. The next step is to check the classified ads in the Oxford and Memphis newspapers. Often you can get your best purchase through a private individual.

It is always best to have any car that you are considering purchasing inspected by a reputable mechanic. Most used cars carry no warranty, especially when you are purchasing the vehicle from a private owner. So, you want to make sure that the vehicle is working properly.

When purchasing a new or used car, the sticker price is usually not the price paid. The price is decided by negotiating with the seller.

Leasing & Renting Cars
Leasing a car
Leasing a car is actually a method of vehicle financing that is very similar to loan financing. A lease company or manufacturer's finance company only gets involved after a customer decides he wants lease financing. The lease company buys the car from the dealer at the customer-negotiated price and loans it back to the customer. At lease-end, vehicles are returned to the lease company as the final payment of the loan. Because leases are financed much in the same way as car loans are, it may be difficult for you as an international student to obtain a lease agreement. Persons who lease cars in the U.S. must have substantial credit histories to document that they can repay a debt. Cars may be leased from many of the local dealerships in Oxford.

Renting a Car
Car rental companies exist to fulfill the short-term automobile use needs of traveling business people, vacationers, or those who might need a particular type of vehicle for temporary use. Rent rates are determined by the car rental company, based on a daily or weekly fee, and includes either unlimited mileage or an additional mileage rate. In most cases one must have a credit or debit card to rent a car. Automobile insurance is expensive, but it is unlawful to drive without up-to-date liability insurance. If a car, motorcycle, or scooter is not insured, the owner of the car is financially responsible for any accident and damages connected with the car including personal injury to occupants of the cars involved. If you are stopped by a police officer and do not have proof of insurance, you will be assessed a fine and be required to appear in court. If you're involved in a car accident and do not have insurance, you will lose your driver's license and car tag.

Drivers must carry with them at all times a valid Driver's License from their home country, a valid International Driver's License or a valid Mississippi Driver's License. A Mississippi Driver's License is obtained by studying a driver's manual (provided by the Mississippi Highway Patrol), then passing a written examination.
Obtaining a Mississippi Driver's License

Required Documents:
- Valid passport and photocopy of your visa and the main photo page of your passport
- 1-20, DS-2019, or other USCIS immigration document and photocopy of document
- 1-94 card and photocopy
- Proof of physical address (P.O Box not valid)
- Petition for a lease or rental agreement, car registration receipt, electric or water bill, letter from Department of Student Housing and Residence Life for students who live on-campus
- A P.O. Box is not a valid form of proof
- Certified birth certificate and notarized translation if certificate is not in English
- Social Security Card (if applicable)
- Letter confirming affiliation with The University of Mississippi

This letter can be obtained from the Office of International Programs.

The license currently costs $20. All non-immigrant applicants must have at least six months of valid visa status in order to apply. It is renewable provided that the individual maintains eligibility for issuance. To earn the driver’s license, one must pass the written and driving portions of the test. The tests are administered by the Mississippi Driver’s License Testing and Renewal Center in Oxford.

For more information about documentation requirements and about driver’s license testing, please visit: http://www.dmv.org/ms-mississippi/drivers-license.php

Driver’s License Testing Center
Highway 7 South & Veterans Drive
(662) 236-2066

Directions from campus:
- Take Highway 6 East towards Tupelo
- Turn onto Highway 7 South

The testing center is on the right hand side of Highway 7, about two miles out of town at the intersection of Highway 7 and Veteran’s Drive. The testing center is located across the North Mississippi Regional Center and shares a parking lot with the County Health Department. There is a sign that reads “Driver’s License Station.”

Hours of operation:
- Written Testing
  - Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m., 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
  - Friday: 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m., 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.
- Road Testing
  - Monday-Friday: 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m., 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Long Distance Transportation

Flight
The closest airports with airline service are in Tupelo, MS and Memphis, TN. Memphis is the major hub for Delta Air Lines and is thus the preferred airport. Tupelo only offers daily flights to Atlanta and Memphis for connections to other markets.

Many online companies offer booking services for flights and hotels. Some of the best prices can be found on these websites:
- www.expedia.com
- www.travelocity.com

Transportation to Airport
In general, transportation to Memphis is usually done by personal vehicle, but there are a few options for those who do not own a vehicle.

Airport shuttle: The Office of Outreach and Continuing Education offers a shuttle service for a reasonable fee. Cost for the shuttle is $85 one-way or $135 round-trip. To make a reservation, please contact

Clinton “Tony” Gipson
University Camps and Conferences
T: (662) 915-7015
F: (662) 915-5138
tonygip@olemiss.edu

Taxi
There are several taxi services in the Oxford area and in Memphis. Rates for transportation are generally more expensive than public transportation and can range from $100-$200 to travel between Oxford and Memphis. Oxford taxi services generally charge less money for transportation than Memphis taxi services. Schedule a pick-up at least a day or two in advance of your planned travel.

- Oxford City Cab
  T: (662) 234-2250
- Hetty Toddy Taxi
  T: (662) 832-8636
- Rock Star Taxi & Limo
  T: (662) 701-7019
- Angel Taxi
  T: (662) 832-8294

Greyhound Bus to Batesville
A Greyhound bus line is available in Batesville, MS. This bus line offers daily trips to Memphis and other locations. Additional information can be found at www.greyhound.com

Train
An AMTRAK passenger train service is available in Memphis. Train information can be found at www.amtrak.com
On-Campus Dining

The University of Mississippi offers dining options on campus. Several Eidforsana locations in a food court in the main tower of the Student Union Building, and cafetries are on campus. Several vendors are located in a food court on the main floor of the Student Union Building, and cafetries are on campus. Einstein Brothers, Segal's, and other vendors on campus serve individually just like any standard restaurant. See the map for information about the location.

When dining at The JC Cafeteria, you pay one fixed price and are allowed to eat as much as you like.

Off-Campus Dining

For $13.10, Oxford unified dining options. Homokolho South Elm Fox has evolved into a mecca, which draws professional school students as well as amatuers. Oxford is always looking to feed the hungry. QPote, Eiels City Grocery, 206, and Sack Park are recommended for quality Inn dining. For more information, you can't go wrong with Ajax. For true Mississippi perennials, you must eat at Taylor Grocery or Vocono River Inn.

Grocery Stores

Oxford has several grocery stores which serve the community. Grocery stores vary in price. It is usually best to shop at several grocery stores to get the lowest prices. If you shop at a poelogo of foxl, you'll have options. Krogan's, Morton & Sons, and the local Foxl are recommended. For more information, please stop by the store.

The 10 is also a Farm Market located on Old High. It's a 7/11 type store. It has local grown vegetables. If you wish to purchase them, you can call the manager at 8911. The store is open 24 hours.

Big Star

Eagle Plaza
(662) 234-3217

Family Mill Store
274CR 101
(662) 234-3963

Shikimint Mart
1438 North Lamar Blvd.
(662) 234-1000

Kroger
2013 University Ave
(662) 234-2156

Illini Mart
2510 University Ave
(662) 234-9111
DINING AND HOUSING  BANKING AND FINANCE

On-Campus Housing

When students choose to live on campus, they are assigned rooms in residence halls for unmarried students or married student housing for students who have a spouse and/or children. In the residence halls, living units are grouped around a central corridor on each floor with centrally located bathroom areas. Each room is furnished with a bed and a desk for two students. Bed linens and pillows are not provided, so you will need to purchase these items at a local store. Rooms contain a telephone jack and a cable television connection. The telephone and television are not provided. You may purchase these items at a local store if you wish.

The Department of Student Housing has no refund policy; once you sign a housing contract, no refund will be given if you decide to vacate the residence hall. Graduate students may live in a residence hall if there is available space. Your room will be clean upon your arrival. However, daily cleaning of the residence hall is up to the residents. Toaster ovens, George Foreman-type grills, candles, space/electric heaters, hot pots and fireworks are not permitted due to fire hazards. A very competent staff is available in each hall to help you in your transition to campus life. Your resident assistant (staff person on your floor), hall director (graduate student overseeing the building) and area coordinator (professional full-time staff member over the area in which your building is located) are available to assist you.

First-year Residence Requirement

Full-time single students who have completed less than 28 semester hours are required to live on campus in the residence halls for one academic year (two semesters) or for one semester and two summer terms. Exceptions are made for married students and for students who live with parents or legal guardians in the Oxford area and commute to campus.

Off-Campus Housing

Living off-campus in Oxford or the surrounding Lafayette County may be the right choice for you and one that suits your need for independence and privacy. Finding a place to live will take a little time and effort.

A variety of options are available within walking, driving or shuttle distance to campus. For more information, see the Transportation section of this manual.

Renter's Insurance

The University of Mississippi has no liability for damage or loss of personal property. Books, clothing, electronics, and other personal items will not be replaced by The University of Mississippi, regardless of the cause of damage or loss. To make sure your items are protected from theft, fire, and flood, you are encouraged to purchase property or renters insurance. Many insurance companies offer renter's insurance to students.

National Student Services, Inc: www.nssi.com
CSI Student Personal Property Protector Plus: www.collegestudentinsurance.com

Banking

Banks are a safe and convenient place to keep money. It is not wise to carry large sums of money with you, nor should you send cash through the mail. For payments that need to be sent by mail or courier, use money orders that are purchased at the bank or the post office, or send personal checks or cashier's checks, also purchased at banks.

Traveler's Checks

Banks sell Traveler's Checks. These checks provide a safe way to carry money with the convenience of cash. When the checks are purchased, their numbers are recorded by the bank and you, the purchaser. In case they are lost, any bank handling that specific traveler's check will replace them if you present a record of their serial number.

Checking Accounts

Checking accounts are designed to allow you to write checks on money you have deposited in your checking account. There is usually a small fee when you order a book of checks. It is advisable to pay all bills by check which will provide you with proof of payment. It is very important to never write a check when the amount is not in your account. Writing a check for more than is available in your checking account is called writing an "HOT CHECK" or "BOUNCING A CHECK" and has serious legal consequences.

Savings Accounts

Savings accounts are used to keep large sums of money that are not needed on a daily basis. This money draws interest while it is kept in savings. Combination savings and checking accounts are another choice. One may write checks on a savings account that is drawing interest daily.

How To Set Up A Bank Account

To set up a checking or savings account with a bank in the United States, an international student, faculty/staff member, or scholar, some banks require a Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN).

It is legally possible to establish a non-interest bearing checking account while waiting for the approval of a Social Security Number or ITIN application, but many banks have policies that prevent them from establishing such accounts. In Oxford, there are two banks that allow international students to set up checking accounts before the approval of a Social Security Number or ITIN, though there are some restrictions to the account.

Banks in the Oxford area:
First National Bank of Oxford
Regions Bank
BancorpSouth Bank
Oxford University Bank
Woodforest Bank
Ole Miss Credit Union

"*For more information on bank locations and opening a bank account, please see the document labeled "Banks in the Oxford Area" in the Office of International Programs."
Required documents to open a checking account:
- Valid Passport
- US Citizenship and Immigration Services documentation (1-20,DS-2019,H-1B or 0-1 1-797 Approval Notice,TN 1-94 Card,Employment Authorization Card,Green Card, etc.)
- Physical Address (Apartment, home, or residence hall address)
- Mailing Address (P.O. Box or street address where you can receive mail)
- Phone Number
- Email Address

Social Security Number

Social Security numbers are issued by the United States Social Security Administration. A Social Security number is required to get a job, collect Social Security benefits and receive some other government services. On October 13, 2004 Social Security placed restrictions on the issuance of Social Security Numbers to non-citizens of the United States. As such, in order to be eligible for a social security card you must either be an F-1 student with a job or job offer, or a J-1 student with a letter of support from your J-Program Advisor. If you are not sure if you qualify for a Social Security Number you may meet with the student adviser in The Office of International Programs. According to Social Security Administration, you may work while the Social Security number application is being processed.

Required Documents for obtaining a Social Security Number
- Passport page, plus a photocopy of the passport page
- Visa page, plus a photocopy of the Visa
- 1-94 Card, plus a photocopy of the 1-94 Card
- 1-20, DS-2019, or other Immigration Document, plus a photocopy of the document
- J-1 and J-2 Dependents must have a letter of support from their J-Program Advisor
- J-2 Dependents must have a valid Employment Authorization Card before they can apply
- H-1Bs, TNs, and O-1s do not require a letter from International Programs

Regional Social Security Office Contact
The regional office for the Social Security Administration is in Tupelo, Mississippi. With the exception of federal holidays, the main office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Tupelo office can answer any questions you may have about your SSN application.

Social Security Administration
199 Saddle Creek Drive
Tupelo, MS 38801
(866) 504-4267
www.ssa.gov

Tax Payer Identification Number (ITIN)
Each year, whether or not they earned any income, when completing the tax forms, you are required to indicate your U.S. social security number. However, many individuals who hold other non-immigrant statuses are not eligible for Social Security Numbers, since the issuance of Social Security Numbers is tied to eligibility for employment authorization.

Therefore, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has created the Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to be used by the limited number of non-U.S. citizens who are not eligible for a Social Security Number but who have tax responsibilities. An ITIN is a nine-digit number that always begins with a 9 and has a 7 or 8 for the fourth digit (example: 9xx-7x-xxxx)

Generally, all F-1 J-1 visa holders and their dependents are required to file tax forms. The ITINs are for tax purposes only. It cannot be issued for other purposes, such as applying for a driver’s license or state ID card.

You as the applicant must have a valid tax purpose for obtaining an ITIN; otherwise, the IRS cannot accept your application. Examples include:

- An F-1 student receiving a non-compensatory scholarship or fellowship grant who shows written proof that his or her application was rejected by the Social Security, or has a letter from the designated school official stating that he/she will not be securing employment while in the United States. In most cases on our campus this would apply to student athletes who have scholarship that pay for room and board. The University of Mississippi does not allow scholarship’s taxable amount to be posted to a student’s account until an ITIN or Social Security Number has been obtained.
- An individual not eligible for a social security number but required to file a tax return to claim a refund of tax under the provisions of a U.S. tax treaty
- An individual not eligible for a social security number but who is the dependent child or spouse of a non-resident visa holder from Canada, Mexico, India, or Republic of Korea (these are the only countries that permit non-residents for tax purposes to claim spouses or children as dependents on their tax returns, based on the terms of the tax treaty with the United States.)
- An individual not eligible for a social security number who is a dependent or spouse of an individual who is a resident for tax purposes (once an F-1 student has been in that non-immigrant status for more than five years, that student becomes a resident for tax purposes and can claim their spouse and/or children as dependents on their U.S. tax return).
- An individual not eligible for a social security number but who has opened an account with a financial institution that generates income subject to either reporting or withholding
To apply for an ITIN, obtain form W-7 from the IRS. For individuals seeking an ITIN in order to file an income tax return, the W-7 must be filed along with the income tax return. Student athletes seeking an ITIN in order to meet reporting or withholding requirements of The University of Mississippi will be advised by the student advisor at the Office of International Programs. If you are eligible to file for ITIN it takes four to six weeks to receive an ITIN decision.

Staff at the Office of International Programs are neither qualified nor permitted to give individual tax advice. Tax information is available only at tax workshops scheduled during the academic year.

Credit and Debit Cards
Credit Cards
A credit card is a small plastic issued to users as a system of payment. It allows its holder to buy goods and services based on the holder’s promise to pay for these goods and services. The issuer of the card grants a line of credit to the user from which the user can borrow money for payment to a merchant or as a cash advance to the user. Most credit cards are issued by banks or credit unions.

Many credit card lenders do not approve many international student credit card applications, because of the lack of credit history. A credit history means that you have purchased things in the past using some form of credit line. Credit card issuers want to see if you have kept your promise to pay other credit card issuers for the things you purchased using that line of credit.

When international students are new to the U.S., their credit histories are virtually non-existent so very few credit card companies approve credit card applications for international students. Students who desire credit cards can complete a credit application for credit cards at almost any bank. For a fee or for free, credit card issuers will send a credit card application to banks or credit unions and ask them to approve the application. Students who desire credit cards can apply to several companies to see what will happen. The approval rate for international students is very low, so students need to be patient and persistent in applying for credit cards.

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Debit Cards
A debit card is a plastic card that provides an alternative payment method to cash when making purchases. Functionally, it can be called an electronic check, as the funds are withdrawn directly from either the bank account or from the remaining balance on the card.

Like credit cards, debit cards are used widely for telephone and Internet purchases and, unlike credit cards, the funds are transferred immediately from the bearer’s bank account instead of having the bearer pay back the money at a later date.

Debit cards may also allow for instant withdrawal of cash, acting as the ATM card for withdrawing cash. You may request a debit card from your financial institution when you open your checking or savings account, or for a small fee you may purchase a debit card (also called a pre-paid card) in a store such as Wal-Mart. Your debit card/prepaid card will only be valued at the amount of cash money you have in your bank account, or surrendered to the merchant at the time of purchase.

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Purchasing a U.S. Cell Phone Plan

Cellphone service providers usually provide two main types of plans to their customers: post-paid plans and pre-paid plans. What is the difference between the two?

Post-Paid plan
- requires detailed identification information (e.g., social security number, physical address, credit history)
- contract-based plans are usually for two years and require monthly payments
- monthly bills will be sent to you with a due date
- plans may be difficult to acquire by international students who are new to the U.S. since a strong credit history is generally required in order to qualify for post-paid plans

Pre-Paid plan
- requires less detailed identification information and may be the best option for international students new to the U.S.
- no credit check required, but a social security number may still be needed
- the best way to get a pre-paid cell phone is to visit a local wireless communication store and have the customer service representative set up a pre-paid account for you

Steps for getting a U.S. cell phone:
1. Search for the service providers on the internet.
   Some of the more popular ones here are AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon Wireless, and Cellular South.
2. Select the service provider which provides a plan that meets your preferences.
   Make sure they do indeed provide service in your area. The zip code for Oxford, MS is 38655, as you will want a local Oxford telephone number.
3. Always read the plan terms carefully before making your final decision.
   If you are not clear about certain terms, you can always call the customer helpline.
4. After you have decided which plan you would like to subscribe, place your order either online or by visiting your local wireless communication store.
   Most of the service providers provide a store locator search engine on their websites; you will as for the zip code for Oxford, MS which again is 38655.
5. Most of the service providers require you to activate your phone before you can use it, which is done quite easily in a step or two.

Local Cell Phone Companies

AT&T (http://www.att.com)
- Social Security number required? No. However, you will be required to pay a $500 deposit per phone line, plus cost of phone. After one year of service, you will receive deposit back.
- Contract Required? Yes
- Required Documents: Valid passport, plus other form of valid photo ID

Verizon (http://www.verizonwireless.com)
- Social Security number required? Yes.
- Contract required? Yes.
- Required documents: Valid passport, plus other form of valid photo ID

C* Spire (http://www.cspire.com)
- Social Security number required? Yes.
- Contract required? Yes.
- Required documents: Valid passport, plus other form of valid photo ID

T-Mobile (http://www.t-mobile.com)
- Social Security number required? No. However, you will be required to pay a deposit per phone, additional activation fee, and cost of phone
- Contract required? Yes.

Cable/Satellite Television & Internet Service

There are several options available for cable and satellite TV and internet. In general, cable TV is cheaper than satellite. Below is a listing for some cable and satellite TV providers. Note also that some phone companies offer “bundle” packages for phone, internet, and/or cable. Some housing complexes provide cable, phone, and/or internet services at no additional cost. Check your rental agreement before signing a contract for TV, phone, or internet services.

Local Cable and Internet Service Companies

BellSouth
- Residential Services: 1-557-6500
- http://www.bellsouth.com/

Comcast Cable
- 1-866-922-0069

DirectTV
- 1-866-505-9387
- http://www.directtv.com

Dish Network
- 1-888-760-8301
- http://www.dishoxfordsatellitetv.com/

Metrocast Cable
- 1-800-457-5351 or (662) 728-8311
- http://www.metrocastcablevision.com

Internet Phones

Internet phones are generally a low-cost or free way to place calls both locally and internationally. Skype is a popular software application that allows users to make voice calls over the Internet. Calls to other users within the Skype service are free, while calls to both traditional landline telephones and mobile phones can be made for a fee using a debit-based user account system. Check http://www.skype.com for more information.
Introduction to American Life

As you begin your orientation to American life, we hope the following information maybe helpful for you. We recognize that some international students may have visited or studied in the United States previously; others have not. For those who have just embarked on their first U.S. experience, some things may actually seem somewhat familiar and recognizable, while other things will be completely new. As you will soon notice, American life as depicted on television or in movies is not an accurate picture of what you will find. Even when you think you know what to expect, there will likely be surprises. What follows below is an overview of what you can expect to encounter in the U.S.A., albeit that it is important to note that in the U.S.A., there is no single type of national behavior, no one life style, no one culture. Our country is physically very large and is inherently a nation of immigrants, with myriad individual differences, ethnic customs, and regional traditions. This diversity will impact on your own experience of American life.

Time

You may wonder why Americans are always looking to see what time it is. We look at our watches, and check the clocks on our mobile devices or computers. “What time is it?” “Am I late?” “When is the project due?” “How long do we have?” “How much time is left?” These questions are repeated over and over. We seem obsessed with being on time, with their schedules, deadlines and project due dates.

Although time is simply an idea— an intellectual concept— we talk about time as if it is a commodity. We view time as something that can be saved, spent, used wisely, or wasted. We not only speak of time as something tangible but, more importantly, we believe it is scarce. It is considered a valuable but limited resource. “Time is money.” One hears people wishing aloud that they could just add a few hours to the day or another day to each week. Then they could get everything done. “There is never enough time,” they complain. Because their time is scarce, every valuable minute needs to be organized or allocated to a certain activity. In this environment where time is considered a limited commodity, the emphasis tends to be on accomplishing tasks and getting things done. That is considered a good use of time.

Furthermore, being on time in an American environment is considered a sign of respect. It shows that one values the other person’s time. Whether it is arriving a few minutes before a meeting or turning in an assignment exactly when due, being on schedule indicates that one is serious, committed to the activity, and respectful of the other people involved. Conversely, being late is considered rude and impolite.

Time and tasks rule the days and the nights. The U.S.A. is an achievement-oriented society where what one accomplishes has an over-riding significance. “What is due and when is it due?” “What is my deadline?” “What time must I be there?” “Be on time! Don’t be late”.

The idea of being on time— not being late— is a fundamental concept shaping how people organize their activities. Being on time is defined in a precise and seemingly rigid way. If a class or a meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m., one is expected to arrive a few minutes before the hour. It is preferable to be slightly early but definitely not a minute late. Only in social situations, for example, when dinner is to begin at 7:00 p.m., is it acceptable, and indeed recommended, to arrive five to ten minutes after the appointed time. On the other hand, if you are invited to a party that is scheduled for 8:00 p.m., to 11 p.m., or from 4:00 p.m. to 7 p.m., it is fine to arrive any time between the stated hours and leave any time up until the end of the time.

For people whose concept of time is that it is abundant and on-going, this demand for strict adherence to a timetable can be frustrating. One asks, “What’s the difference in a few minutes?” “Why are these people so upset?”

Changing Times

To shift from one view to another, from abundance to scarcity or vice versa, is far from simple. As long as one stays in an environment where others share the same idea of time (scarce of plentiful), no one even notices how theview of time affects life. However, shifting from one concept to the other is extremely difficult. You can’t just change your watch and make the shift.

People who have lived in many places and have experienced a variety of attitudes toward time report that the concept of time is one of the biggest challenges faced in adaptation. It is not simply about how much haste there is to get something done. Because the idea of time shapes how we organize our lives, the adjustment can be extremely difficult.

Our view of time tells us how to answer the question of what is more important: getting the task completed, finishing the project, or paying attention to people? For example, if time is plentiful, you are free to assume that what doesn’t get done today will fit in tomorrow; the unexpected visitor can be received, a conversation can run on for a few extra minutes, arriving after the appointed hour for a meeting is acceptable, what isn’t done right now will be finished later.

From the other perspective, adhering to the schedule, getting projects done in the time allotted is critically important. Because time is limited, one must use it carefully. Changes in schedule or unplanned events can be problems; they are seen to use up time that is supposed to be spent in another way. Whatever is scheduled to be done today must be completed today; for we are told “time is fleeting.” The American automaker, Henry Ford, is quoted as saying: “Time waste differs from material waste in that there is no salvage. Watch the clock. Keep to the schedule. Tasks must be completed before we are free to spend time with our friends.

Do One Thing at a Time

The American approach to accomplishing tasks is generally to do one thing at a time, completing one activity before starting another. Although Americans frequently talk of multi-tasking, the overall preference is for a sequential approach to activities.

Talking on the phone while driving a car and eating a snack certainly is multi-tasking. However, in business settings, the sequential approach is the norm. People follow an agenda in meetings, discussing the points in the order listed. Other topics cannot be discussed until planned agenda items have been covered. Interruptions are limited and are not well-received. “Stay focused!” people say. “We don’t have much time, stay with the agenda.”

Be on Time

Being on time is not just a matter of organizing one’s schedule. When there is a schedule set for a meeting, an appointment, a class, or a deadline, it is important to meet that time precisely. Again, being on time is considered a sign of respect. If you are late, it is interpreted that you do not value the person’s time and, therefore, the person.

Some international students have had the experience of arriving 20 or 30 minutes late for an appointment and finding they are unable to see the individual they needed to see. The individual will either be with the next appointment on the schedule or may have left the office for an appointment elsewhere.

In an educational environment, being on time applies not only to classes but also to meeting deadlines. It isn’t just professors who focus on time; American students are also concerned about meeting time commitments. American students may complain if other students aren’t on time with work that is part of a group project. Honoring time commitments indicates that one is serious about the work and respectful of the others involved.

When an American friend tells you he or she can’t talk because of being in the middle of a project due in two hours and promises to call you back later, remember it isn’t that the person doesn’t want to visit with you. That is not the case—your friend is just watching that clock. Meet the deadline and then have fun and visit with your friends. The rule, learned in childhood, is work first, play later!

Communication

Formal people, communication means conveying thoughts and ideas as in one's own language. Wherever there are thousands of languages in the world and we may learn many during the course of our lives, for each of us the one that truly belongs to us is our native or mother tongue. Our first language is the one that is most comfortable and familiar.

Our first experience with language is as a set of sounds, organized in a specific way. People in a given group share an understanding of the meaning of those sounds. Because spoken language is part of our life from infancy, we usually think about it as simply a means to communicate with each other, albeit that language also conveys our culture. The culture is conveyed not only in the selection of words but also how they are presented. Given the American viewpoint that is limited and that tasks must be accomplished, the language favors direct, clear communication. Sentences are often simple and factual. Extensive descriptions and allusions to history or books may make some Americans impatient. Children are told “to get to the point” just say what you mean. In a business environment, this idea is often phrased as “just get to the bottom line, we don’t need all the details.”

You will likely also notice in talking with Americans that they do not like interruptions. Once person speaks, then another replies. It is as if they are tossing a ball back and forth.

Often, American conversations tend to be a search for information. Americans ask a lot of questions, and they are very direct. Their replies to questions may seem abrupt. They are not cautious about their intent or meaning. For example, “the answer to a request is no, generally Americans will simply reply “No.” They may add a brief explanation as to why they are declining the request but no does mean no. The answer of no does not mean that it is time to start negotiating. Such a direct answer is done without any sign of embarrassment. It is simply communicating a piece of information.

Such directness can be puzzling for people who have a more subtle communication style. Americans rely less on people inferring meaning from other information, such as the status of the speaker or the particular surroundings than would be normal in many other cultures. It is important to note that American will expect everyone to communicate in a similar way. They are likely to miss subtle clues and indirect messages because they don’t expect them and are not accustomed to them.

People will not hesitate to ask questions if they want information. In a classroom environment, instructors often view questions as a sign of interest in the material being presented. If an instructor’s requirements are not clear, it is the responsibility of the student to ask questions to clarify the matter. Children are taught that there are no stupid questions; moreover, they learn that it is important to ask questions when they don’t understand. Asking for further information is perceived as a positive action showing that the person asking the question wants to learn.

But communication isn’t entirely about words; it also includes physical elements, sometimes called body language. Where one looks while talking, gestures made during a conversation, facial expressions, and posture are all part of the process. An element of the direct American style is the practice of looking directly at someone when conversing. American children are taught to look at the person speaking to make eye contact. A parent tells a child “Look at me when I’m talking to you.” It is considered a sign of respect and an indication that one is listening carefully. Looking away, at the floor, at one’s hands is considered a sign of disrespect for the person talking. It can be even interpreted as a lack of interest in what is being said.

What Can I Talk About?

One might expect that in an environment where directness is valued in communication, all topics are appropriate for conversation. That is not really true. Some topics that are generally discussed with acquaintances or those one does not know well. An indication that one is listening carefully. Looking away, at the floor, at one’s hands is considered a sign of disrespect for the person talking. It can be even interpreted as a lack of interest in what is being said.

Another area that can be confusing is humor. Americans often use humor to make their points or to diffuse uncomfortable situations. Humor frequently relies on shared experiences and understandings that a newcomer may lack. That may lead to misunderstandings. This difficulty exists for Americans too. They may not understand humor that is clear to you. For example, the subtle British style of humor is often puzzling to Americans. If you think of humor as another form of language, you can relax and realize that, over time, you too will speak this language and share the amusing moments.

Status and Hierarchy

As in most countries, status and hierarchy differences do exist in the United States. However, differences based on social status may be more difficult to perceive than in many places and do not always have obvious effects on student life. The United States is a highly individualistic culture, and as such, respect based on individual accomplishments tends to define status more than age, tradition, or family background.

This idea rests in part on one of our founding American values: “that all people are created equal.” That value is stated in the Declaration of Independence, the document that set the principles for the establishment of the United States of America in 1776. The equality of individuals is one of our national ideals. Although throughout U.S. history we have not always achieved this ideal, it continues to be an underlying principle that guides interaction among individuals and forms how businesses, organizations, and officials treat people. It also creates an expectation among people for equal treatments, regardless of rank or status.

In the United States, it is extremely important to extend the same courtesies and respect to all individuals, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, or sexual orientation. Academic communities are particularly diverse and provide opportunities to meet and interact with a wide variety of people. As a member of the academic community, you will be expected to treat everyone with respect and be seen as being courteous to be treated courteously by others.

The style of interaction in the United States tends to be informal, and communication can be more casual than in many other countries, reinforcing feelings of equality. People of the same age usually refer to each other in a familiar manner. For example, students usually address each other by their first names. Formal titles, like Doctor, Professor, Mr., Mrs., or Ms., with the person’s surname (family name) are reserved for speaking with persons in authority, teachers, older people, and in office of business interactions. This informal style can be perplexing. When one is uncertain about how to address another person, it is best to observe others and follow their example. If this is not possible, it is always appropriate to ask.
Social settings also guide how individuals interact. Though many relationships are informal, differences can still occur. Giving gifts does not happen as commonly as in some other places and tends to be limited to family and close friends. Invitations to an individual’s home may be purely social, such as when the invitation is from a friend or fellow student. Status-related invitations given by a professor or employer. Small gifts are welcome under such circumstances. One might consider bringing flowers, a bottle of wine, or even a small artifact from one’s country.

University life has its own cultural norms related to status and hierarchy. Frequently, the style of interaction is more informal between professors and students. It is not uncommon for a professor to prefer being addressed by his or her first name and to join students for meals or other socializing. However, even when there is a familiar and collaborative relationship, it is important to remember that faculty members are authority figures with higher status than students. Similarly, college administrators and staff members may communicate and relate informally while still retaining authority.

Some students will have the opportunity to work off-campus internships or other employment. Employment settings vary widely in terms of how relations among employees, supervisors, and customers occur. Large organizations, particularly in the business sector, may be more formal than academia. You may find that following the example of a fellow employee or colleague would be helpful in determining the appropriate style of interaction.

Rule of Law: Protections and Restrictions

The United States operates under a system of laws that provides both rights and responsibilities for individuals, including international students. This system is designed to protect and provide equal rights for everyone. Laws exist at the national and state levels to cover criminal offenses, like robbery or assault, and civil matters, like contracts and driving privileges. Underlying our system of laws and equal protection is the principle that everyone is held accountable. Not knowing that a law exists or that a certain action is illegal is not a defense; you will still be held responsible for abiding by all regulations.

Immigration regulations are federal laws that affect international students while present in the United States. As a visitor, the conditions of your presence in the United States are seen as a benefit rather than a right. So it is particularly critical to be aware of the law for students to comply with. Failure to do so can result in your losing student status and not being allowed to remain in the United States.

Other U.S. laws exist to cover a broad range of criminal matters. As part of the U.S. system of laws, people have certain rights in these instances. If charged with a crime, an individual is considered to be innocent until proven guilty. Being proven guilty can occur at a trial or can occur when an individual admits to being guilty and accepts punishment from a U.S. court. Punishments can include a fine, a prison sentence, or deportation from the United States, depending on the severity of the crime. An individual who has been charged has the right to be represented by an attorney. If an individual cannot afford to hire an attorney, the government will arrange to provide one. For an international student, being convicted of a criminal offense can also mean being required to leave the United States. Therefore, having the assistance of an attorney, if charged with a crime, is extremely important.

Of course, most students will not violate any laws while in the United States. However, there are some acts that do occur in student populations that can result in serious problems for individuals. The laws about these acts may be different than in other countries. The age of twenty-one is the legal age for drinking alcoholic beverages. If you are younger, purchasing alcohol is against the law. Possessing illegal drugs is a criminal offense at any age. Driving an automobile or motorcycle under the influence of alcohol or drugs is also illegal and has serious penalties.

Physical assault of another individual, including disagreements with a spouse or partner that result in physical contact like pushing or hitting, can also result in legal charges. Excessive physical punishment of children is also against the law. The definition of excessive in this context may be different in the United States than in other countries.

Legal contract are civil agreements that frequently occur in the United States. Such agreements might include signing a lease for an apartment or purchasing an automobile. It is important to remember when signing such agreements that they are binding, and that each person is obligated to comply with all the terms included. Not following all the terms of the agreement usually results in financial penalties.

Colleges and universities also have their own rules and regulations for students. These rules protect students and provide for equal treatment. The regulations also govern many aspects of student conduct in class and on campus. Knowing and following these regulations will be helpful to you as you adjust to student life in the United States.

Regional Differences in the United States

Diversity in the United States applies to places as well as people. With fifty states and a landmass of 9,629,091 square kilometers, the geography of the United States is quite varied. Within the continental United States, the East Coast, the South, the Midwest, the West, and the West Coast are all considered distinctly different regions. The states of Hawaii and Alaska are also distinct and unique environments.

Geography can affect various aspects of life. The most basic of these is weather. For instance, in the northern parts of the United States, winters will be extremely cold and may have a lot of snow. Summer is the south are known for intense heat and humidity.

But weather is not the only thing affected by regional difference. Speech patterns, notions about time, how people communicate and interact, how friendly or hospitable people seem—all these are influenced by the locale. These regional differences are part of what makes life interesting in the United States.

Although it is important not to generalize too much about particular parts of the country, it is helpful to understand some of the differences. People in the East may be seen as being in a hurry and very business-like compared with other places. The South is known for a slower pace and its tradition of hospitality! Midwesterners can be described as being practical and pragmatic and a bit more traditional. Westerners are also seen as a bit more traditional, as well as very independent and individualistic. The West Coast is viewed as relaxed and informal. These are broad descriptions and will not apply to every person from a particular region. Part of your experience as a student will be to observe, learn about, and enjoy whatever may be unique to your setting.

The micro-geography of where you attend school may have an even more significant effect on your experiences. The size of the city or town in which the college or university is located influences what life is like. Large cities anywhere in the world are busy and crowded and can be impersonal. The pace in a small town may be slower and may seem to be much more friendly and personal. Even the size of the college or university will play a role in determining the culture at the location. Some schools have thousands of students; others have a few hundred.

Just as the United States is proud of the diversity it offers people, each place considers itself to be unique. We encourage you to study the history, traditions, and geography of Mississippi so you may experience fully all that is special about your new home.
Family and Friends: Building Connections

The mobility of U.S. society is, perhaps, the most significant influence on relationships in the United States. Many students do not attend college in the same city where their families live. Similarly, people frequently do not reside in the same communities for their entire lives. Many large corporations require their employees to move often if they want to advance in the company. It is not unusual for families to be separated by hundreds, if not thousands, of miles. This mobility influences how people interact and form friendships. Americans tend to be very friendly on a casual basis and open to meeting many new individuals. These interactions do not always result in close, lasting relationships.

As a newcomer, an international student may need to initiate a meeting. If someone says, “Let’s get together,” it is perfectly appropriate to make a call and suggest a meeting time. A common habit of casually friendly Americans is the tendency to say things like “Let’s get together sometime” or “Let’s do lunch” and then not follow through with a specific invitation. This casual, informal style is sometimes seen as superficial by others and can be frustrating for a new international student. As a newcomer, an international student may need to initiate a meeting. If someone says, “Let’s get together,” it is perfectly appropriate to make a call and suggest a meeting time.

Certainly, the potential for close friendships exists. College and university campuses have many student organizations and clubs and offer many activities in which students can participate and have the opportunity to meet people with similar interests. Residence halls and apartments where students live are also good places to form friendships. In academic settings, graduate students may form close relationships with other students in their academic departments. Similar opportunities exist for undergraduate students by joining study groups and through smaller size classes.

Dating and romantic relationships occur in a variety of styles and levels of commitment. Sometimes people go out together as friends, as a couple, or with a group, and romantic involvement is not necessarily part of that activity. Americans also date many people before or instead of engaging in more committed relationships. It is not uncommon or inappropriate for an American to date more than one person at a time or to date many people over time before making a commitment to one individual. Committed relationships tend to gradually become more serious. Not all such relationships, even very serious ones, result in marriage or long-term partnership. There is, however, a strong expectation that romantic friendships involve mutual attraction; it is never appropriate to pursue another person who expresses no interest in developing or continuing a friendship.

Romantic relationships among people of the same sex occur openly in most parts of the United States. However, because these relationships can be subject to prejudice and negative reactions from others, many colleges and universities have organizations to support and assist such students as needed.

As in other countries, certain kinds of conduct are considered inappropriate in the United States. For example, making personal comments or touching someone in a personal manner can be considered sexual harassment and is not acceptable. It is important for international students to understand what is appropriate behavior, especially in relating to the opposite sex. To learn what is considered appropriate, one might ask American friends, one’s resident assistant in the residence hall, or international students who have been in the United States for some time.

American Slang

Slang can be described as informal, nonstandard words or phrases which tend to originate in subcultures within a society. Slang is often used to identify with one’s peers and very often involves the creation of novel meanings for existing words, which tend to diverge significantly from their standard meanings. Below is a list of slang words and phrases which you may hear in your conversations with American students. While we do not recommend using slang in your communications, we do believe it may be helpful to understand the meaning of some of the slang you may hear.

ace:
airhead:
awesome (or wicked):
bash:
beat:
blue (down):
boozé:
brainy:
broke:
buzz off:
checkout:
chicken out:
chill:
chillin:
chocoholic:
coke:
cool:
fishy:
fixin’to:
gab:
grab a bite to eat:
grub:
hammered:
hunk:
john (can, loo):
knockout:
loaded:
nuts (or nutty):
on cloud nine: very, very happy
penny pincher: a cheap, stingy person who rarely spends money
shopoholic: a person who is addicted to shopping
to sleep: is bad
stuff: things (but used as a singular, non-count noun)
snooze: great
take off: to leave
ticked off: angry
tucked out: exhausted
upbeat: positive
wacko: a crazy person
whine: to complain
y'all (all y'all): Southern slang for you all (group)

American Slang Greetings
Hello: Hi; Hey there; Hi there; Hey
How are you?: What's new? How are you doing? How's it going? What's up?
Goodbye: See you; See you later; Later; Talk to you later
Yes: Yeah; Yup; Sure; You bet
No: Nope; No way; Not a chance; Not in this lifetime
Let's leave: Let's blow this popstand
I'm leaving: I'm out of here; I'm heading out

Going to hell in a handbasket: Describes a situation which is deteriorating rapidly
Not having a dog in that fight: Expresses the fact that you don't have business in a particular event.
Heebie jeebies: Describes something that makes you uncomfortable.
Johnny-on-the-spot: Nonsense
Heebie jeebies: Describes something that makes you uncomfortable.
Hogwash: Refers to someone who is eager to do something
Three sheets to the wind: Used to tell someone that s/he has taken a fairly small issue
and blown it completely out of proportion
Riled or Riled up: Describes someone who is uncooperative, stubborn, or mean
Riled up: Angry
Sitting like a knot on a log: To have made someone angry
Sore tailed cat: Being inactive, unmoving
Strut your stuff: Describes someone who is grouchy
Southern slang for you all (group)

Some Slang Idioms from the South
You may find that the colloquial language of the southern region in the U.S.A. is filled with images and
is rather "colorful" albeit not necessarily appropriate for general use. While we do not recommend using slang in your communications, we do believe it may be helpful to understand the meaning of some of the southern slang expressions you may hear.

All the bells and whistles: Something that has everything, all the add-ons available.
Barking up the wrong tree: Looking for something in the wrong place
Bitten off more than you can chew: Taken on a challenge that is too much
Can't see the forest for the trees: Unable to see the bigger picture or the broader, general situation.
Chew the fat: Talk socially, to chat or gossip
Couldn't carry a tune in a bucket: Describes someone who does not sing well
Don't count your chickens before they hatch: Don't rely on something that has not yet happened
Dumber Than a Bag of Hammers: When someone does or says something that either doesn't make sense or is just plain stupid
Crotchety: Describes someone who is temperamental due to old age
Cut off your nose to spite your face: Doing something so rash or silly because you are angry or upset, that it ends up making things worse for you

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Federal Holidays

Banks, government offices such as the post office are closed on the following holidays:

- **Labor Day**: First Monday of September
- **Columbus Day**: Second Monday of October
- **Veteran's Day**: November 11
- **Thanksgiving Day**: Fourth Tuesday of November
- **Christmas**: December 25
- **New Year's Eve**: December 31
- **New Year's Day**: January 1
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**: Third Monday in January
- **President's Day**: Fourth Monday in February
- **Easter**: First Sunday in April
- **Memorial Day**: Last Monday in May
- **Independence Day**: July 4

Stores and restaurants may also be closed or only open for limited hours on these holidays.

Time

There are four time zones in the contiguous United States (Eastern Standard, Central, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific Time). The University of Mississippi is located in the Central Time Zone.

Time in the U.S. is measured on a twelve-hour basis. Time is expressed in a.m. (ante meridiem) and p.m. (post meridiem). The hours 24:00 to 11:00 are expressed as 12:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The hours 12:00 to 23:00 are expressed as 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. For example, 2:00 would be 2:00 a.m. and 14:00 would be 2:00 p.m.

Daylight savings time is practiced. Clocks are set back one hour in early November. Clocks are turned forward one hour in early March.

Metric Conversion

Approximate conversions to metric measures

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Temperature Conversion

To convert Fahrenheit temperature to Centigrade (Celsius) subtract 32 then divide by 1.8. To convert Celsius temperature to Fahrenheit, multiply by 1.8 then add 32.
### Clothing and Shoe Sizes

#### Women's Clothing
- **Japanese**: S 7 9 11 13 15 17 19 21
- **American**: 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22
- **British**: 28 30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46 48 50 52 54 56
- **Continental**: 34 36 38 40 42 44 46 48 50 52 54 56

#### Men's Suits, Overcoats, & Sweaters
- **Japanese**: S (M) L LL
- **American**: 34 36 38 40 42 44 46
- **British**: 36 38 40 42 44 46
- **Continental**: 44 46 48 50 52 54 56

#### Collar Sizes, Men's Shirts
- **Japanese**: 36 37 38 39 40 41 42
- **American**: 14 14.5 15 15.5 16 16.5 17
- **British**: 14 14.5 15 15.5 16 16.5 17
- **Continental**: 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

#### Women's Shoes
- **Japanese**: 23 23.5 24 24.5 25 25.5 26
- **American**: 6 6.5 7 7.5 8 8.5 9
- **British**: 4.5 5 5.5 6 6.5 7 7.5
- **Continental**: 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

#### Men's Shoes
- **Japanese**: 24.5 26 27.5 28 29
- **American**: 5.5 6.5 7.5 8.5 9.5 10.5 11.5
- **British**: 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
- **Continental**: 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
Alma Mater: Refers to one's college or university, and also is the name of the school song. It's sung before athletics events, at graduations, and at other campus activities.

Way down south in Mississippi
There's a spot that ever calls
Where among the hills enfolded
Stand old Alma Mater's halls
Where the trees lift high their branches
To the whispering Southern breeze
There Ole Miss is calling, calling
To our hearts fond memories*

Alumni: Plural form for a graduate of Ole Miss. An alumnus (male) or alumna (female) is a graduate of Ole Miss. Many alumni (often shortened to "alums") are actively involved in programs, including the Ole Miss Alumni Association, that support the University.

Chancellor: The chancellor is the chief administrative officer of the University and is equivalent to a university president. The University of Mississippi chancellor is Dan Jones.


Ole Miss: The official name of The University of Mississippi's yearbook and embraced over the years as The University of Mississippi's nickname.

Pride of the South: The official name of The University of Mississippi Marching Band.

Tailgating: The University of Mississippian the distinction of being the No. 1 tailgating experience in the SEC, and one visit to our campus during a football Saturday will certainly confirm that. Occurring most frequently during football weekends, tailgating is also a tradition at Ole Miss baseball and other athletics events. Tailgating is popular on (but is certainly not limited to) Red/Blue Weekend, graduation, and any beautiful Saturday in Oxford. Tailgating involves setting up tables, chairs, tents, food, beverages, and whatever else you might enjoy, and celebrating the gathering of the Ole Miss family on campus to enjoy the event of the day.

Tailgating takes place in the Grove, Circle, and shaded, grassy areas all over campus and is open to anyone who wants to come and participate. While many people bring everything but the kitchen sink, any setup you have or food you want to bring is OK, provided certain rules are followed. Whatever you decide, tailgating is a tradition you don't want to miss. For regulations concerning tailgating, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs.

The DM: The Daily Mississippian, the student-run, daily newspaper at The University of Mississippi.

Fight Song: "Forward Rebels"
Forward Rebels, march to fame
Hit that line and win this game
We know that you'll fight it through
For your colors Red and Blue
Rah, Rah, Rah
Rebels you're the Southland's pride
Take that ball and hit your stride
Don't stop 'til the victory's won
for your Ole Miss
Fight, fight for your Ole Miss!

HottyToddy: The Ole Miss cheer-it only takes a few times to get it! Are You Ready? Hell Yes! Damn Right! HottyToddy, Gosh a'mighty Who in the hell are we-HEY Fil'm Flam', Bim Bam Ole Miss by damn! Chanted anytime the Rebels need a rallying cry! It is your responsibility to join in whenever you hear the Ole Miss faithful yell, "Are You Ready?"

Academic Terms

Academic Standing: The University expects all students to meet certain academic standards. Failure to do so will result in students being placed on academic probation, suspended or dismissed. Consult the Undergraduate Catalog for academic retention rules.

Adviser: A faculty/staff member who assists students with course selection and academic decision making appropriate to their personal, professional, and academic needs and goals.

Blackboard (Bb): A Web-based course-management system. It provides a Web portal environment, support for courses and campus organizations, and access to e-mail. Your Bb username is the first part of your e-mail address (the text before the @ symbol).

B.S.: Bachelor of Science degree.

Bachelor of Arts Degree: The Bachelor of Arts degree is the degree awarded after completion of the requirements of a specific program. Most bachelor's degrees take four years of study. There are several types of bachelor's degrees. The B.A. (Bachelor of Arts), B.B.A. (Bachelor of Business Administration), B.F.A. (Bachelor of Fine Arts) and B.A.E. (Bachelor of Arts in Education) are a few of the degrees offered at Ole Miss.

Blue Book: A small booklet of paper with a blue cover used for essay exams.

Class Attendance: Students are obligated to comply with class-attendance policies. It is the responsibility of each instructor to notify classes at the outset of each course of the attendance requirements for students. The university reserves the right to sever its relationship with any student who has been excessively absent and the student who incurs excessive absences may be dismissed from a given class upon recommendation of the instructor and approval by the student's academic dean. When it appears to an instructor that a student has discontinued a class without authority, the instructor will report this fact to the student's academic dean.
If a student is out of class for an extended period of time due to reasons beyond the student's control, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the teacher. If the student is out of class due to an emergency in which the dean of students has intervened, a note will be sent from the Office of the Dean of Students to the student's instructors. Please note that intervention by the dean of students does not excuse the absences.

Classes: Most classes meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday (MWF) or on Tuesday and Thursday (TTh). Although particular courses may vary from this schedule, MWF classes are usually 50 minutes long, and TTh classes last 75 minutes.

Commencement: Graduation!

Convocation: An academic welcome ceremony held at the beginning of the fall semester for incoming freshmen and transfer students.

Department Chair: Full-time professors who have administrative duties in addition to their teaching responsibilities.

Diploma Honors: Students are recognized for academic achievement by the faculty and administration upon graduation with the bachelor's degree. A diploma cum laude requires an overall grade-point average above 3.5 but below 3.75; magna cum laude requires an average of at least 3.75 but below 3.9; summa cum laude requires an average of at least 3.9.

Drop/Add: A period at the beginning of the semester when students may add or drop classes without penalty.

Electives or Options: Elective courses help make up the total number of hours required to complete a degree but are not specifically required for a major or degree program. Almost every curriculum includes elective or option courses. No limitations other than the standing prerequisites are imposed on the student's choice of these electives, except that elective courses should not cover materials substantially presented in one of the student's previous courses. Students are encouraged to use their electives to explore fields of study different from those required in their curriculums. Types of courses that are frequently selected as electives include environmental courses for information and awareness, fine arts, humanities, introductions to a discipline or technology for nonmajors and social sciences.

Extracurricular: The term extracurricular is applied to activities outside the curriculum or courses of the university that carry no academic credit. A healthy balance of curricular and extracurricular activities is recommended, even for freshmen.

Honors Day: The entire university community recognizes students for their outstanding academic achievements on Honors Day.

Honor Roll: Full-time students who have earned a grade-point average of 3.75 or better on academic work are recognized with inclusion in the Chancellor's Honor Roll. Students earning a grade-point average of 3.50 or above but below 3.74 are recognized on the Dean's Honor Roll in the appropriate school or college.

GPA: Cumulative grade-point average computed by dividing grade points by class hours attempted.

Grade Reporting: A report of final grades is mailed to university students after the close of each semester.

Internship: Work experience related to a student's major.

Major: A specialized field of study chosen by the student.

Prereqs: Courses a student must take before moving on to more advanced classes.

Incomplete: A student must take before moving on to more advanced classes.

Incomplete: An incomplete on your transcript means that a portion of work for a class needs to be completed.

Recitation: A discussion section similar to a lab that must be registered concurrently with a lecture section.

Scantron: A sheet of bubbles that correlate to a professor's exam questions, used in computer grading.

Section: Multiple classes offered for the same course.

Undecided Major: Although all students must be admitted to a particular undergraduate school or college, students who do not have a major may enter the College of Liberal Arts and be assigned an adviser who works specifically with undecided majors.

Taylor Medal: The university's highest individual academic award for scholarship is the Taylor Medal. It is awarded each year on Honors Day to students in pre-designated areas.

WebiD: This is a sign-on to access all UM Web applications for taking care of university business, such as registering for classes, checking grades and viewing other student-oriented information.

Greek Terms

Bid: A formal invitation to join a Greek-letter organization.

Chapter: A membership unit of a national or international fraternal organization.

Greek: A term applied to members affiliated with Greek-letter organizations.

IFC: Interfraternity Council, a representative body of men's fraternities.

Intake: The process of membership selection used by fraternities and sororities belonging to the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

NPHC: National Pan-Hellenic Council, the governing body of historically black fraternities and sororities.

Recruitment: The mutual selection process of membership in a Panhellenic or Interfraternity Council Greek organization consisting of scheduled functions during which active members and potential new members become acquainted.
Fall Family Weekend: A weekend in the fall semester dedicated to Ole Miss parents and family members, typically scheduled around an athletic event, in addition to activities and socials.

Double Decker Festival: An annual spring festival that takes its name from the town's authentic double-decker bus imported from England in 1994. The festival brings together visitors and residents alike for a daylong celebration of music, food, and the arts held on the picturesque Oxford Courthouse Square.

Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference: A six-day annual summer conference comprising Faulkner exhibits, lectures and discussions by literary scholars and critics.

Rumble in the Grove: A weekend of concerts in the Grove that typically takes place in the fall semester.

Red/Blue Weekend: Traditionally the first weekend in April, Red/Blue celebrates the coming of spring and is usually the culmination of spring football practice. The Saturday of Red/Blue features the Grove Bowl, the final spring intra-squad scrimmage that usually generates a high level of excitement and in the neighborhood of 28,000 fans. Other activities this weekend include reunions, Greek socials, bands in the Grove and countless other events on and around campus.

Welcome Week: A weeklong series of social, recreational, cultural and artistic programs during the first week of the fall semester.

Homecoming: A fall celebration with both current students and alumni.

Spring Fest: A weekend of free concerts sponsored by Campus Programming and S.P.B. in the Grove and typically held in April.

Campus Hotspots

Blues Archive: Located on The University of Mississippi’s campus, the Ole Miss Blues Archive holds one of the most extensive collections of blues recordings and related materials in the world. Included is B.B. King’s personal collection of memorabilia, the Kenneth S. Goldstein Folklore Collection and the Living Blues Archive Collection.

Circle: Refers to the wooded space located on the center of campus in front of the Lyceum.

Commons: Johnson Commons dining hall, an all-you-care-to-eat facility.

Gallery 130: Located in Meek Hall, the gallery is used for art exhibitions, lectures and other activities of the Department of Art. Loan exhibitions of outstanding professional work in architecture, painting, sculpture, graphic arts, photography, industrial art and commercial art are brought to the gallery at regular intervals. Exhibitions of faculty, alumni and student work are scheduled periodically. The gallery exhibitions and lectures are open to the public.

Ellipse: Grassy area between the Lyceum and the J.D. Williams Library, home of the Civil Rights Monument.

Food Court: Located in the Ole Miss Student Union.

Fulton Chapel: A main venue for events such as plays, musicals and pageants, and special programs such as orientation.

The Grove: Wooded area located on the central part of the Oxford campus; site of football tailgating, outdoor concerts and commencements also a great area to picnic, hang out with friends and relax.

Intramural Fields: Located south of the Oxford campus and used for intramural sports such as flag football, soccer, softball and rugby.

Quad: The area located on the west end of campus between Bondurant Hall, the J.D. Williams Library, Paris-Yates Chapel and Paul B. Johnson Commons.

Southern Breeze: Snack bar and arcade located on the fourth floor of the Student Union.

Walter V. Adams Home: In 1974, the university purchased the historic home of Stark Young, famous Mississippi author and playwright. It is currently part of the University Museum.

Walk of Champions: The sidewalk running from the Union through the Grove to University Avenue and dedicated to the 1962 Ole Miss football team, which went undefeated. Before every home football game, the usually two hours before kickoff, the Ole Miss football team and coaches walk the Walk of Champions from the front of the Student Union through the Grove, across University Avenue, between Bishop and Fayerhalls and to the Mike Starnes Training Center, the entire way being greeted and cheered by Ole Miss faithful. It is truly a unique event you’ll want to experience, so get to the Grove early!
Historic Oxford Square: Adding to the charm of Oxford is the historic Square, which is located at the intersection of Lamar and Jackson in the heart of downtown Oxford. The Square’s centerpiece is the Lafayette County Courthouse, rebuilt after the original structure was burned during the Civil War. Surrounding the courthouse are banks, boutiques, restaurants, bookstores, a bakery and the South’s oldest department store. In the evening, visitors can find live music in a variety of spots on and off the Square. No visit to Oxford is complete without a visit to the Square. For more information, contact the Oxford Tourism Council at 800-758-9177 or visit www.oxfordms.com.

Rowan Oak: The home of Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner is located in Oxford. The historic house is now owned by The University of Mississippi and maintained for memorial and educational purposes. Scholars from all over the world, as well as members of the general public, visit the home and grounds to acquaint themselves with the environment where some of the greatest and most highly regarded works of American literature were produced. For more information, contact William Griffith at 662-915-7073.

Sardis Reservoir: Located approximately 15 minutes from Oxford, Sardis Reservoir offers some of the finest fishing, hunting and camping facilities in North Mississippi. Contact the Corps of Engineers for information about Sardis Reservoir at 662-563-4531.

Graceland Too: A traditional road trip for many Ole Miss students to the Holly Springs home of an Elvis Presley artifact collector.