

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT  
**guidebook**



**NORTHERN MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

## Message from the Dean of Students

# A Warm Welcome to NMCC.

*To our students from around the world, we welcome you!*



This guidebook is intended to provide you with useful information to help prepare you for your arrival to the United States, your time here at NMCC, and the transition from NMCC to the next step in your life. Navigating the college experience can be a challenge on its own. Navigating life in a new country at the same time adds another layer of complexity that we are dedicated to helping you through.

Please understand that NMCC provides general advice/guidance. All F-1 visa students should educate themselves about Department of Homeland Security laws and regulations. "[Study in the States](#)", overseen by the Department of Homeland Security, is one of the best places to find this information.

Please remember that your questions are always welcome, and our doors are always open.

Sincerely,  
Matt Grillo

## Article

Remember this guide is not meant to replace the NMCC staff as your primary resource.

### Navigating this Guide

The information in this guide is written in the order in which most students will need it. Always remember that although we hope this document will help answer most of your questions, it is not meant to replace the staff at NMCC as a primary resource. In an attempt to reduce duplication, we will often direct you towards other key institutional resources such as the Course Catalog, Student Handbook, and the Residential Life Guide.

Links to all three can be found below and within the text of this guide.

NMCC Course Catalog:

[https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Students/Forms\\_and\\_Documents/](https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Students/Forms_and_Documents/)

NMCC Student Handbook:

[https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Students/Forms\\_and\\_Documents/](https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Students/Forms_and_Documents/)

Residential Life Guide:

[https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Campus\\_Life/](https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Campus_Life/)

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— Paul Theroux

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# About Presque Isle, Maine

Presque Isle is home to approximately 9,500 residents and is located in central Aroostook County in northern Maine.

Located 42 miles from Interstate 95, it is home to two institutions of higher learning: the University of Maine at Presque Isle and Northern Maine Community College.

Northern Light AR Gould Hospital is only 10 minutes from campus and is one of two major medical centers located in Northern Maine.

Presque Isle International Airport (PQI) is currently served by United Airlines and offers twice daily service to Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) with connections worldwide.

Daily bus service via CYR Bus line is available to Bangor Maine. From there, Greyhound and Concord Bus lines provide nationwide service.

The Presque Isle Recreation Department maintains a lovely walking path that extends from one end of town to the other. A modern public library, multiple parks (including wilderness walking trails), restaurants, and a movie theater provide community members with plenty of in-town activities.

If getting into the wilderness is more your style, this is the right place for you. With Aroostook State Park located just 5 miles out of town, and Haystack Mountain only 11 miles away, easy to moderate hiking trails are readily accessible all year round.

For those students who are even more adventurous, Presque Isle's location is ideal for its convenient access to incredible opportunities for incredible fishing, wilderness camping, canoeing and much more in the over 3.2 million acres of the North Maine Woods (NMW).

*“Everything I was I carry with me,  
everything I will be lies waiting on the  
road ahead.”  
— Ma Fian*

### Tips

# All the Travel Preparations You Need to Know

All international students with an I-20 and an F-1 visa need to know who NMCC's Principal Designated School Official (PDSO) and Designated Officials (DSO) are. The PDSO and DOS's are the staff on campus who issue I-20's, adjust them when appropriate, and are most familiar with the SEVIS system and the rules and regulations of the Department of Homeland Security. They provide guidance to obtain your F-1 visa, crossing into the United States, and any travel that may take place while you are a student at NMCC. They can support you regarding work (on or off campus), getting a social security card, and should you ever choose to do so, transferring to another school.



PDSO



**Matt Grillo**

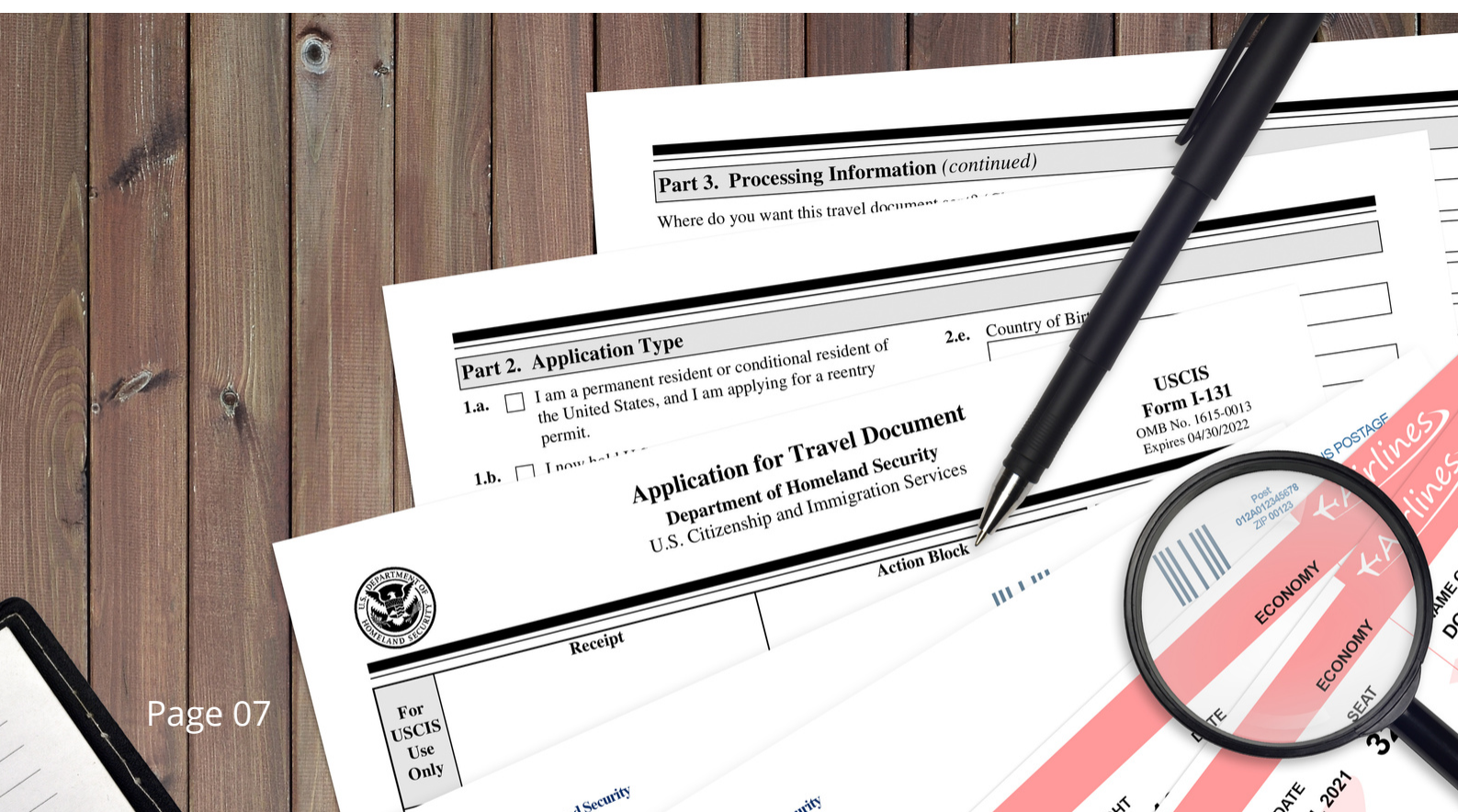
Dean of Students  
Office Location: Student Support  
Services, Martin Building  
[nmgrillo@nmcc.edu](mailto:nmgrillo@nmcc.edu)  
(207) 768-8154

DSO



**Sarah Stackhouse**

Director of Admissions and Outreach  
Office Location: Admissions Office,  
Christie Building  
[nsstackh@nmcc.edu](mailto:nsstackh@nmcc.edu)  
(207) 768-2782



# Pre-Arrival and Travel Preparations

The NMCC Admissions Office provides detailed instructions regarding how to obtain your F-1 Visa, navigate the US border crossing experience, and what to expect when you first arrive on campus. Below are the major highlights of that information.

Once accepted to NMCC you will be issued a Form I-20 Certificate of Eligibility for Non-immigrant Student Status. This is an important and official U.S. government document. ***Please keep this document safe as you will need it throughout your international student experience at NMCC.***

Please read all of the information at this link to understand the Form I-20:  
<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/prepare/students-and-the-form-i-20>

Once received, please review your Form I-20 to ensure the information is correct. If you find any errors, please contact the Director of Admissions immediately ([admissions@nmcc.edu](mailto:admissions@nmcc.edu)). Be sure to sign your Form I-20 as soon as you verify that the information is correct.

## Next steps:

1. Pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee. All new F-1 students must pay a one-time SEVIS fee (currently \$350 USD). Visit this website to get started: <https://www.fmjfee.com/> and be sure to save the receipt!
2. You can read more about the I-901 fee here:  
<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/prepare/paying-the-i-901-sevis-fee>
3. Next, complete the DS-160 online visa application:  
<https://ceac.state.gov/GenNIV/Default.aspx>
4. The video at this link is helpful: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLxSobebKF0>
5. The DS-160 Application fee is currently \$185 USD
6. Finally, schedule a visa interview at the US embassy or consulate. It is recommended that you schedule the appointment in your home country rather than a third country if possible.
7. Check for any requirements at the closest embassy: <https://www.usembassy.gov/>

Visa appointment timelines and procedures vary by country. To ensure a timely response, please begin this process as soon as possible.

For more information visit <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html>

# Preparing for Your F-1 Visa Interview

*The interview is a vital part of the non-immigrant visa process. During this interview, it is very important that you make an honest and convincing argument to the officer about your intent to study in the United States of America and your plans to return home to your country after the program end date on your Form I-20. Please consider the following information and tips to help you prepare.*

## **Interview tips:**

1. Review the NMCC website to be knowledgeable about our school and the location.
2. Be prepared to speak about why you are planning to study at Northern Maine Community College and how your program of study fits in with your academic and career goals.
3. Be brief and direct with your answers. Do not share unnecessary details about your life.
4. Have a positive attitude and be honest and polite.
5. If you do not understand a question, ask the officer to repeat it.

## **Documents to bring with you:**

- ❑ Form DS-160 Non-immigrant Visa
- ❑ Application confirmation page
- ❑ Visa fee receipt (if required)
- ❑ SEVIS fee receipt (Form I-901)
- ❑ Passport (valid for at least 6 months)
- ❑ Form I-20 from NMCC
- ❑ Photo that meets all photograph that meets all requirements for US Visa
- ❑ A copy of your Certification of Finances form and supporting financial documents
- ❑ Proof of ties to home country (examples: investments, property, personal possessions, bank accounts, familial relationships, or future career goals)
- ❑ NMCC Acceptance Letter
- ❑ Any other documents requested by the US embassy or consulate

In addition to these tips and the checklist, you may find the following links helpful in preparing for your interview:

[10 Points to Remember When Applying for a Visa](#)  
[Reasons for Visa Denials](#)





### Next Steps in the Journey

# What should I do after the interview?

- 1** Notify the Director of Admissions of the outcome of your interview.
- 2** After you receive your visa, make sure it is the correct type (F-1) and that your name and date of birth are accurate and match the information in your passport.

As a reminder, a visa does not guarantee entry into the United States. A visa will only allow you to travel to a U.S. port of entry and request permission to enter the United States. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the port of entry have authority to permit or deny admission to the United States.
- 3**
- 4** For more information and step-by-step instructions on applying for your student visa, visit the Student Visa page on the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs website.

***International students are required to arrive on campus the Wednesday before classes start for their first semester.***

For the start and end of the school year (August and May) NMCC provides transportation to and from the Presque Isle International Airport (PQI).

We recommend that students check with the State Department to learn of any travel restrictions or advisories that may impact your travel.

(<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>),

We recommend that students check with the United States CDC for the most up-to-date requirements related to vaccinations and/or immunization for individuals arriving to the United States. (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>)



# international student guide

## Getting Prepared

### ***Packing List***

Thoughtful packing for your travel and time at NMCC is important. It is also important to recognize that you will not be able to bring everything that you will need when you travel to the United States. During your first 24-48 hours you will have the opportunity to purchase items such as bedding, pillows, laundry detergent, toiletries, school supplies, and the basic needs of daily life.

A detailed packing list is available in the Residential Life Guidebook located on the student portal

([https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Campus\\_Life/](https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Campus_Life/))

### ***Money***

During the first 48 hours of your arrival, you will have the opportunity to go shopping for necessities. The items below are often difficult to bring if arriving by plane and can be purchased during this initial shopping trip.

- Laundry detergent
- Laundry basket
- Soap and shampoo
- Seasonally appropriate clothing
- Snack Food
- School Supplies

The amount of money a student spends during the first few days on campus varies but is often between \$100 and \$300 (USDA). If a student needs to buy winter clothing (boots, jacket, gloves, hat, etc.) this cost can easily increase an additional \$200 or more, depending on personal preference. Students should take this into consideration and arrive with the appropriate amount of US currency.

# Arrival at the United States Port of Entry and the First 48 Hours

## *Arrival at US Customs*

Although crossing through customs can be intimidating for some, being prepared is key. Have your passport and Form I-20 ready to hand over. Having copies of the documents you brought with you to your visa interview such as your acceptance letter, as well as the contact information for NMCC's PDSO (see above) is also recommended. At the port of entry students will be issued an I-94 but may not receive a hard copy at the point of entry. The I-94 is a record of your legal entry to the United States and can be printed once you arrive to campus.

Follow this link to learn more about an I-94 and/or print the most recent version: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>

## *Arrival to the Campus*

If you are living in campus housing final confirmation of your arrival date and time will be made with the Residential Life Department. If needed, a staff member will be waiting for you at the Presque Isle airport or bus station.

Depending on arrival times and length of travel, students may want to immediately rest in their rooms. If not, they may choose to get started right away on some of the following activities:

- Eat a meal
- Campus Tour
- Shopping for necessities
- Opening a bank account

We will work with you based on your needs.

## *Accepted Student Day*

International Students will participate with all first-year students in our Accepted Student Day, the Friday before classes start. This will cover both academic and residential life information including but not limited to safety and security protocols, how to navigate Brightspace (our online learning management system, the school Bookstore, our Information and Technology Department (IT), and more.



## Maintaining Your F-1 Status

Maintaining legal status is extremely important. Falling out of status will make your student Form-I20 invalid, legally stop you from continuing your study, and make you ineligible for other benefits, such as CPT (Curricular Practical Training) or OPT (Optional Practical Training).

As a Form I20 holder, international students must adhere to the following federal regulation and NMCC policies:

1. Check in with NMCC's PDSO or DSO upon your arrival to campus to register your SEVIS record. This alerts the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that you are an active student. You must report to the NMCC PDSO within 5 days of the start of each semester. Failure to check-in with the PDSO could result in delays with class registration, possible loss of legal status, and possible termination of SEVIS record.
2. Maintain full-time enrollment in a course of study in each academic term. The minimum per semester is 12 credits. Summer semester classes are optional except if you plan to live on campus. If you do wish to live on campus you must enroll in at least one summer course at NMCC. Nine of your 12 credit requirements must be in person classes (not online). A hybrid class only counts toward your nine in-person requirement only if it is 51% or more, in-person.
3. If you cannot complete a full course of study due to extenuating medical or academic circumstances, you must be approved for a Reduced Course Load with the approval from NMCC's PDSO BEFORE you drop below full-time or take a leave of absence. This is only an option during your first and last semester. Reduced course loads may be granted for medical reasons on a case-by-case basis.

4. Earn the necessary grades in your classes to make satisfactory progress toward completion of your program.
5. If you plan to graduate early or cannot complete your program by the program end date listed on the I-20, you must speak with NMCC's PDSO to see if you are eligible to have your program date shortened or extended on your I-20. This must be completed at least two weeks before the I-20 program end date.
6. Report any changes to your name, address, or contact information to NMCC's PDSO within 10 days of the change.
7. Keep your passport valid 6 months into the future. Contact your embassy to renew your passport well BEFORE the expiration date.
8. Never accept employment, internships, or volunteer opportunities on or off campus without authorization from NMCC's PDSO even if it is unpaid or an internship. Contact NMCC's PDSO to determine if you are eligible for off-campus employment or internship authorization in your field of study. F-1 visa students are not eligible for this type of off-campus work/internship during their first year. Additional information regarding employment and internships can be found further on in this document.
9. Never work in an on campus position for more than 20 hours per week while school is in session. Full-time (more than 20 hours per week) on-campus work is permitted during official school breaks and vacations.
10. Notify the PDSO if you intend to transfer to another U.S. school.
11. Submit your I-20 for a travel authorization to the PDSO at least 2 weeks before you leave the U.S. for vacations if you intend to return and continue your studies.
12. Report any changes to your major, program level, funding source to NMCC's PDSO within 10 days of the change.
13. Comply with all other U.S. federal and state laws, such as never driving while intoxicated and never carrying a weapon.
14. Comply with all other Northern Maine Community College academic and conduct policies by familiarizing yourself with the NMCC Student Handbook. ([https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Students/Forms and Documents/](https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Students/Forms%20and%20Documents/))

# Student Visa Common Terminology Definitions

USCIS	United States Citizenship and Immigration Services is the government agency responsible for enforcing the regulations
SEVIS	Student Exchange Visitor Information System
PDSO/DSO	Principal Designated School Official/Designated Official: These are school staff who have been approved by the US government to grant certification of status for international students and to verify status on government forms.
Form I-20	School generated document used to obtain your F-1 visa for entry and re-entry into the United States. This three-page document shows your field of study, start and end dates of study, and financial information.
F-1 Visa	The class of visa that is issued to non-immigrants who are granted permission to enter the US to study at an approved school, also known as a student visa.
I-94	This form is issued to students upon their arrival in the United States. It is an electronic record that gets updated each time the US border is crossed. Print and keep with you.....
Social Security (Card)	The first step before starting any on or off campus work. To get a social security card you will need to bring the following documents to the local Social Security Office: Must have contract/offer of employment Your signed I-20 If you are on curricular practical training or optional practical training (OPT), your DSO should note this in your SEVIS record and sign page three of the Form I-20 Your current Form I-94 Your valid passport Your valid visa. Additional details can be found at Study in the States: <a href="https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2015/01/social-security-numbers-when-you-need-one-and-how-you-apply-one">https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2015/01/social-security-numbers-when-you-need-one-and-how-you-apply-one</a>
On Campus Employment	In most cases, on-campus employment is work that directly supports the student body (for example, working at a school bookstore, cafeteria, wellness center, or residence hall). Students must obtain a job offer/contract and a social security card before work begins.
CPT <a href="https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/sevis-student-employment-opt">https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/sevis-student-employment-opt</a>	Curricular Practical Training: This is training/work/internship that is directly related to a student's major program of study, is an integral part of the school's established curriculum (required) and takes place before a student's Program End Date on their I-20. The student must have been lawfully enrolled on a full-time basis for at least a full academic year. The training/work/internship must be secured with a written offer before CPT authorization is finalized. CPT authorization must be received before work can begin. This is particularly relevant for NMCC students who are in programs that require clinical placement, field experience, and/or externships as part of the program.
OPT <a href="https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/sevis-student-employment">https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/sevis-student-employment</a>	Optional Practical Training: OPT can be work for any employer as long as the work relates to the student's major program of study. Students must obtain Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) from the USCIS by filling out an Application for Employment Authorization (Form I-765). There is a filing fee of approximately \$400-\$500. OPT can occur before or after the students Program End Date on their I-20. Periods of OPT cannot overlap as there is a 12-month limit (per each level of education). For example, students are eligible to work for 12 months during associate degree, another 12 months during bachelor's degree and another 12 months during master's degree.
F-2 Dependent Visa	Students who wish to bring a family member with them can apply for an F-2 Dependent Visa. NMCC will need to issue an I-20 for such individuals the same as if they were a student. They will require all the same documentation as well as marriage and birth certificates. In order for NMCC to issue an I-20 for an infant (under the age of one year old), who does not have a passport, we must see evidence that the parent has applied for the infant's passport. Take note that the annual cost of attendance (Certification of Finances) is adjusted accordingly for those who have family members arriving with them. Visit Study in the States for information related to dependent regulations. <a href="https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/get-started/bringing-dependents-to-the-united-states">https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/get-started/bringing-dependents-to-the-united-states</a>

# Understanding Academic System and Supports

GPA	Grade Point Average
Matriculating	To be formally accepted and enrolled in a specific academic program/major course of study at the institution. Students must maintain the required grades to remain as matriculating students
Syllabus	Course guide provided by class instructors at the beginning of the semester. A syllabus generally provides important dates, assignments, goals, and rules that may be specific to that class.
Add/Drop	The first week of each semester provides students with the ability to add or drop classes. If a student drops/withdraws from classes during this time period, the class (nor grade) will appear on their transcript. The Class Withdrawal (Drop) Form can be obtained in the Student Support Services Office or within the Student Portal.
Incomplete	An instructor may issue the grade of incomplete when, in the instructor's opinion, extenuating or unusual circumstances prevent a student from completing the semester's work. An incomplete can be requested by the student by completing an Agreement for Incomplete Form found in the Student Portal.
Withdrawal without Academic Penalty (Date Specific) *See below for how this could impact your ability to remain in the United States.	Generally during the 12th week of the semester, a student may withdraw from a class before this date without academic penalty. A grade of "W" will appear on the student's transcript next to the grade they had at the time of withdrawal.
"Brightspace"	NMCC online learning management system used by faculty to deliver class content.



## *Technology | Computer Needs*

Your student acceptance packet includes a section on technology requirements. If you do not have a device that meets these requirements, laptops can be purchased on-line, locally in Presque Isle, or at the NMCC bookstore.

(<https://nmcc.bnccollege.com/computer-desktops-laptops-tablets>)

## *Program Specific Tools and Supplies*

Some NMCC programs require special tools and supplies. Examples include the Automotive Technology Program which has an extensive tool list, and our Nursing Program. These tools and supplies can be purchased during the first week of school. If your program has this kind of requirement this, along with approximate costs, will be communicated during the admissions process.

## *The Grading System*

NMCC uses a 4.0 grading scale. Letter grades (A-F) are used by faculty for individual and overall class assessments. A detailed chart of our grading system can be found within the Academic Information section of our Course Catalog.

([https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Students/Forms\\_and\\_Documents/](https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Students/Forms_and_Documents/))

Within the Student Handbook, you will find the criteria needed to remain in good academic standing, what it means to be placed on Academic Probation, and what could happen if your grades drop too low to make satisfactory academic progress (Academic Dismissal).

([https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Students/Forms\\_and\\_Documents/](https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Students/Forms_and_Documents/))

## *Class Syllabus*

Each class syllabus should include the instructor's attendance policy. In some classes class attendance will impact your grade in the class. Consistent class attendance is strongly correlated with academic success and all students are encouraged to do all they can to attend all classes throughout the semester. If you are unable to attend a class on any given day, early communication with the instructor regarding the absence is important.

## *Office Hours*

All instructors hold office hours. These are times when your class instructors are available to meet, discuss class, answer questions about class, and provide advice.

Integrity is doing what  
is right even when  
no one is watching.

### *Academic Integrity*

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines the word, plagiarize as, “to use the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own words or ideas” In colleges and universities this often takes place in the written form. This conduct is viewed differently in many cultures across the world. In the United States it is generally not acceptable. In the college and university setting it is considered cheating. It can result in grades of zero and may be considered a violation of the NMCC Student Code of Conduct. If you do not fully understand the concept of plagiarism, we encourage you to research the topic. There are many short video's on the topic on the internet such as those found here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCaMuugeQzA>).





### Campus Life at NMCC

# What is it like to live on campus?

As a residential student, you will have the advantage of convenience and the strong sense of community spirit while enjoying the full college experience. There are many benefits to being a residential student, but the best one is that students that live on campus have a higher graduation rate than those that do not. With easy access to classes and resources such as the excellent Edmunds Library,

and modern spaces, including the Smith Wellness Center and Reed Dining Commons, it is an experience you will be sure to enjoy.

Be sure to read the recently updated Residential Life Guide to learn about campus life, living in our residence halls, campus activities, and important dates. Also, remember to check the school's social media accounts to keep up to date on community activities and events.

## *Dining Services*

It is important for international students to recognize when the dining hall is open, and when it is not. During our week-long vacations in the months of November, February and April, as well as our extended vacation during the months of December/January and the summer semester, Reed Dining Hall is closed. During these times students are responsible for their own meals. There is a common area kitchen located in Snow Hall that is available to students year-round. Students are welcome to have microwaves and electric kettles in their rooms.

## *Campus Events and Activities*

Participating in NMCC-sponsored events and activities is one of the best ways to make friends and learn about your new home. NMCC offers weekly activities such as intramural programs in the gym, hiking trips on weekends, movie nights, games nights, and more. The schedules of events can be found on campus bulletin boards, are communicated through email by our residential life team, and found on our Student Life Events Calendar in the school portal.

([https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/NMCC\\_Home.jnz?portlet=Student\\_Life\\_Events\\_Calendar](https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/NMCC_Home.jnz?portlet=Student_Life_Events_Calendar))

## *Title IX*

Title IX (9) is a United States civil rights law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in any school or any other education program that receives funding from the federal government. How does this relate to you? Title IX also directs institutions how to respond to accusations of sexual assault and misconduct. This could include but is not limited to rape, stalking, unwanted physical contact, and sexual harassment.

The Maine Community College System and NMCC have policies and procedures that provide definitions and steps to take when an individual is a victim of or is accused of, sexual misconduct. You will be provided with educational materials during your orientation. These policies can be [found here](#).

(<https://www.nmcc.edu/non-discrimination-title-ix-policy/>)

Norms related to physical relationships and sexual intimacy are different across the world. It will be important to learn what is acceptable and illegal in the United States. A great deal of emphasis is placed on consent. Consent can be defined as giving permission for someone to do something. Learn more about consent and our sexual assault and misconduct policies by completing the orientation training that is provided by NMCC, as well as visiting the Sexual Assault Services page in our student portal.

([https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Students/Student\\_Support\\_Services/Sexual\\_Assault\\_ServicesAbuse.jnz](https://my.nmcc.edu/ICS/Students/Student_Support_Services/Sexual_Assault_ServicesAbuse.jnz))

# Additional Services

## *Transportation*

Although NMCC will provide transportation during the first week of arrival for shopping and banking needs, students are responsible for finding transportation throughout their stay. This includes but is not limited to regular shopping needs, getting to and from an off-campus job or internship, and visiting friends who may live off campus. The following resources are available:

- Aroostook Cab: (207) 764-1600 or (207) 496-3227.
- Town Taxi: (207) 764-3200 or (207) 496-3146
- “ARTS Bus” (Taxi style services in the form of a community bus!): (207) 764-3384 or 1-800-442-3320

## *Health Insurance*

Access to healthcare in the United States can be expensive. Unlike in many countries this is no universal healthcare system. All international students are strongly encouraged to buy health insurance. There are numerous insurance agencies that sell health insurance to international students. Exchange Guard and ISI (International Student Insurance) are two such examples.

## *Banking, Credit Cards and Financial Considerations*

Opening a bank account at an American bank is an option for most students. NMCC will provide transportation to a local bank during the first week on campus for those who wish to take this step. You will need the following to open a bank account and receive a debit card.

- Social Insurance Card or Social Security Card from your home country
- Copy of your I-20
- Passport
- A minimum of \$10 dollars (USDA) to deposit into your account

## *Taxes for International Students*

It is the responsibility of each student to educate themselves on tax requirements in the United States. This is especially important for Individuals who earn taxable income from working. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is the government agency that oversees taxes.

<https://www.irs.gov/foreign-students-scholars-and-exchange-visitors>

In addition, private companies such as HR Block provide individualized tax services. There is an HR Block office located at the following address in Presque Isle, Maine.

769 Main St,  
Presque Isle, ME 04769  
(207) 764-6765

If you do not earn taxable income while studying at NMCC, you will need to file Form 8843 ("Statement for Exempt Individuals and Individuals with a Medical Condition").

The deadline to file taxes each year is available on the IRS website, (usually the 2nd week in April).

## *Emergencies, Security, and the 911 System*

The United States use 911 as an emergency phone number to contact emergency services including, police, ambulance and fire. Dialing these three digits is all that is needed.

NMCC has a 24 hour security team that is available to students. Their office is located in the Akeley Student Center, not far from the main entrance (Smith Wellness Center) doors. Their 24-hour phone number is (207) 551-5765

## *Weather in Northern Maine*

Northern Maine's weather changes often. Summers (June-August) are pleasant with temperatures averaging from 70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit (21 to 27 degrees Celsius) with occasional higher temperatures. Winters (December-February) are cold. Although the temperature is generally somewhere between 5 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit (-15 to -6 degrees Celsius), nighttime temperatures and windchills can be much colder. We usually see multiple days/nights during the winter when the temperature reaches as low as -20 Fahrenheit (-28 Celsius). A few days each winter it will be even colder. Proper winter clothes (including hats, gloves and footwear) are a must!

## *Graduation and Guest Considerations*

If you would like to have family or friends come to the United States to watch your graduation from NMCC, communicate this to the Dean of Students as soon as possible. Depending on what country you are from it may take many, many months for them to get a visa. The Dean of Students can provide written support for the visa application process.

Annual graduation dates can be found at the student portal ([mynmcc.edu](http://mynmcc.edu)) under the Academics tab.

## *After graduation (“Program End Date”) Withdrawal from NMCC*

F-1 visa holders have 60 days after their program end date to leave the United States. For F-1 students who participate in post-completion optional practical training, they have 60 days after their employment ends to depart.

## *Withdrawal*

A student may be granted an Authorized Early Withdrawal by the school for various reasons (medical condition, family emergency) If a student received an authorized early withdrawal or a permitted temporary absence from their course of study, they are permitted a 15-day grace period to depart the United States. F-1 students who are granted an authorized early withdrawal, but do not depart the country within the 15-day grace period, are in violation of their student visa status. This could have negative implications on their ability to reenter the United States and apply for another visa.

If an F-1 student withdraws or leaves the academic program without first receiving approval for an authorized early withdrawal, they will not be granted the 15-day grace period and must leave the country immediately.

## **Disclaimer**

Northern Maine Community College provides advice/guidance. However, any advice/guidance provided by the staff at NMCC, as well as the information on our website, should not be construed as legal advice. Due to the fluid nature of governmental interpretation, individuals must understand that government agencies may change their interpretation of established immigration laws/regulations and eligibility requirements at any time. We strongly suggest consulting with an attorney when seeking legal advice.

Northern Maine Community College

# international student guide

*“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry,  
and narrow-mindedness.”  
— Mark Twain*

*Contact us if you need support,  
advice, or assistance. You are part  
of the NMCC Community now!*



(207) 768-2785

@northernmainecommunitycollege

admissions@nmcc.edu

www.nmcc.edu