

Life in Huntington & on Campus

- State: Indiana (IN)
- Time Zone: Eastern Time Zone
- (same as New York and Washington D.C.)
- Emergency Number: 911
- Huntington Zip Code: 46750
- Huntington Phone Area Code: 260

Measurements

United States uses different measurements than most other countries. Here is a brief guide to get you ready for American measurements!

Kilogram (kg)	Pound (lbs)
1	2.20
5	11.20
10	22.05
15	33.07
30	66.14

Centimeter (cm)	Inch (in)
1	0.3940
2.54	1
5	1.9700
10	3.9400
30	11.8200

Meter (m)	Feet (ft)	Yard (yd)
0.30	1	
1	3.28	1.0936
5	16.40	5.4680
10	32.80	10.9361
30	98.43	32.8083

Kilometer (km)	Mile
1	0.6214
1.61	1
5	3.11
10	6.21
30	18.64

Celsius (C)	Fahrenheit (F)
0	32
10	50
20	68
30	86
40	104

More information: <http://www.worldwidemetric.com/metcal.htm>

Money (Currency)

As your country has its own currency (money), the United States has its own currency. The unit of measurement is dollars “\$.” Some people call “bucks” in casual conversations.

Smaller units are called cents “¢.” 100¢ equals \$1.

Americans commonly use cash, credit card, or check.

Cash — Used in daily life or for purchasing small things. Many people use up to \$20 bills, but seldom \$50 or \$100 bills.

Card — There are two types: Debit Card and Credit Card. When you use a Debit Card, the amount will be instantly withdrawn from your bank account. On the contrary, when you use a Credit Card, the amount will be charged several days or up to one month later. You can choose to pay an installment with interest payment or the full amount.

Check — When you open your account at a bank, you will receive a checkbook. Checks are commonly used.

Coins and Bills

(From left to right)

One cent (Penny)

Five cents (Nickel)

Ten cents (Dime)

Twenty Five cents (Quarter)

**An easy way to distinguish between the Nickel and Quarter is the difference between decoration and no decoration on the side edge.*

*Quarters are commonly used for vending machines and laundry machines. You can only use quarters for washing machines and dryers in your dormitory. There is a coin machine in Norm's place to exchange your \$1 and \$5 bills for quarters.



One-Dollar Bill



Five-Dollar Bill



Ten-Dollar Bill



Twenty-Dollar Bill



Fifty-Dollar Bill



One Hundred-Dollar Bill



Banks:

There are many banks in the town of Huntington. Depending on what you prefer, you can choose the best one for you.

1. Bippus State Bank
2. Lake City Bank
3. Markle Bank
4. National City Bank
5. 1st Source Bank
6. Wells Fargo
7. Etc.

Office Hours

Basically, bank offices are open from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (check w/bank for current hours as they vary) from Monday through Friday. There is no closing time for lunch on those days.

Automatic Teller Machine (ATM)

There is also Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) outside of the bank office or in a shopping mall. Basically, when you withdraw your money with your bank's ATM, there will be no charge. Yet, some banks charge you fees when you withdraw from different branches. Please make sure of the details with your bank.

Accounts:

There are two types of accounts: Checking accounts and Savings accounts. A Checking account is the one where you deposit and withdraw your money. Typically, a Savings account can earn interest on your balance. There is always a minimum balance on a Savings account. Please check with your bank to determine what is suitable for you.

Transportation

There is no common public transportation in Huntington. The train you can hear from your room is an industrial train. HU does not provide transportation for international students.

There is a HAT service 356-3006 (Huntington Area Transportation) that is run by a nonprofit organization. Cost is \$1 each trip. It works like a taxi, but you need to book 24 hours in advance. Most students who don't have a car ask friends to drive them to the supermarket or anywhere else. There is a service to the Indianapolis airport called Hoosier Shuttle Service. Their contact number is 877-392-2463 to set up times for transport to/from the Indianapolis airport. Pickup is not at HU so you would need a ride to the Markle exit 86 Sunoco Gas Station; or exit 78 the Warren Truck Stop; or 24/69 exit Village of Coventry at Bob Evans. The cost is \$35 (subject to change) one way. This needs to be scheduled in advance to make sure of availability. The website for more information on this service is

<http://www.hoosiershuttle.com/index.html>.

Driver's License

In order to drive a car in Indiana, you need to have an Indiana's driver's license. The office is called Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). It will cost about \$30 for the entire process, such as taking the paper exam, getting a learner's permit, taking the driving exam, and issuing a driver's license. You will need to contact the designated school official (DSO-Margaret Pasko) in student development.

Documentation to take with you: two (2) forms of ID with your dorm's physical address on it (ex. bill from HU, checking account with dorm's address; passport; I20, I94, visa, SS# (if no number need denial letter from social security office stating ineligible for one). You will need to wait about two (2) months before taking a driving exam after you have passed the paper exam.

Owning a Car

When you get a car you need to go the BMV and register your vehicle with your car insurance documents. There are many companies which provide car insurance:

- All State
- GEICO
- Nationwide
- Progressive
- State Farm

Driving Lessons

Many people learn how to drive from their family or friends. However, due to car insurance coverage, some people are hesitant to teach someone without insurance coverage. There is a private driving academy in Huntington called Northeast Indiana Driving Academy. (Further information is in the phone directory on the last page.) It is more costly than learning from a friend, but you can learn officially.

Daylight Saving Time

We move forward 1 hour in March and backward 1 hour in October. There will be an announcement to not forget this time change around that time. The day you need to adjust will usually be on a Saturday, so if you miss it, you will know if/when you go to church.

Calendar **Major Day**

Description

New Year's Day

January 1st

Good Friday

The Friday before Easter

Easter

Look on your calendar to find the first day of spring, and then look for the first full moon that immediately follows that first spring day. Now, if that day of the first full moon is a Sunday, then that Sunday is Easter. If not a Sunday, then the very next Sunday after that full moon will be Easter.

Memorial Day

Last Monday in May since 1971; from 1868 to 1970 it was celebrated on May 30 and was called Decoration Day for part of that time.

July 4

United States of America's Independence Day

Labor Day

First Monday in September

Veterans Day

November 11th

Thanksgiving Day

Fourth Thursday in November

Christmas Day

December 25th

Health issues

Health Insurance

Each international student will automatically be on health insurance through Gallagher Koster Insurance Company. **Before seeing a doctor**, you need to visit the campus nurse located in Wright Hall. Otherwise the health insurance might not cover the doctor or hospital fee.

American Health System

There is no universal health insurance in the United States. Many people are on private individual plans or family plans through their employment. Thus, health service without insurance tends to be expensive.

Coverage

The campus health insurance does not cover some health services. For example, it does not cover services for contact lenses or beauty treatments and has limited dental coverage. Also, some health checks or tests won't be covered. Please check with the campus nurse before you decide to do something. The brochure is available online at <https://www.gallagherkoster.com>

Prevention

In fall and winter local drug stores and grocery stores provide flu shots, which prevent/protect against flu or cold infection. Please check with the campus nurse for details.

Also, there are some tips for your prevention as follow:

1. Take balanced nutrition everyday from meals and take supplements (vitamins).
2. Wash your hands before you eat. (“Hand Sanitizer” is used for some people.)
3. Do some exercises periodically. (Don’t forget to stretch)
4. Keep yourself and your room clean.
5. Sleep well

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask the campus nurse or International Student Council.

Communication

Postal service

When you want to send something to somewhere in U.S. or your home country, you can always go to the mail office (located in the maintenance building by Forester Village). You can buy stamps or directly send out your mail or package.

If you just want to drop off a stamped envelope, there is a blue mailbox between Roush dormitory and Roush parking lot. Postal service will pick up once a day (around 1:00 PM).

Receiving a package

When you receive a parcel or bigger sized envelope, those will be stocked in the mailing office. You will receive a notification e-mail from the mail office (Amy Johnson).

(United States Postal Service: <http://www.usps.com>)

Phone

There is a room-phone available upon your request.

Most students have individual cell (mobile) phones. You can buy one at a local super-market or sign up at local cell-phone stores. There are several carriers:

- ❖ Alltel
- ❖ AT&T
- ❖ Centennial
- ❖ Sprint
- ❖ T-Mobile
- ❖ Virgin
- ❖ Verizon

Cell Phone Payment

- There are two ways to pay for a cell phone.
- Monthly plan—You pay a fixed amount to the cell phone company. You will be able to use a limited amount of phone calls and text messages (like an e-mail on the cell phone). When you reach the maximum amount for the plan, there will be additional, expensive charges for these services.
- Pay as you go—Suitable for those who want to use it as an emergency phone. Instead of signing up for a plan, the phone company will charge you each phone call or text message. You usually buy “Top-Up Card” (between \$20-\$100) and register your account. The company will withdraw the fee from your account.

Long Distance Calls (within the USA)

- The cost of a call varies depending on the distance. If the phone number is out of the state, a call will cost more. For example, when Indiana cell phone number calls a New York phone number, the call becomes long-distance. The long-distance costs more than a call between Indiana cell phones.

International Call

- If you call directly to your home from your phone, it will be very expensive. Many international students—especially those from far away—use an international calling card or make a collect call. You can buy an international calling card at most stores. You will then get limited minutes at an inexpensive price. When you make a collect call, the phone charge will be on the other side where you are calling.

On-line Communication

- Many people use Skype for international communication instead of a phone call. Skype is an online communication program where you can hear and see the other side with no charge. Yet, both sides need to have this program and equipment (camera and internet connection) in order to take advantage of free service.

Safety

Huntington area

The city of Huntington is a relatively safe area. Many people don't lock their house or car doors. However, as a precaution it is recommended to lock your dorm door when leaving for an extended time. Also, it is not always safe to wander around at night by yourself. Please pay attention to your surroundings. Tips for you:

- Don't leave your belongings unattended (especially wallet/purse)
- Don't go to a stranger's house by yourself.
- Don't walk on the road when it gets dark. (You might be hit by a car.)
- Get directions if unfamiliar with area

When you go somewhere you don't know, leave a memo or tell your roommate the address and your contact information (your cell phone or the phone number of whom you are visiting). Although criminal incidents seldom happen in Huntington, it is good for your safety and convenience.

Police

U.S. Police are fair and conduct their mission based on rules. They won't ask for a bribe and seldom give exceptions. Unless you are involved in criminal conduct, U.S. Police are friendly. (Sometimes, they waive their hands to children.)

Please carry a driver's license or student card when you go out: ID card and documents are always useful to prove yourself and your connection to Huntington University.

Campus

Campus is also relatively safe and between the hours of 6 PM and 6 AM campus police are on duty. Many students don't lock their room door. Yet, for your safety, it is always best to lock the door before you go to sleep. The campus police number is 260-224-1412.

Campus Life

Some Stores around Huntington

- Aldi (grocery store accepting cash only and bring your own bags)
- K-Mart
- Owen's (some people call it Kroger)
- Wal-Mart (you can buy most things here at a cheaper price)

Huntington Plaza is an Outdoor mall. Some stores in the mall are:

- JC Penny [a small department store];
- Maurice's (women clothes);
- Great Wall Chinese Buffet,
- Don Rafael's Mexican restaurant;
- Big Lots [discount store];
- Hair Salon;
- Papa John's Pizza,;
- Verizon [Cell phones];
- Hallmark [a nice gift shop];
- Pet Store;
- Goodwill;
- Dollar General

Food

- *Burgers*
 - McDonald's
 - Arby's
 - Wendy's
 - Burger King
- *Pizza*
 - Pizza Hut
 - Papa John's
 - Pizza Junction (located by the train tracks downtown)
 - Z Place
- *Restaurant*
 - Applebee's
 - Bob Evan's
 - Country Post
- *Chinese*
 - Great Wall
 - King's Garden
- *Mexican*
 - Los Amigos
 - Don Rafael's
 - Mecates
- *Coffee*
 - Coffee D'Vine
 - The Party Shop (downtown Huntington)
 - The 509 (also a local church, located just south of the railroad tracks)

There are also other options.

More Stores in Fort Wayne

- There are definitely more stores and restaurants in Fort Wayne. Here are some popular places among Huntington University students.

Mall

- Jefferson Pointe (Outdoor mall with expensive department store. There is also a movie theater.)
- Glenbrook Mall (Inside mall with more stores. Plus, numerous restaurants & other stores located nearby.)

Others

- Airport
- Baseball field
- Conservatory
- Ethnic food stores
- Football field Public Library
- Movie Theatres
- Embassy Theater (a live stage)
- Zoo

Popular Challenges for International Students

There will be many challenges to face during your first year. Here are some common challenges and solutions from past International Students.

Challenge: Church is different from my country.

Solution: Some people go to a church in Fort Wayne because there is more diversity in Fort Wayne. Some people go to an American style church in Huntington and try to blend in. It is always challenging to dive into a different style of church, but please remember, you are already in a different country. You can also ask ISC (International Student Council) for church information.

Challenge: How can I go to stores without a car?

Solution: Get a bike. Most of the times, roommates or floor mates will give a ride to one another. You can also ask your RA (Residence Assistance) or RD (Residence Director). In addition, some of the international students own a car. Please feel free to contact ISC.

Challenge: How can I keep up in my classes?

Solution: Have a designated study time (and stick to it!). Join a study group. There is a free tutor service from the Learning Center in Loew-Brenn Hall. You can sign up in the Learning Center and they will contact you within one or two weeks.

Challenge: Do I need to join some clubs?

Solution: You are not required to join a club or sports team. Yet, joining some activities is always a good way to make new friends and expand your world. It also helps you connect and feel more at home.

Challenge: Can I do a part-time job?

Solution: Because of the student VISA, international students can only work *on* campus. There are jobs available in the library, Norm's Place (HUB), Maintenance, Mail Office, and the Learning Center. Before you start to work, you and your employer need to fill out a form to get a social security card. It doesn't cost, but requires some processing time. Please ask Margaret Pasko (Student Development Office in HUB) or ISC for details.

Challenge: How can I make friends?

Solution: The best way to make friends is to be active, such as joining activities, going out with new people, and talking with new people. It is especially difficult the first semester to keep up in classes and go out with friends at the same time. But don't give up! Be patient and spend time with new people. You might be able to find your best friend here at Huntington!

Challenge: I am depressed. I want to talk with someone professional.

Solution: There are a couple professional counselors on campus. You can always visit the Campus Nurse and ask what would be the best for you as well. Contact x4027 to schedule an appointment with a counselor.

Challenge: How can I get along with floor-mates?

Solution: If you discover things that make you feel uncomfortable, you can always talk with your RA (Residence Assistant) about them. These difficulties often are a result of the culture difference. Also, you can spend time with them and learn from them. The United States is a very direct culture. People say what they mean and mean what they say. You are always welcome to contact ISC or Nathan Geer for additional support.

Challenge: I don't know what Americans are thinking.

Solution: If you don't know, try and learn! Don't be afraid to ask them questions and share your confusion. They just might not know how to behave in front of international students either. Please remember, most students come from less diverse communities and are not familiar with cultural differences.

Challenge: Where should I stay for winter and summer?

Solution: Everyone needs to leave the residence halls during the Christmas break and summer break. During the Christmas break, most international students stay with university friends and come back for J-term. In summer, some international students visit their relatives in the U.S. or fly home. If you cannot find anywhere to stay, please ask ISC in advance. Holidays (and breaks) that you may stay in your room include: Fall Break, Thanksgiving, and Spring Break. Definitely plan ahead and don't wait until the last minute.

Challenge: What do I need to do when I go out of United States?

Solution: Every time you leave the United States, you need to check if your I-20 has been signed by the DSO (Margaret Pasko) within the last 6 months. If you didn't get an updated signature and leave the U.S., you might not be able to come back very easily.

Challenge: Does the campus health insurance cover me during the summer?

Solution: Yes, the campus health insurance will last one whole year and will be renewed in August when you come back to campus. Please ask the campus nurse for more details.

Challenge: Can ISC provide a ride to the airport?

Solution: ISC can only provide a ride to Fort Wayne airport with advance notice. Although flights from Indianapolis and Chicago are often cheaper, getting to/from these locations can be expensive. ISC does not have the resources for transportation to these locations. However, there are many students from nearby these two cities so ask around. Someone may be able to take you on their way home. There is also a Hoosier Shuttle service for a nominal charge and advance notice.

Challenge: Can I leave some of my belongings in storage for summer?

Solution: Yes, you can. You can use a gallon container or suitcase with your name on it. It will be stored in the basement of each dorm.

Tips from past international students

Get a driver's license

It is costly to own and maintain a car, but you will have more opportunities and fun driving.

Prevent disease and injury as much as possible

Prevention is the most effective remedy! Since the American health system is different from your country, it is always helpful to have a health check in your home country and do enough prevention in US.

Make friends and families (possibly whom you can rely on)

Whether or not you have someone on whom you can rely makes a big difference. Some international students find their “American Family” through a church or activities. Get involved and make your world more comfortable in Huntington! ISC also exists to provide help in this area.

A place to stay

If you don't have any place to go for winter or summer, please ask people around you in advance. They might be able to find someone else if they have enough time. Please don't wait until last minute. Communicate w/ Nathan Geer or an ISC member frequently. They have lots of experience dealing with the issues you will face being an international student at Huntington.

Phone Directory

Post Office in Huntington

Address: 330 West Market St, Huntington, IN 46750-9998

Phone: 800.ASK.USPS

Bureau of Motor Vehicles (Huntington License Branch)

Address: 2982 West Park Drive, Huntington, IN 46750

Phone: 260.356.1450

Northeast Indiana Driving Academy

Address: 2814 Theater Avenue, Huntington, IN 46750

Phone: 260.355.0763 877.355.0763

<http://www.neidrivingacademy.com>

Staff Directory

ISC Members:

Mitsuzi Stone	President of International Student Council
Gaynel Mullings	Vice President
Eun Soo Kim	Secretary
Josue Rivera	ISC Member

<u>Staff Name</u>	<u>Office Phone /Title</u>	<u>Extension</u>
Nathan Geer	Advisor of ISC / Wright Hall RD	x3647
Jesse Brown	Assistant Dean of Student Development	x4028
Margaret Pasko	Admin.Assistant in the St.Dev. Office/DSO	x4026
Dr. Ron Coffey	V.P. of Student Development	x4029
Jeffrey Berggren	V.P. for Enrollment Management and Marketing	x4016
Dr. Blair Dowden	President of Huntington University	x4050