# The Office of Global Education International Student's Guidebook



Office of Global Education 201 Monroe Street Clinton, MS 39056 601.925.77081



# **Emergency Numbers**

For fire, ambulance or law enforcement, **dial 911 for emergencies**, or call these numbers:

Campus Security	601.925.3204
Fire Department Clinton	911 or 601.924.1010
Medical Center/Hospital Healthplex (Campus)	601.925.7900
Medical Center/Hospital Baptist Medical Center	601.968.1000
City Police Clinton	911 or 601.924.5252
Sheriff's Department Hinds County	911 or 601.974.2900
Highway Patrol Hind's County	911 or 601.987.1212

# **Table of Contents**

<b>Emergency Numbers</b>	2
Welcome	4
Contact Us	5
Frequently Asked Questions	6
Preparing to Leave Home	9
Immigration	14
Your Arrival	16
<b>Getting Settled-in</b>	18
Housing	22
Day-to-Day Life	27
Health and Safety	30
Families	34
Money Matters	36
Cultural Adjustment	42
Services	45

# Welcome to Mississippi College (MC)!

On behalf of the staff at the Office of Global Education, I would like to welcome all of our international students to Mississippi College.

Mississippi College takes great pride in 195 years of academic excellence. We offer over 80 undergraduate programs, a first-class law school, a doctor of education leadership degree, and a doctor of professional counseling degree. At MC you will receive a solid education from our committed, excellent, and caring professors and staff.

Consider the Office of Global Education (OGE) as your "home away from home." Our office is here to serve you. We offer advice on a variety of important academic and life issues, including course selection, academic advancement, visa retention, and health insurance questions. Please stop by our office as frequently as you wish, and use our website <a href="https://www.mc.edu/international">www.mc.edu/international</a> as a resource for securing up-to-date information concerning your study here and as an aide for answering questions about life as a student at MC.

During your academic pursuits at MC, we want you to both study hard and also get involved in extracurricular activities on campus. Mississippi is known as the hospitality state, so you will have plenty of opportunities to explore our culture and heritage and also get to know the locals. Enjoy your time here! Finally, it is our sincere hope that looking back one day you can call these years at MC some of the best years of your life.

Once again, welcome to MC!

Mes Clas Files

Mei-Chi C. Piletz

**Executive Director** 

Office of Global Education



# **CONTACT US**

Mei-Chi C. Piletz
Executive Director
Principle Designated School Official (DSO)/Responsible Office (RO)

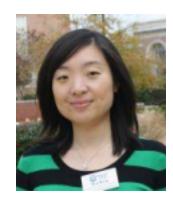
Telephone: 601.925.7635 Email: mcpiletz@mc.edu



Wen Jones
International Student Adviser
Designated School Official (DSO)/Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO)

Telephone: 601.925.7703 Email: wweng@mc.edu





# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

There is a lot of useful information in this handbook—it covers everything from obtaining your visa to where to shop and dine in Clinton, Mississippi. But if you're like most people, you won't take the time to read it unless your most pressing questions are addressed first. Well, you're in luck!

Q How do I apply for a student (F-1) visa to come to the United States?

A Please visit https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html for visa application information. The procedure is slightly different from one U.S. consulate to another, so you will want to read the information for the particular consulate that you plan to visit.

# Q When may I arrive?

A The consulate or embassy abroad can process your visa up to 120 days (F-1 Students) before the start date of your academic program. You may enter the country as early as 30 days prior to the program start date that is noted in item #5 on your I-20 or item #3 on DS-2019. You will not be expected to arrive on campus, however, until the arrival date on your I-20 or DS-2019.

Q What should I do when I arrive at Mississippi College?

A In accordance with immigration regulations, you must provide us with copies of your immigration documents upon arrival. These regulations apply to students from outside the United States, as well as to students transferring to Mississippi College from another U.S. school. Questions about class registration, student ID cards, medical records and getting settled on campus will be answered during orientation, which is mandatory for all new and transfer students.

Q When can I move into MC housing? – (Only applies to Undergraduate Students)

A You will not be able to move into MC housing until two days before the first day of orientation, which usually coincides with the start date on your I-20. Further details on moving into campus housing can be found at <a href="https://www.mc.edu/offices/residence-life">www.mc.edu/offices/residence-life</a>.

 ${f Q}\,$  I don't have anywhere to live when I arrive. Who can help me?

A If you plan to live on campus, you can visit www.mc.edu/offices/residence-life. Should you choose to live off campus, the Office of Global Education maintains a list of websites that will

assist you in finding an apartment. For a full list, visit the Appendix.

Q Is there public transportation available in Clinton?

A There is not public transportation available in Clinton. Please keep this in mind if you need to live off campus. You need to consider how close your living accommodations are to campus.

Q Am I required to have health insurance?

A All international students must purchase health insurance through Mississippi College which provides medical, medical evacuation, and repatriation coverage. Any other health insurance (except through a government sponsored program, must be approved by the Office of Global Education before the insurance policy is purchased. In addition an insurance waiver form (available on-line) must be completed.

Q What do I do if I want a family member to visit me?

A The Office of Global Education will assist you in bringing your spouse and children to the United States. The process includes requesting completion of forms I-20 or DS-2019, along with financial documentation. The process is very similar to when you obtained your visa, since your family will be required to apply for the F-2 or J-2 visa from the U.S. embassy in your home country. If you would like to invite family members to visit for a short period of time on a visitor's visa, the Office of Global Education can assist you in that process as well.

 ${f Q}\,$  Do I have to be enrolled to stay in the United States? What about during the summer?

A U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requires all international students in F-1 status to maintain full-time enrollment status throughout their program of study. Further details of this requirement can be found in the "Your immigration responsibilities" section of this handbook. Unless it is your first semester, you do not have to be enrolled in the summer. Summer is considered your official "vacation time" from school, so you may remain in the United States and not be enrolled.

Q Can I work while in the United States?

As an F-1 or J-1 student, you are allowed to work 20 hours a week on campus during fall and spring semesters and full time during the summer. If you want to work off campus, you will have to apply for permission and F-1's may not work off campus during the first nine months of a program of study.

Q How do I obtain a social security number?

A social security number will only be issued with verification of an offer of employment. Information on how to apply for a social security number will be covered during new student orientation or information is available at the Office of Global Education.

**Q** Do I need to pay taxes?

A Every year, international students must file documentation with the Internal Revenue Service, even if they have not worked in the United States. If you have worked during the calendar year, you must file both Federal and State taxes. The Office of Global Education will provide resources to help you fulfill these requirements.

#### PREPARING TO LEAVE HOME





You have received your acceptance letter to Mississippi College and your Certificate of Eligibility of Nonimmigrant Visa. Now what?

#### **Confirm Information**

First, make sure all the information on your certificate (either Form I-20 or Form DS-2019) is correct. If any of the information is inaccurate, it is urgent that you fax a copy of the passport identification page with an explanation of the error to the Office of Global Education. You will be sent a corrected certificate before your consular interview.

# **Fulfill Medical Requirements**

All international students are required to have medical immunizations records for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) and Tuberculosis (TB) before any student can register for classes. These must have been administered within the last year.

TB testing before leaving your home country: You must have a tuberculosis (TB) test performed in your home country prior to your departure to the United States. You must test negative for TB and must submit a translated copy of this result to the MC Office of Global Education. Prospective students testing positive for tuberculosis will not be admitted and should not depart of the United States.

TB testing after arriving in the United States: To ensure compliance with Mississippi State Department of Health regulations, Mississippi College will also require you to submit proof of test screening for tuberculosis by chest x-ray and interferon gamma release assays (IGRA) performed in the United States after your arrival and prior to the start of classes. These test results must be submitted

to the MC Office of Global Education before the start of classes. Costs for all TB testing will be paid by the student.

As an international student who will be living in the United States, it is also a good idea to plan for medical situations (including emergencies) that may arise during your stay in the United States. To prevent complications, it is in your best interest to obtain copies of your medical records and prescriptions, to pack an adequate supply of prescribed medications (in original packaging) and to translate important medical documents into English, if necessary.

#### **Obtain Visa**

It is important to remember that you must obtain a visa that is appropriate to your purpose for entering the United States, usually an F-1 or J-1 student/scholar visa. In other words, if you are coming to the United States to attend Mississippi College, you should not enter the United States with a tourist visa (B1/B2) or via any other visa waiver program between your country and the United States.

The first step in obtaining a visa is to make an appointment with the U.S. embassy or consulate responsible for issuing nonimmigrant visas for your home country, which may and should be done as soon as you receive your I-20 or DS-2019. Visa applications may be issued up to 120 days (F-1 Students) before your program start date. Visit http://usembassy.gov for a list of consular post websites.

If for some reason you are unable to schedule an interview with a consular officer until after the start date for your program (notated in section 5 on the I-20 or section 3 on the DS-2019), you should contact the Office of Global Education. Depending on the circumstances, MC may have to issue you a new I-20 or DS-2019 or defer your attendance until the following semester.

After scheduling your appointment, you should:

- Complete a visa application and, when applicable, forms DS-156, DS-157 and DS-158, which can be found at http://evisaforms.state.gov
- Have photographs taken (requirements at https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/photos/photo-examples. html)
   Obtain valid passport (must be valid at least six months from your date of entry into the United States)
- Compile evidence of ties to your home country that demonstrates your intent to return home (i.e., assured employment, ownership of property, etc.)

- Pay the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee and keep receipt. This fee must be paid at least three days before your appointment with the embassy. More information about the SEVIS fee can be found at <a href="https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html">https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html</a>.
- Obtain I-20 or DS-2019 for spouse or dependent(s) who will accompany you to the United States

During your appointment, you will be asked to provide evidence (receipts, photos, passport, documentation, etc.) that you have completed all of the above. In addition, you will need to provide:

- Applicable visa fees
- Your I-20 or DS-2019 form
- · Proof of funding
- Evidence of spouse's and/or dependent's relationship to you and evidence of sufficient financial resources to support them

While each embassy or consular post has their own visa application procedures and processing times, the requirements above are standard. It is a good idea, however, to consult the office where you will apply for specific details regarding documentation and procedures.

When it comes time for your interview, make sure to arrive at the consular post prepared. You should:

- Dress professionally
- Bring translated copies of your academic records with you
- Be ready to talk about your academic plans and aspirations in detail
- Be knowledgeable about Mississippi College, the academic department you are entering and the professors with whom you hope to study
- Be prepared to talk about your career goals and how your education can benefit your work in your home country.
- Have all required documents with you and have them organized

Be prepared to answer these four questions.

- 1. Who are you?
- 2. What do you want to do?
- 3. How are you going to pay for it?
- 4. What do you intent to do when you've completed this approved activity?

Once you have been issued your visa, check to be sure that you have been issued the correct visa (an F-1 or M-1 if you have an I-20; a J-1 if you have a DS-2019) and that your visa indicates your school of choice: Mississippi College. Also be sure to check that your correct name and date of birth are recorded as they appear on your I-20.

Immigration laws limit your arrival into the United States to no more than 30 days prior to the report date listed on the Form I-20 or DS-2019.

If you are a citizen of Canada, you do not need a visa to enter the United States. However, you still need to present your I-20 or DS-2019 form and a valid passport (must be valid at least six months from your date of entry into the United States) at the U.S. Immigration border crossing or port of entry. You must also present proof of payment of the SEVIS fee.

#### **Pre-Departure Checklist**

- Confirm admission to Mississippi College and \$250 deposit
- Complete all other enrollment requirements
- Decline admission offers from other universities and return any official forms
   Check the validity date of your passport
- · Carefully read and understand your I-20 or DS-2019
- Pay SEVIS fee at least three days before your visa appointment
- Apply for your student visa at the U.S. embassy
- Buy traveler's checks or obtain enough cash (U.S. dollars) to cover your expenses for a few weeks (must declare with customs if \$10,000 or more)
- Obtain copies of medical records and obtain any prescription drugs you need
   Make travel arrangements (only after receiving your visa)

## **Make Travel Arrangements**

When making air travel plans, it is recommended that you schedule at least three hours at your initial port of entry into the United States, before your connecting flight into Jackson, Mississippi (closest to Clinton) to allow sufficient time to pass through immigration and customs inspection and to change currency if needed. New security procedures have slowed this process.

The airport that services Jackson is the Jackson – Medgar Wiley Evers

International Airport (JAN). From the Jackson airport, it is a 30 minute drive to the Mississippi College campus. American Airlines, Delta Airlines and United Airlines are the major carriers that service Jackson-Evers International Airport.

Pay close attention to the "no later than" date in section 5 on the I-20 and section 3 on the DS 2019. You are required to attend Mississippi College by this date.

#### **What to Bring**

Basic items of clothing are recommended, as well as a few family photos and personal hygiene belongings. If you wear glasses or contact lenses, you should bring a copy of your eye prescription with you. Dress is modest at Mississippi College. Classrooms and residence halls are air-conditioned. Many students might want to bring a sweater or sweatshirt when in class. In addition, we ask students to consider bringing national dress, instruments, crafts or other traditional materials with them for cultural events on campus. Shopping trips to local stores are available via the shuttle service to pick up items such as bedding, towels and other items you may want to use to decorate your living area.

#### More Things to Bring or Buy

In addition to the basics, you may be interested to know what typical American college students either bring to college or purchase once they arrive. The checklist in the appendix may help you better determine what you need to bring from home as well as what you want to buy when you get here in order to feel comfortable and have fun.

# **IMMIGRATION**



## **Immigration Responsibilities**

All international students and scholars are responsible for knowing the rules and regulations pertaining to their status. Failure to comply with the rules can result in serious consequences, including loss of your immigration status in the United States. These are your basic responsibilities as an international student or scholar:

- Maintain a valid passport at all times, provide the Office of Global Education with a copy Renew passport 6 months before expiration date.
- Attend the school whose I-20/DS-2019 you enter the United States on
- Know the expiration date of your visa and provide the Office of Global Education with visa renewals
- Know your program completion date on your I-20 or DS-2019, follow correct procedure for timely extensions
- Carry full course load—12 credits for undergraduates, 9 for graduates. Follow correct procedures for less than full time course load
- Make normal academic progress
- All F-1 and J-1 students, unless officially sponsored by their home government or agency that guarantees student's health insurance coverage as part of their contract with Mississippi College, must enroll in the Mississippi College health insurance plan (and your dependents if necessary)
- Report to the Office of Global Education with changes in status— within 10 days of a move, extension, transfer or program change
- File nonresident tax forms each year by deadline
- Obtain official work permission and approval from the Office of Global Education and all forms of off-campus employment. Adhere to proper terms of employment. Apply for Curricular Practical Training, Optional Practical Training in a timely manner
- Obtain travel signatures for your I-20 from the Office of Global Education before leaving

the United States

- Notify the Office of Global Education if you are leaving school for any reason
- Obey state and federal laws
- Depart from the United States in a timely manner

By law, Mississippi College is required to keep the following information on file: your name; date and place of birth; country of citizenship; current U.S. address; current academic status, including the start and end dates of your academic program; type of degree program and field of study; employment requests/approvals; termination date and reason; registration of number of credits per semester; and copies of immigration documents and passport. Designated School Officials (DSOs) are required to report any changes related to international students in SEVIS within 21 days.

#### YOUR ARRIVAL



You may be anxious about the reception you will receive when you reach the United States, but do not worry.

While there may be some procedures or policies you were not expecting, you will be fine as long as you take your time, have your documentation ready and in order and ask for help when you need it.

#### **Immigration Documentation**

Do not pack your passport, I-20/DS-2019, financial documents, acceptance letter or other important papers in your luggage. You should carry these items with you during your trip as they will be needed when you arrive at your port of entry.

Upon arrival, you will need to present your passport, valid visa and I-20 or DS-2019. Remember, your passport must be valid for at least six months after your entry date. Be prepared to submit proof of finances if asked.

If the officer at the port of entry cannot initially verify your information, you may be directed to an interview area for secondary inspection, where you will have your documents examined and be asked some questions. Do not be alarmed. This is routine for students/scholars. If for some reason, the immigration officer believes your immigration documents to be unsatisfactory, you may receive a form I-515A. If you do, bring it to the Office of Global Education as soon as you arrive. Do not mail any immigration documents before consulting with a member of our staff.

If you are subject to special registration and have a federal identification number (FIN) listed in your passport near your visa, be sure that you receive information from the port of entry officer regarding port of departure procedures that will apply to you.

#### **Getting to Mississippi College from the Airport**

To get from the Jackson International Airport, which is approximately 30 minutes away from campus, to Mississippi College, you can hire a taxi at the airport for approximately \$80.00. The Office of Global Education understands how confusing and exhausting it can be to navigate a new country. We therefore offer a one-time courtesy pickup service to new international students arriving at the Jackson-Evers International Airport.

If you arrive early (before the required date of attendance listed on your I-20 or DS-2019), you may not be permitted to move into your on-campus housing and will have to stay at a local hotel. This can be very expensive, so it is best to arrive on time. If you have made arrangements to live off campus, then arriving early should not be a problem as long as your landlord or apartment complex expects you.

#### **Places to Stay**

There are many hotel options in Clinton. You may wish to look at TripAdvisor, Expedia, or some other online booking company to make your reservations.

# **GETTING SETTLED-IN**

#### **Orientation and Check-in**

The following items will be needed when you check-in with the Office of Global Education:

- I-20/DS-2019 (Signed)
- Passport
- Visa
- 194



The Office of Global Education has an orientation at the beginning of each semester with attendance mandatory for all new incoming students. So make sure we see you at orientation!

#### 1. English Proficiency Exam

All Intensive English Program admitted international students must take the Institutional English Evaluation Test upon arrival to be evaluated for the proper level.

An international student's success in an American university is dependent upon the student's ability to understand classroom lectures, to speak and be understood in the classroom, to read and comprehend textbooks, to research and write required papers, and to improve and add to their vocabulary daily.

#### 2. International Student Payment

International students are required to pay their student accounts in full at the time of registration. Fees & tuition may be paid online by using the Flywire

service or by other means in the business office which is located in Nelson Hall.

#### 3. ID Cards and Auto Decals

Mississippi College Identification Cards (ID's) should be made before or immediately following orientation. The location for making ID cards is the Office of Public Safety, which is located in B.C. Rogers. You will also register your car if you have one at this time.

#### 4. International Insurance

All international students are required to have health insurance through Mississippi College. The Office of Global Education will automatically sign up all international students with insurance unless a waiver request is granted before other insurance is purchased.

#### 5. **Immunizations**

International students must have up-to-date immunizations for Measles, Mumps, & Rubella (MMR) as well as Tuberculosis (TB). Students must visit the Mississippi Department of Health for a (IGRA) TB Blood Test. Also, students may visit the Jackson Medical Mall or the Clinton Walgreens for a MMR shot.

#### 6. Change of Major

If you would like to change your academic major, please contact the Admissions Specialist in the Office of Global Education.

#### 7. Registration Process

Your registration process depends on your admission status to Mississippi College. If you were admitted conditionally, you will be required to take the Institutional English Proficiency exam. If your exam score does not exceed the English proficiency threshold, then you will be registered automatically for the Intensive English Program by the Office of Global Education.

If you were granted general admission or proved English proficiency on the English exam, you will be assigned an academic advisor in your field of study. You will arrange a meeting with this person to register for your academic classes. You

may look at classes that are offered each semester in Banner Web online.

#### 8. Purchase of Books

You may purchase your textbooks from the MC Bookstore. You will need to have a printed copy of your DETAILED SCHEDULE from BANNER WEB and a valid campus ID in order to purchase books on your student account for the courses you will be taking. https://www.bkstr.com/mississippistore/home

Any used books purchased MUST NOT have answers written in them.

#### 9. Accelerated Degree Program (ADP)

International students at Mississippi College are not allowed to enroll in Accelerated Degree Program classes without written permission from one of the Office of Global Education staff.

#### 10. Online and Distance Learning Courses

As a general rule, international students should avoid taking online and distance learning courses. SEVIS guidelines determine the number of online and distance learning courses allowable. If an international student takes online or distance learning courses without permission from the Office of Global Education, then the student could lose his or her status. Please check with the Office of Global Education staff before registering for any online courses or distance learning courses.

#### 11. Email/Banner Web

As a student, you are <u>expected</u> to check your MC email address regularly. In addition, you should become familiar with using Banner Web to register for courses, look at your course schedule, and review your student accounts. The Office of Global Education, as well as the university administration and faculty, uses MC email to communicate with you.

#### 12. Change of Personal Information

Any time your personal information changes (phone numbers, address, personal email, etc.) please notify the Office of Global Education.

# 13. Emergency Contact Email

Students may use the mcoge@mc.edu to receive emergency email correspondence.

# **HOUSING**



# **On-Campus Housing – (Only available for undergraduate students)**

Recent research of college students across the nation shows that students who live on campus are more satisfied with their college experience, earn higher grade point averages and are more likely to graduate than their commuting peers. Residence hall programming also enhances a student's educational experience by providing the opportunity to be involved in a variety of activities and programs. Students find that with this involvement they achieve more professional growth and are stronger candidates when pursuing their career goals.

To that end, Mississippi College instituted an educationally based policy requiring all non commuter full-time undergraduate students under the age of 21 to reside in MC housing and participate in the meal plan. (For the complete policy, please see <a href="https://www.mc.edu/offices/residence-life/">https://www.mc.edu/offices/residence-life/</a>

As a residence life staff, we are committed to creating community within our residence halls. When you are with us, you are not just temporarily residing in a residence hall, but you are living in a space we hope will become your home. We strive to create a place for our residents to flourish as they continue their educational journey. We live with you, serve you, and work with you as you grow into amazing Christian leaders.

We believe residence life creates a unique opportunity for people from all backgrounds to reside together and grow in their understanding of what it means to be a believer in faith and a citizen of the world. We work to create an inclusive environment that provides opportunities for all students to reach their full potential and develop into Christian leaders of tomorrow.

#### The Residence Life Mission

To provide a safe, Christ-like environment that empowers our students to continually grow spiritually, personally, and academically. We strive to create a home for all our students where they can connect with each other, the university, and the greater Christian community. We do this by supporting the core values of the residential experience:

#### Community

With our staff and residents, we form an inclusive and welcoming community that allows people from all backgrounds and faith groups to live together and function as a whole.

#### **Engagement**

We support our students joining the campus community and the greater faith community. We support the students in their leadership endeavors and strive to create opportunities for students to lead within the residence hall whenever possible.

#### **Relationship Building**

Our staff builds relationships with our residents and creates opportunities for our residents to create lasting connections with each other and with other members of the institution.

#### **Development**

As we build relationships, we work to intentionally support the development of our students. We see the residential experience as an opportunity to come alongside our residents and "do life" with them. With this privilege, we are able to aid in the development of our residents spiritually, personally, and academically.

Mississippi College offers several housing options for students including double and single occupancy rooms that have central restrooms and showers, as well as double and single residence halls with a suite-style living arrangement that share private restrooms. For apartment-style living options for upper class student, the campus provides College Plaza and The Loft.

Mississippi College is very proud of its student housing because it's more than just a simple room or apartment. A variety of services and activities are provided that makes it more like a community. The campus continues to renovate and upgrade facilities to meet the ever changing needs of our student body. For more

information about on-campus housing, start here: www.mc.edu/offices/residence-life.

#### **Off-Campus Housing**

If you are not required to live on campus and you choose to live off campus, you are responsible for finding your own housing.

Please see the Appendix for a list of potentially available apartments.

Apartment rentals vary in price. Be prepared to pay \$650 to \$1,000 a month plus a deposit, first and last month's rents and various other fees. Some apartment rentals are all-inclusive, meaning your water, garbage removal, heat and possibly some other amenities are included in your monthly price; other rentals are not. Also, be prepared to pay deposits for electricity, telephone and other services. Most off-campus housing requires a one- year lease. Read your lease agreement carefully before signing it and know the rules and regulations of the apartment. A lease is a binding contract and you may be liable for the remaining amount of your lease and/or loss of your deposit if you end your contract early.

Note: If you are a first-year student (or student with fewer than 56 credit hours), do not sign an off-campus lease unless you have received an exemption to the Two-Year Residency Requirement by the dean of student's office.

## **Apartment Complexes in Clinton, MS**

#### **Beauregard Village**

101 Mt. Salus; Clinton, MS 39056 601.924.6673

#### **Belvoir Apartments**

West Main Street; Clinton, MS 39056 601.925.6036

#### **Broadway Terrace Apartments**

151 Broadway Drive; Clinton, MS 39056 601.924.7637

#### **Broken Arrow Apartments**

100 W. Sproles Street; Clinton, MS 39056 601.923.2794

#### **Cedar Cove Townhomes**

107 Clinton Boulevard; Clinton, MS 39056 601.924.9909

#### **Choctaw Apartments**

West Main Street; Clinton, MS 39056 601.924.0248

#### **Clinton Plaza Apartments**

Oakwood Drive; Clinton, MS 39056 601.925.6036

#### **College Place**

101 Fairmont; Clinton, MS 39056 601.925.6036

#### **College Plaza Apartments**

401 West College Street; Clinton, MS 39058 601.924.0137

#### **Huntcliff Manor**

500 East Northside Drive; Clinton, MS 39056 601.924.5644

Hunter Oaks Apartments 1401 Highway 80 West; Clinton, MS 39056 601.924.4145

#### **Landmark Apartments**

160 Broadway Drive; Clinton, MS 39056 601.924.0122

#### **Meadow Oaks Apartments**

100 Parker Drive; Clinton, MS 39056 601.924.0248

#### **Northridge Apartments**

100 Briars Drive; Clinton, MS 39056 601.925.6036

#### **Pine Trails Apartments**

560 Springridge Road; Clinton, MS 39056 601.924.0464

#### **Plantation Manor**

50 Lakeview Drive; Clinton, MS 39056 601.925.1050

#### **Shadowbrook Apartments**

1501 Highway 80 East; Clinton, MS 39056 601.924.8283

#### The Reserve at Woodchase

100 Reserve Drive; Clinton, MS 39056 601.925.0009

#### **Stonegate Apartments**

416 Woodstone Road; Clinton, MS 39056 601.924.0721

#### **Wedgewood Place**

200 Pecan Hill Drive; Clinton MS 39056 601.924.0137

#### Windsor Village

345 Woodstone Road; Clinton, MS 39056 601.924.7161

- \*Mississippi College does not recommend patronage in any one apartment facility.
- \*\*You may want to consider apartment complexes within easy walking distance of the campus if you don't have a vehicle for transportation.

#### **Local Services**

#### Electricity

To receive Entergy service, call 1.800.ENTERGY any time or go to <a href="http://www.entergy.com">http://www.entergy.com</a>.

#### Gas

Atmos supplies natural gas to Clinton. To begin gas service, call 1.888.286.6700 or visit <a href="http://www.atmosenergy.com">http://www.atmosenergy.com</a>.

#### Cell Phone

There are several cell phone companies to choose from and are located within walking distance of the campus.

Water, Sewer, Trash
City of Clinton Public Works is located at 525 Springridge Road. Their phone number is 601.924.2239

# **DAY-TO-DAY LIFE**

#### **Overview of the Clinton/Jackson Metro Area**

Mississippi College in Clinton is approximately 20 minutes from Jackson, the Capitol; 3 hours from New Orleans, Louisiana; 3 hours from Memphis, Tennessee; and 3 hours from the Gulf of Mexico. (Driving Time) Seasonal temperature averages:

January-March: 62°F day, 39°F night April-June: 83°F day, 61°F night

July-September: 90°F day, 69°F night October-December: 67°F day, 45°F night

#### What to see around Clinton

Fun activities are on hand such as sporting events, pampering at the spa, and running, along with attractions such as:

- Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium
- Mississippi Coliseum
- Trustmark Park

Some top sights in the area include:

- Jackson Zoological Park
- Mississippi State Capitol
- Mississippi Governor's Mansion

Go to the link below to see PlanetWare's **14 Top-Rated Tourist Attractions & Things to Do in Jackson, MS.** 

https://www.planetware.com/tourist-attractions-/jackson-us-ms-j.htm

#### **Driving in the U.S.**

Students who decide to purchase an automobile and drive in the United States should be aware that laws of vehicle registration, licensing of drivers and traffic regulations are written and enforced by each individual state. Drunk driving laws are strictly enforced in the state of Mississippi. It is extremely important that you know the rules and regulations of driving. In short, you must:

- Obtain a license
- Register your vehicle
- Secure auto insurance.

All operators of a motor vehicle must have a valid driver's license. To obtain a driver's license, documents must be presented to a Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) office. For a full listing of eligible documentation, visit www.flhsmv.gov.

You will be required to pass an eye exam and a written test. A car is not necessary to obtain a driver's license. As the DMV office is extremely busy, it may be wise to make an appointment to avoid long, long lines. When you are issued a driver's license, it will only be valid until the end date on your I-20 or DS-2019.

#### **Nearby DMV Offices**

District 1

#### **Jackson Headquarters**

Department of Public Service Headquarters 1900 East Woodrow Wilson Jackson, MS 39216 (601) 987.1281 (601) 987.1282 (601) 987.1283 Automated Renewal – **Kiosk** – located here

Renewals and out of state transfers, **NO TESTING** at this location. Open Monday through Friday

8:00-5:00

#### Pearl

State Highway Safety Patrol Troop C Building 3851 Highway 468
Pearl, MS 39208
(601) 420.6342

#### **CDL Station & Testing Site**

Automated Renewal – **Kiosk** – located here Open Monday through Friday 8:00-5:00

#### **Vicksburg**

Juvenile Detention Center 1100 Grove St, Suite D Vicksburg, MS 39183 (601) 638.5441

#### **TESTING SITE**

Open Monday through Friday 8:00-5:00

In addition to obtaining a license, you must also register your vehicle within 10 days of establishing residency. In order to register your vehicle, you must provide proof of vehicle insurance and a completed Form 82042 (vehicle identification

number and odometer reading). You will also need to provide personal documentation such as your passport, I-94, driver's license, I-20 or Form DS-2019.

If you are buying a new car from a car dealership, the dealership may take care of the car registration for you. If not, they will usually provide you with the forms that you need to take to the registration office. If you are buying a car from a private citizen, you will need to make sure that you receive a bill of sale and the title from the previous owner.

All drivers in the United States are required to have car insurance. Accidents can happen at any time. A relatively small automobile accident can be very expensive. In the event of an accident, automobile insurance will save you money and worry, and it will protect you from potential lawsuits. Cost of coverage varies depending on insurance company, age of the car, age of driver(s), number of drivers and other factors.

# **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The United States does not have a national health care system. Health care costs, even for minor illnesses or accidents, can amount to thousands of dollars. All Mississippi College students are required to have appropriate medical insurance. International students will be automatically covered through Mississippi College's student health insurance plan unless a waiver is approved.

All students seeking information regarding health insurance benefits and specific details of their coverage should visit

https://www.mc.edu/international/current-students or contact MC's health insurance representative at 601.925.7719.

It is mandatory for all international students to be covered by MC's health plan. Exceptions may be granted only if the student has an insurance plan that meets very strict requirements in order for them to qualify for the waiver. Students may request a waiver of this MC insurance fee by completing the waiver form and providing proof of appropriate insurance to the Office of Global Education within the first two weeks of the beginning of class. If proof of insurance is not provided, students will be billed for Mississippi College's student health insurance. Mississippi College will not accept coverage by an insurance company outside the United States. Before enrolling for coverage in any insurance plan other than Mississippi College's student health plan, please check with the Office of Global Education to verify if it meets the waiver requirements.

All international students who are married or single parents who have one or more children living with them may purchase health insurance for these dependents by completing the appropriate form in the Office of Global Education and paying for the additional insurance at the business office. The student health insurance fee will be refunded and coverage will be canceled if the student pays for coverage and subsequently does not enroll or withdraws from MC within the first two weeks of classes.

#### **Student Health Center**

MC offers its full-time students health services through the Baptist Medical Clinic, which is located on the first floor of the Healthplex. Routine health care services from the Nurse Practitioner during the scheduled hours are **FREE OF CHARGE** to

currently registered full-time Mississippi College students who have paid their student fees. Additional treatments by a physician such as x-rays, laboratory tests, injections, etc., will result in additional charges that will be billed to the student and/or the student's insurance carrier. Bills are expected to be paid in a timely manner.

All students should be prepared to show their MC ID card and proof of insurance when they report to the Baptist Medical Clinic.

Baptist Medical Clinic 106 Clinton Pkwy Clinton, MS 39056 601.924.9005

Health care advice is also available by calling the **Baptist Health Line**:

#### 601.948.6262

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

#### *In case of an emergency:*

#### **Monday - Friday**

8:00am - 12:00pm 1:00pm - 4:30pm

Hours are subject to change during the summer.

## In case of emergency:

Because of the existing relationship between Mississippi College and Baptist Health Systems, it is recommended that emergency care be handled through Mississippi Baptist Medical Center Emergency Room.

# **Healthplex**

The Mississippi Baptist Healthplex is located on campus, directly across from the New Men's Dorm. Membership is offered to MC students at a discounted rate of \$125 a semester. Membership can be charged to a student's account. Membership to the Healthplex provides students with full access to a two floor work out facility, private class rooms, spin classes, racket-ball rooms, basketball

courts, swimming pools, saunas, and whirlpool spas. Any student can tour the Healthplex before membership.

Phone: 601-925-7900

Hours: Monday - Thursday: 5:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Friday: 5:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Saturday: 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

#### **Campus Security**

B.C. Rogers Student Center 601.925.3204 security@mc.edu www.mc.edu/offices/safety/ In the event of an emergency, call 601.925.3911 or 911

The Office of Public Safety works towards securing partnerships with students, faculty, staff, administration and guests to create an atmosphere that is safe and conducive to learning. The Office of Public Safety oversees the following:

- 1. Making student ID cards
- 2. Distributing parking decals
- 3. Monitoring security on campus
- 4. Enforcing traffic laws on campus
- 5. Patrolling campus
- 6. Managing the campus shuttle bus
- 7. Ensuring campus is a safe and secure place for MC students, faculty, and staff

The Office of Public Safety has recently partnered with e2Campus.com security systems to provide instant communication to everyone in the MC family in the event of an emergency. Individuals will be able to log onto our security system, build a profile, and sign up for instant information from our safety personnel. By signing up through this service participants will instantly and simultaneously receive alerts to their mobile devices and email accounts.

Mississippi College has the following security measures in place:

- Emergency Code Blue phone units are strategically placed around the campus. In addition to calling 911 and MC's Office of Public Safety, these phones may be used to report emergencies.
- Buildings are secured on campus during non-operating hours by the Office of Public Safety. Once a building is secured, access may be gained only by authorized persons with Mississippi College issued identification cards.
- All campus buildings, facilities, and grounds belonging to the institution are regularly patrolled by both vehicle and foot patrol by security officers. Specific areas of campus are also monitored by cameras.
- All residence hall exterior doors remain locked at all times. Only same-gender students are allowed into the dorm with their Mississippi College issued identification cards.
- Upon request, security officers will provide escort services from vehicles to buildings or from buildings to buildings should individuals feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
- With safety concerns in mind, the College maintains sufficient campus lighting in an effort to reduce the opportunity for criminal activity.
- Mississippi College provides informative programs to students and employees on the following topics: Campus Security Procedures and Practice, Crime Prevention and Awareness, Drug and Alcohol Abuse Education, Sexual Assault, Smoking Cessation, and the Prevention of Sex Offenses.

For additional questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Public Safety at 601.925.3204 or www.mc.edu/offices/safety/

# **FAMILIES**

#### **Bringing Your Family**

Before you decide that your spouse and/or children should accompany you to the United States, you should be aware that it may be expensive. Major costs include off-campus housing, childcare and insurance. Spouses may feel isolated and alone.

Childcare or after- school care centers are expensive and usually have a waiting list. It may not be possible to find a center to take care of your child immediately.

Family members who accompany you must be covered by medical insurance. You will need to demonstrate your ability to cover their living expenses while in the United States. The Office of Global Education estimates expenses as \$5,000 per year for a spouse and \$3,000 for each dependent child. U.S. consular officials may require proof of your ability to cover these expenses for the duration of your academic program. Dependent spouses of international students in F-1 status are not eligible to be employed in the United States under any circumstances. The Office of Global Education strongly recommends that spouses and/or children not accompany you to the United States until you have completed one academic year.

#### **Education in the United States**

Public schools in the United States provide free education for children between the ages of five and eighteen. To enroll your children in public school, please contact Clinton Public Schools at 601.924.7533 or visit www.clintonpublicschools.com. The district's main offices are located at 201 Easthaven Drive Clinton, MS 39060. Information on private schools can be obtained through the Office of Global Education.

# **Bringing Dependents to the United States**

In order to bring dependents to the United States, you must be maintaining status as an F-1 or J-1 student and must show that you have sufficient finances to support your family here without any of them being employed. Your spouse and

unmarried minor children (under age 21) are eligible to apply for F-2 or J-2 visas. No other family members are eligible.

To begin, provide the Office of Global Education a copy of your passport, proof of marriage (spouse) and birth certificate for each child, Form I-94, your Form I-20 or DS-2019 and evidence of your financial support for your family (currently \$5,000 for spouse and \$3,000 for each additional dependent). After review, a dependent Form I-20 or DS-2019 will be issued for the purpose of bringing your family to the United States. You will then need to send them to your family with instructions for them to apply for F-2 or J-2 visas at the U.S. consular office. In addition to the Form I-20/DS-2019, they will have to present valid passports (must be valid at least six months from your date of entry into the United States), evidence of their financial support, evidence that they intend to return to their home country at the conclusion of your studies in the United States and any other information that the consular officer specifies.

If the consular officer is satisfied that your family members are bona fide student dependents who intend to return home and that they have sufficient funds for their support here, he or she will issue F-2/J-2 visas to them. Your dependents may then come to the United States and will be admitted to the country for the duration of status. That means they may remain here with you until you complete your studies. Your family may remain in the United States in F-2 or J-2 status only while you are here in F-1 or J-1 status.

A note of caution: Do not allow your family to come to the United States in any other immigration status or before they have received the Form I-20 or DS-2019 and F-2 or J-2 visas. If they do, they run the risk of being denied admission to the United States at the port of entry and will be required to return home.

# **MONEY MATTERS**

#### **Overview**

Your I-20 or DS-2019 was issued to you based on the funding information you provided. Please remember that funding varies from student to student year to year; some students require more money than others depending on course of study and interests. You should not assume that you can get by on less funding than is indicated on your I-20 or DS-2019.

Housing deposits, rent, household necessities, tuition, books and supplies will require major expenditures after your arrival. We recommend that you bring at least \$5,000 in U.S. dollars to cover your initial costs. The safest way to bring money with you is in the form of traveler's checks. You may also choose to bring a bank draft or a check to deposit into an account that you can open at a local bank. Please note that it may take a few days for a check to "clear" and the monies you deposit may not be immediately available for you to use.

Money management is one of the greatest challenges that international students and scholars face when they arrive in the United States. Most students and scholars live on a limited budget. You must get used to a new currency, adjust to the value of a dollar and estimate living expenses. The best practice is to start budgeting from the moment you arrive. If you intend to live off campus, you will need to keep in mind that you will have "start-up" costs when renting a place to live. Bills often take a month or two to arrive so be prepared and do not spend more than you can afford.

# **Business/Bursar's office**

Account Balances
Nelson Hall 101 800.738.1287
Clinton, MS 39058 601.925.3307
www.mc.edu/offices/business/

Students are responsible for making all necessary payment arrangements with MC through the Bursar's (Business) Office. All students are expected to either pay their full semester's expenses or contract a payment installment plan. For further information, contact the Bursar's Office, 601-925-3307.

Whether you receive an assistantship from MC, a scholarship from an outside agency or family support from abroad, if for any reason you are not prepared to make payment at the required times you must consult the Bursar's Office to finalize your registration. Students receiving scholarships from their home government or other agency may arrange for direct sponsor billing tuition, fees, insurance, room and board.

Failure to make payment arrangements may result in deregistration and ultimately lead to problems with your immigration status. A student may not register for a subsequent semester until all financial obligations for the current semester have been met.

- Student account balances must be paid in full before the end of the first month of classes, otherwise a late fee will be charged.
- Student balances may be paid by cash, check, or credit card. Payment by credit card must be made online.
- International students making online payments abroad are recommended to use Peer Transfer. Please access Peer Transfer using the following website (www.peertransfer.com). Students may enroll in a monthly payment program. Please check with the business office for more information.
- Instructions for payment can be found on the Business Office's website listed above.

#### **Student Account Information**

Books and Healthplex membership may be charged to student accounts and paper statements are mailed once a semester. E-bills are sent periodically throughout the semester to the student's MC email address. An additional email address may be entered via Banner Web. Instructions can be found on the

Bursar's web page listed above.

If you have any questions concerning payment of student accounts, you may contact the Bursar's Office also known as the Business Office.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm WINDOW HOURS: Monday – Friday 8:15 am – 4:00 pm

### **U.S. Currency**

U.S. currency is based on the dollar (\$1), which is 100 cents. There are six denominations of coins and six denominations of bills representing different amounts.

#### **U.S. Coins**

Penny: the only brown coin; worth 1 cent

Nickel: a silver coin; larger than a penny; worth 5 cents

Dime: the smallest U.S. coin; silver in color; worth 10 cents Quarter: a silver coin; larger than a nickel; worth 25 cents

Half-dollar: the largest U.S. coin; not commonly used; worth 50 cents

Dollar coin: a silver coin slightly larger than a quarter; not commonly used

#### U.S. Bills

There are \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills. They are all similar in size and color, although the U.S. Mint is in the process of changing the appearance of the bills. The easiest way to identify them is just by looking at the number printed on the bill.

# **Opening a Bank Account**

Once you arrive at Mississippi College, you will want to open a bank account. During orientation, it may be possible to find local bank representatives on campus to provide you with information outlining their bank's services. When you do open an account, you will need to take your student ID card, your I-20/DS-2019, your passport, address proof, and the funds that you wish to deposit. Open a checking account so that you can write checks to pay your bills each month and pay for items you wish to purchase.

41

Some students also wish to open a savings account. Some savings accounts pay interest each month on the amount that is in the account; others do not. You can withdraw money as needed from a savings account, but you cannot do so by writing a check. Many banks offer debit cards, also known as check cards, when you open a checking account. The card will come with a personal identification number (PIN). Do not let anyone else know your PIN and don't let anyone use your card. The debit card allows you to make purchases and have the purchase amount automatically deducted from your checking account balance. It can also be used to withdraw money from an automated teller machine (ATM). Remember, debit cards are not credit cards—you can only spend the amount of money you have available in your checking account.

### **Everyday Expenses Estimator**

### Note, these are only estimates!

In addition to tuition and fees, you will incur everyday expenses to pay for food and other necessities, as well as for luxuries and entertainment. Here are some typical costs students must consider:

Books and Supplies: from \$800 to \$1,500 a year

**Cable TV**: \$65 a month (if not on campus)

**Cellular Phone**: from \$50 to \$100 a month depending on service

**Clothes**: at least \$10 per item depending on where you shop

Internet Access: from \$25 to \$60 a month depending on service

**Groceries**: about \$50 a week for one, up to \$150 a week for a family

Health Services: about \$200 for a routine doctor's visit (if not covered by

insurance)

**Insurance through the school**: \$990 for a year

Meals (on campus): from \$5 to \$10 a meal (if not using meal plan)

Meals (restaurant): from \$10 to \$25 a meal

Movies: \$5 with a student ID, and up to \$10.00

**Personal Transportation**: anywhere from \$2,500 to \$10,000 for a decent used car,

\$80 a month for gas, insurance from about \$1,000 to \$3,000 a year

**Transportation**: local taxi or Uber prices vary depending on length of trip

Rent (apartment): from \$650 to \$1,200 a month depending on location

**Taxes**: sales tax is 7%

#### **Credit Cards**

Banks, websites, department stores and gasoline companies all issue credit cards that can be used to buy goods when you do not have money available at the time. You are billed each month and are required to pay at least a portion of your balance each month. If you do not pay the entire balance, interest (or finance charges accrues on the unpaid balance. Interest rates are extremely high. Credit cards are convenient, but they can be costly if you are not careful.

### **Transferring Funds to the United States**

There are several options available to help you transfer funds from your home country to the United States to cover your expenses for the year. You should check with your bank to discuss the solution that best suits your needs. Some of the most efficient and effective ways to transfer funds include banks checks (also called cashier's checks) drawn on a U.S. bank in U.S. dollars or wire transfers from your bank at home to your U.S. bank.

#### **Taxes**

#### Sales Tax

Nearly every item that you buy, except medicine and some basic grocery items, will have sales tax added to its price. In the Clinton area, sales tax is 7%. You should not rely on the price that you see on an item's price tag because most of the time you will need to add sales tax to that price.

#### Federal Income Tax

Collection of Federal Income Tax in the United States is the responsibility of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Foreign students in the United States are subject to federal income taxation on any wages earned in the United States. In addition, all students must pay taxes on teaching, graduate and research assistant- ships. More detailed information about taxes will be provided to you

upon your arrival at Mississippi College. Deadline for filing Federal Income Tax is April 15<sup>th</sup> each year.

### Social Security Number (SSN)

Everyone who has earnings in the United States must obtain a Social Security number, the number used by the U.S. government to identify wage earners for tax purposes. It should be noted that recent legislation passed by the Social Security Administration does not allow foreign students to apply for a Social Security number, unless they can provide evidence of employment in the United States. Information on how to apply for a Social Security number will be covered during the Office of Global Education's orientation program.

# **CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT**

When people move to a different setting, they must make adjustments to their usual behavior and attitudes and adapt to new cultural norms. The Office of Global Education recommends that you attempt to "step outside" yourself, to observe your own reactions to being in a new culture and then to compare these reactions with those of other people from different countries. Your observations can result in an increased self understanding and may help you to gain insights into the various factors that have made you who you are. If you are able to keep the perspective of an outside observer while undergoing an unusual experience, you will be able to prevent yourself from becoming extremely anxious or depressed and can learn more from the intercultural experience.

Remember Mississippi College offers counseling services which are located in Alumni Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor. Visit www.mc.edu/offices/counseling/ to see full policies regarding counselling services.

### **Culture Shock**

Some new students experience culture shock when they first arrive. Culture shock is the feeling of disorientation and confusion that often occurs when a person leaves a familiar setting and moves to an unfamiliar place. The climate and terrain, the language, customs, food and the culture are different. It is harder to convey your feelings and personality in a different language than your native one. You may feel lonely and may have doubts about your decision to come to the United States. Signs of culture shock include interruptions in normal sleep patterns, anxiety, frustration and excessive anger over minor issues. It is common to become dependent on fellow international students who are experiencing the same feelings and have the same language and customs.

# **Thinking About Going Home**

After first arriving in America, it is natural to spend time thinking about the new country and your reactions to it. However, it is helpful to try to keep in mind that you will be going home after finishing your degree. It is advisable to remember that you will change while you are here. You will learn new ideas, adopt new attitudes and behave in new ways. At the same time, things will be changing in your home country. Family members, friends and professional colleagues will have experiences that you will not share and they also will develop new ideas, attitudes and ways of behaving. Social, political and economic situations may change also. This means that when you return home, things will not be as you

remembered before you left. You will need to adjust to a "new" culture again. This readjustment will be easier if you prepare yourself before you return home. Try to keep your expectations realistic. Try not to pass judgment on people and situations you will encounter after going home. You may experience culture shock all over again.

### **Ways to Cope With Culture Shock**

### Maintain Perspective

You should remember that thousands of individuals who have come to the U.S.A. and Mississippi College from other countries have felt the way you feel, and they survived!

### **Evaluate Expectations**

Ask yourself if your reactions to the culture are the product of the way things are, or the way you expected them to be. Usually it's a combination of both.

### Keep an Open Mind

People here may do or say things that people in your country would not do or say. It is important to realize that people here are acting according to their own set of values, not according to the values of your country.

### Avoid Being Judgmental

Try to avoid evaluating or judging others' behavior according to standards of your country. This may make it easier for you to adapt to your new environment.

### Learn from the Experience

Moving into a new culture can be a fascinating educational experience. It gives you the opportunity to explore a new way of living and compare it to your own. There is no better way to become aware of your own values and attitudes and to broaden your point of view.

### Improve your American English

The better you can express yourself, the easier everything will be. Realize that you, as an international student, will often be treated as a representative of the group to which you are perceived to belong (stereotype) and not as an individual. On many occasions, you may be referred to as a "foreign student" or "a student from country X." This should not be taken personally, as it probably has nothing to do with you as a person. Rather, it stems from a lack of experience with people from other countries. As you learn to better express yourself and relate to

American students, however, they will open up to you and the awkwardness will fade.

### Seek Guidance from Others

Contact students from your home country who have already been here for some time. They will be able to explain to you (in your own language) procedures that may seem unfamiliar. Please contact the Office of Global Education if you do not know anyone from your home country and they will help you find someone.

#### **Understand Your Status**

Realize how the status of your role here compares to the status to which you are accustomed in your home country. Each society attaches different importance to individual roles or positions in the society. In many countries, the role of "MC student" or "professor" is given more respect or status than it is in America. If this is the case, it can be difficult to adjust to having a lower social status in this country than you are accustomed to having in your own country. It is helpful to recognize that you are not being downgraded as a person, but that you happen to be in a society where less value is attached to being a student than may be the case in your home country.

### Ask Yourself

People here may understand little about your culture and may therefore misunderstand you and your behavior. They may assume that limited English proficiency is a lack of intelligence, rather than understanding that English is not your native language. Here are a few questions that international students might want to think about: How do Americans make friends? How is respect shown? How do family members interact? What is the relationship between males and females in different situations? What are the dating patterns? How do people spend their leisure time? How do they deal with conflicts and disagreements? What do they talk about, when and with whom? How often do they "take turns" during a conversation?

# **SERVICES**

#### **Athletics**

#### **TableTennis**

With the support of the leadership of Mississippi College, the table tennis team began in 2007. The table tennis team has participated and won numerous honors and prizes at tournaments in Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Georgia, the District of Columbia, North Carolina, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.

#### Intramural

All intramural rules, guidelines, schedules, and team registration forms can be found online at <a href="http://www.mc.edu/intramurals">http://www.mc.edu/intramurals</a>

#### **Career services**

#### Some of our services include:

- Resume Help
- Interviewing
- Career Assessment
- Job Fairs
- Online Job Board featuring internships, full time work, part time work
   Workshops
- Career Day
- Networking with Employers

Nelson Hall 314 601.925.3901

career-services@mc.edu

Find the career you want and the future you deserve!

Find us on the Web: http://www.mc.edu/career/

#### **Food services**

Visit MC Dining Service's website to learn more: <a href="www.mc.edu/offices/food/">www.mc.edu/offices/food/</a> Mississippi College requires all students who live in the residence halls to participate in the meal plan program. The meal plan option consists of 19 meals a week with \$150 in points to spend at any of the food service locations. The meal plan works as follows:

Meal plan costs are included in the On- Campus Living Charge that covers

room and board.

- The meal plan includes \$150 in points and more can be purchased from the food service provider.
- The meals are per week, with the week starting on Friday and ending on Thursday.
- One Scan per meal time. An extra scan per meal time will be charged to points or paid in cash.
- Points equal dollars to be spent in either retail or the food court operation.
- Unspent meals do not carry over from week to week.

### **Computer Services**

#### "Get Your Account Information"

This is your first step in logging on to MCnet. Use your 700 number, name, and date of birth to retrieve login info.

### "Registering Your Computer..."

Every device connected to MCnet must have its hardware (MAC) address registered with computer services in order to operate correctly. Computers can be registered simply by connecting to MCnet, opening a web browser and following the instructions.

### "Knowledge Base"

Here you'll find every answer to every question. Follow the helpful links to frequently asked questions and problems, or search for tips on the topic of your choice.

#### "Contact Us"

Receive contact info for Computer Services, MCnet Support, and Soft-ware Support/Training.

#### **Useful Links**

Following are some links that students may find useful:

- MCNet Homepage: https://www.mc.edu/computerservices/mcnet/
- MCNet Software Help Desk: http://www.mc.edu/computerservices/index.php
- Banner Web Online Registration: http://www.mc.edu/banner/index.html

# **Counseling Services**

Alumni Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Clinton, MS 39058 601.925.7791

The Counseling and Testing Center serves students as they explore educational options, establish career directions and cope with personal adjustments. Because each individual is viewed as a whole person with personal, academic, and career concerns that are interrelated, the Center offers a variety of services.

Personal concerns of any type may be discussed privately with an experienced counselor. Students who need academic assistance may meet with a counselor to identify positive steps that might be taken to improve their academic performance. Individual counseling might focus on effective time management, reading for comprehension, effective note taking and studying for tests.

Assistance can also be given in finding tutors in a variety of academic disciplines.

Mississippi College has a tradition of providing assistance to students with disabilities. In addition to moral responsibility and the university's commitment to access, there is a legal imperative which is embodied in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Visit www.mc.edu/offices/counseling/ to see full policies regarding counselling services.

## Library

The Leland Speed Library serves as an excellent resource to students. Inside the library, students also have access to the Learning Resources Center, Desktop Computer Labs, and Study Rooms.

Hours for current semesters and vacation periods are always posted on the library web page **www.library.mc.edu/.** Exceptions for vacation periods are also noted there. Please view the website homepage for changes in the daily library hours.

Library Home Page: http://library.mc.edu

Reference Desk: 601-925-3916 or speed\_reference@mc.edu

#### **Macintosh Lab**

The Macintosh computer lab is located on the first floor of the Leland Speed Library across from the Gore Art Gallery. Software for this lab is Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, and QuarkXPress. For information about lab usage contact Dr. Randy Miley, 601.925.3231.

### **Writing Center**

The Writing Center is located on the first floor of the Leland Speed Library across from the Gore Art Gallery.

### **Hospitals, Emergency Care and Pharmacies**

Metro Area Hospitals

Baptist Medical Center 1225 North State Street Jackson, Mississippi 39202 1.800.948.6262

Merit Health Central 1850 Chadwick Dr., Jackson, MS 39204 601.376.1000

St. Dominic - Jackson Memorial Hospital 969 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, MS 39216 (601) 200.2000

University of Mississippi Medical Center 2500 North State Street Jackson, MS 39216

**Local Medical Clinics** 

Baptist Clinic 106 Clinton Parkway Clinton, MS 39056 601.924.9005 St. Dominic Clinic 728 Clinton Parkway, Suite B Clinton, MS 39056 (601) 200.4800

MEA Medical Clinic 498 Hwy 80 East, Clinton, MS 39056 Phone: (601) 924.4000

Clinton Medical Center/CarePlus Clinic 901 Hwy 80 East Clinton, MS 39056 Phone: 601.924.4653

#### **Pharmacies**

Kroger Pharmacy 107 Highway 80 E Clinton, MS 39056 (601) 925.6343

Walgreens 204 Highway 80 E Clinton, MS 39056 (601) 926.1179

Fred's Pharmacy 200 Clinton Blvd Clinton, MS 39056 (601) 924.3232

Parkway Pharmacy 134 E Northside Dr Clinton, MS 39056 (601) 924.8935

CVS Pharmacy 801 Highway 80 E Clinton, MS 39056 (601) 924.2111