



NIACC INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK





Welcome to North Iowa Area Community College!
International students are an important part of our campus community. We strive to provide the best possible services and programs to make your college experience enjoyable and successful.

As a current international student you have both benefits and an obligation to maintain your visa status while studying here. While you will receive all rights and privileges as all other full-time NIACC students, there are certain guidelines you must follow to help maintain that status. Below are some policies set in place by the college and the Department of Homeland Security to help you maintain that status and function smoothly while here:

Course Work and Maintaining your Status

You must take and maintain a full-time schedule. Dropping below a full-time course load will cause you to become out of status. Students must contact Dr. Rachel McGuire, Vice President of Student Services, for permission to drop below 12 hours.

If you were to withdraw or be expelled from the college for any reason you will be considered out of status. Students would have 15 days to leave the US. You must also be ACTIVELY attending your classes to maintain your student status and to continue living in Student Housing. Flex Courses cannot count as face to face classes. A student is requested to be enrolled in at least 9 out of 12 credits required, as face to face, to be in compliance with SEVIS. Only in your last semester can an international student be less than full-time, if they only need a few classes to graduate. **This must be in the last term of study at NIACC.** When SEVIS is marked with the student's last term of study, the student has 60 days from the last day of the term of study to transfer our or leave the country. On day 61 SEVIS will automatically change the student's status to completed and a student would be out of status, if still in the country.

Legal Issues

Many students who come to study in the United States can face legal issues that are new to them. Those legal issues include, but are not limited to:

- Obtaining a Social Security Number
- Obtaining an identification card or driver's license
- Obtaining a Work Permit (EAD) OPT

Finding or Needing a Lawyer to seek:

- Declaring Permanent Residency (Green Card)
- Declaring US Citizenship

If you find yourself faced with some of these issues while a student at North Iowa Area Community College, we recommend that you first contact Dr. Rachel McGuire, Vice President of Student Development & Success, Administration Building, AB103I or by calling her directly at 641-422-4104. Dr. Rachel McGuire has access to the necessary people and information that may help you make decisions that are right and timely for you.



Homeland
Security

STUDY in the STATES

If you have further questions, refer to this government website:
<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/>

The Department of Homeland Security is the governing body that regulates all matters related to immigration. As of March 1, 2003, all functions of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service were moved into three Bureaus within the Department of Homeland Security. Here are a few terms and abbreviations that you will need to know while studying here at NIACC:

USCIS—

The **United States Citizenship and Immigration Services** is responsible for most of the applications and petition adjudications that were previously done by INS. These would include change of non-immigrant status, authorization for off-campus work programs, reinstatement to status, etc.

USICE—

The **United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement** is responsible for immigration investigations, detention, removal, intelligence, and SEVIS.

USCBP—

The **United States Customs and Border Protection** is responsible for immigration inspections at U.S. ports of entry, for the border patrol, and for the Customs Service.

SEVIS—

The database operated under the SEVP (**Student and Exchange Visitor Program**), designed to allow the collection of information regarding foreign students and exchange visitors in the United States. All F-1 student I-20's are issued through the SEVIS database.



Mason City

Population: 27,944

Zip Code: 50401

Area Code: 641 (International Code 1 or 001)

Daily Newspaper: The Mason City Globe Gazette
(excludes Mondays)

Daily State Newspaper: The Des Moines Register

Mason City is accessible by Interstate 35 to the West and Interstate 27/18 to the South, which is also known as the Avenue of the Saints, and Highways 65 and 122 intersect in the center of the community.



Average Temperature in Mason City, Iowa (in Fahrenheit degrees)

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
High	22	29	41	56	70	80	83	80	72	60	42	27
Low	3	10	34	34	46	56	61	58	48	37	23	10

"Don't be a stranger. Talk to everybody, be involved and you will be very happy!" -Raphael, Brazil



F@N Club

The Friends at NIACC or F@N Club supports all students from different cultures and backgrounds. The club strives for inclusive engagement and activities for all NIACC students to get involved with students from other countries,

cultures and backgrounds. Opportunities are provided to explore local culture, get to know faculty and staff, and attend social events. Special recognition is provided for outstanding student/s in diversity, on a yearly basis. Faculty Sponsor: TBD

Contact: Valeria.Gonzlaez@niacc.edu for meeting times, activities, and events.

WhatsApp +19706239530



"Very kind to International Students. The clubs have activities every month so we never get bored or homesick." -Keisuke, Japan



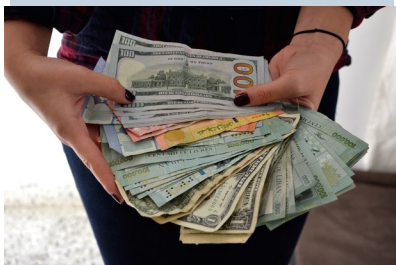
Exchange Rates

When studying in a foreign country, you will have to deal with currency exchanges. Depending on where you are studying, currency exchange rates can either help you get great bargains or make your stay even more expensive. However, no matter how strong your home currency is in relation to the local currency, you will want to make sure you get the best exchange rate possible in order to keep your expenses low.

An Exchange rate represents the relative process of two currencies. For example, the dollar-euro exchange rate implies the relative price of the euro in terms of dollars. If the dollar-euro exchange rate is %0.95, it means that you will need \$0.95 to buy €1.

Whenever possible, try to avoid the exchange companies and booths at airports. Although they are certainly convenient, they frequently charge very high prices in exchange for that convenience. If you need cash, it is best to find a large bank.

Converting from one currency to another can be confusing, and if you're dealing with large sums or if you're traveling in a country with high inflation, you will be grateful to have a calculator to help you with your calculations.



Banking

As an international student studying in the United States, having a US bank account will make managing your finances significantly easier. With a US bank account, you can deposit your scholarships, stipends, loans, all of which are typically paid by check— as well as money from home.

With a bank account, you can pay all of your bills by check, and manage your bill payments online. In addition, many banks issue debit cards with a MasterCard or Visa emblem, which enables you to use the card to make purchases anywhere that accepts credit cards.

There are two types of bank accounts in the U.S. They are Checking Accounts and Savings Accounts.



Checking Accounts allow you to frequently deposit and withdraw money. They are a great way to pay your monthly bills. When you open a checking account, it usually comes with a checkbook and a bank card. There are usually minimum monthly balances and service fees, and these vary depending on the type of account you open. Most international student only need a checking account, which they use for managing living expenses while at school.

A **Savings Account** is for long term deposits for accruing interest. The interests, minimum balances, and service fees will vary from bank to bank. As an international student, you will probably

How to Open a Bank Account

Although many banks advertise that you can open an account over the phone or online, you should plan to open an account in person. As an international student, you do not fit neatly into any category set by US Banks, and it will be easier to deal with any complications in person. In addition, it's always useful to establish a face to face relationship if you require additional services.

When you go to the bank to open a bank account, you will need to bring:

- **Your full name, home address, home telephone number, your campus telephone number, and your college address (Letterhead showing the local address—i.e. utility bills or apartment or NIACC Housing Contract)**
- **Current/Valid Passport**
- **NIACC OneCard Student ID**
- **I-20, DS-2019 or I-797 approval notice**
- **Any secondary form of identification (birth certificate, state driver's license)**
- **Enrollment verification letter from your school (Copy of Registration which may be obtained in the Student Development Office)**

You will also need the funds you want to deposit and open the account with. Every bank has slightly different requirements, so make sure you ask beforehand so you don't forget something you need.

There are translation services in 40 languages and International Banking available at Wells Fargo Bank located at:

100 N Washington Ave Ste. 100, Mason City, IA 50401

*Please note: you are welcome to bank at any bank you choose.

Where is Mason City, IA?

~126 miles from
Minneapolis, MN

~114 miles from
Des Moines, IA

~297 miles from
Chicago, IL

Embrace Mason City APP



DOWNLOAD OUR
APP FREE

Hours of Operation

City Hall
10 1st St. NW
Mason City, IA 50401

Mason City Transit operates from
6:30 am – 5:30 pm Daily

Monday through Friday, except on certain
holidays.

Mason City Transit Service is
NOT offered on the following
holidays:

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

Fares

All rides are \$0.50 per one-way trip;
monthly bus passes and tokens are
available in City Hall on the first floor
directly across the street from the Central
Park Transit Station.

Help us provide you with better service by
having **exact change**, token, or pass
ready when boarding.

Mason City Public Transit is open to
the general public, including those
with disabilities.

Transit Map

[http://www.masoncity.net/files/
documents
TransitMap1398025046021618PM.pdf](http://www.masoncity.net/files/documents/TransitMap1398025046021618PM.pdf)

Visit: www.masoncity.net

Click on : /About Mason City/
Transportation/Bus

"The diversity of people you have here in the USA and also how friendly the lowans are here in Mason City. I have always been greeted with friendly faces and haven't been turned down for getting help when I ask for it." -Dennis, Sweden

Jefferson Bus Line <https://www.jeffersonlines.com/>

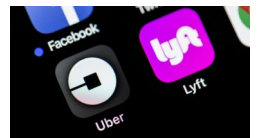
Affordable Bus Tickets to Your Favorite Destinations



Jefferson Lines has been Your #1 Bus Experience for nearly a century. We provide daily bus service to 13 states across America's Heartland with reasonable prices, convenient schedules, and easy-to-use affordable online bus tickets.

Lyft & Uber

Download the Apps/Pricing Varies
Available within Mason City & surrounding areas
MSP Airport Service Available



AMTRAK-Union Depot

240 Kellogg Boulevard East Suite 70
Union Depot in St. Paul
St. Paul, MN 55101

<https://www.amtrak.com/stations/msp>



Mason City Airport

<http://flymcw.com/>

The Mason City Municipal Airport is North Iowa's Gateway to the World. Our airport offers easy access, streamlined security, free parking, free terminal Wi-Fi and first class airline service to Minneapolis, Chicago, and St. Louis on Air Choice One. If you are travelling to or from our airport, we hope the website will help you find the information you need. No matter if you are travelling for business or pleasure, we hope you remember to Fly MCW!

***suitcase size & weight
restrictions may apply,
check with the airline**

NIACC NAMI CONTACT:

Andrea Mujica
641.422.4438

andrea.mujica@niacc.edu

Heather DeWaard Flickinger
641-422-4421

heather.dewaard@niacc.edu

Lisa Ketelsen
641-422-4178

lisa.ketelsen@niacc.edu

Molly Anderegg
641-422-4303

molly.anderegg@niacc.edu

National Alliance on Mental Illness

All college students have different academic demands, different expectations, and different lifestyle changes, and can experience mental health issues, like depression, loneliness, and suicidal thoughts. But if you are a student from outside the United States, you may find homesickness and other adjustments to American life just as distressing. In addition, as much as we might like to think situations of physical harm won't happen to students, we do know that there are some people who do not have your best interests at heart. A friend, an acquaintance, a room-mate, or a total stranger may put us in danger physically, mentally, verbally, and/or sexually.

Although we may want to keep these issues secret, it is not in our best interest to do so. Therefore, we want to make you aware of the resources in our community that can help us in either of these situations.

We have all been affected by mental illness in one way or another. NAMI on Campus is open to everyone, students, faculty and staff, providing information and resources to support mental health and to empower individuals to take action on the NIACC

campus.

Mental illness impacts the lives of at least one in four adults and one in 10 children across the United States. The NAMI Organization on the NIACC campus exists to help ensure that all individuals have positive and successful college experiences by providing support in improving the wellness & quality of life of all NIACC students affected by mental illness. Everyone can be part of the solution.



Meeting Date	Time	Location
4th Monday	12:20 –	RC113

List of Hospitals/Clinics



Quick Care Urgent Care Clinic

1420 4th St. SE
Mason City, IA
50401

Phone: 641-450-7000

Hours of Operation

Monday–Friday 8:00 AM–6:00 PM

Saturday & Sunday 9:00 AM–4:00 PM



Community Health Center

Medical walk-ins welcome

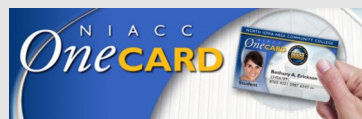
404 North Federal Ave.

Mason City, IA 50401

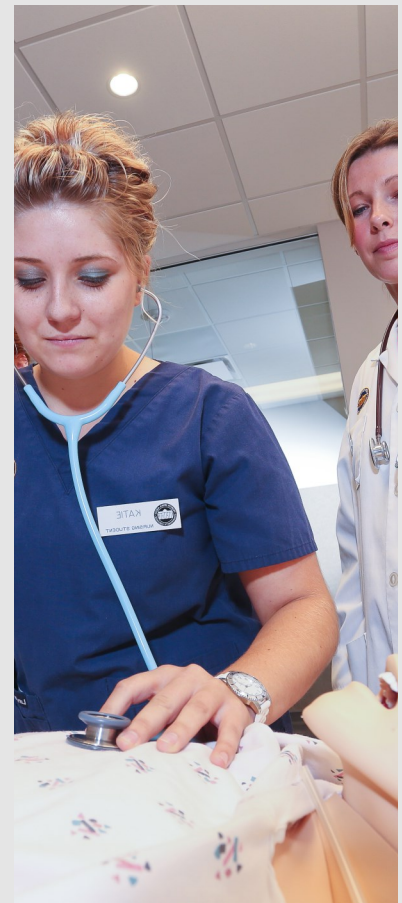
Hours of Operation

Monday–Friday 8 AM–5 PM

Phone: 641-450-0601



Show NIACC OneCard ID for a discount on a physical



HealthCare/Insurance/Doctor's Visit

Health Insurance

International Student are required to enroll in health insurance through First Agency International Student Medical Insurance upon enrollment in courses at North Iowa Area Community College. The insurance costs are added onto the Fall and Spring bills and are paid automatically through NIACC. (For more information go to: www.1stAgency.com) See Sandy Harrington in the Student Development Office, to obtain a copy of your insurance card. You will be automatically enrolled upon your arrival to campus. This information will also be emailed to your MyNIACC email accessible through your Trojan Home portal. **\$50 all cause deductible**

Vouchers

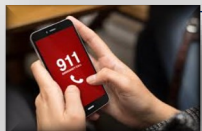
In addition, voucher's are available to see a doctor and should be used to receive a discount that helps towards your deductible. A student in need of an appointment may meet with Mark Vrba, Rec Center (641.422.4353), Lisa Ketelsen (641-422-4178) Student Development Jeremy Winters, Housing (641.422.4982), Bridget Shultz, Director of TRIO (641-422-4325), Dr. Rachel McGuire, Student Development(641-422-4104), Cam Olsen, Athletics(641-422-4281) Valeria Gonzalez, Admissions, (641-422-4075), or Basil Minto, Housing(641-422-4955).

The student is given a voucher by the faculty member and the faculty member sets up the appointment with a Mercy One doctor.

The student is responsible for getting to the doctor. NIACC pays for the doctor appointment, but the student is responsible for paying for any medication the doctor prescribes, which is covered by your 1st Agency Medical Insurance Plan.

Nurse on Campus

NIACC may have a nurse on campus, to find out days/time contact Lisa Ketelsen,



**In the Event of an Emergency, Dial 911 Immediately!
Dial 7+911 from a Campus Phone**

Contact Information

Dana Heimbuch

Work Study Coordinator
NIACC Financial Aid Office
Pierce Administration Building
Room 102 (AB102)
Email: Dana.Heimbuch@niacc.edu
Phone: 641-422-4360

Work Study/On Campus Job Opportunities

Work Study

The purpose of the program is to provide employment opportunities for students who need to work in order to pay their educational expenses and at the same time provide them an opportunity to gain valuable work experience.

Wait List

Though Work/Study is not guaranteed, if you are interested in an on-campus job, you can submit a Work Study Waitlist request form at the NIACC Financial Aid Office. After U.S. students, that have been awarded Federal work study, have the opportunity to seek out jobs and if there are still positions available, the financial aid office will contact International students on the waitlist to review the list of available positions. If an International Student is hired in a position, they must contact Sandy Harrington to assist in receiving a social security card before they can begin employment.

Note: NOT all International Students may qualify to work, please contact Dana Heimbuch and Sandy Harrington if you have questions as they will walk you thru the proper process needed.

The same rules apply for all work study students (limited to 6-10 hours/week, complete I-9, W-4, sexual harassment training, etc.)

Payroll

Payroll time periods always end the second Friday of the month (refer to back of timesheet for specific dates)

- Timesheets must be signed by the student and supervisor and turned in the Monday following the second Friday of the month
 - All work study positions are paid \$9.15/hour
 - Student's may not work more than 6-10 hours per week
 - Students are paid the last working day of the month
- Work study earnings are applied to your NIACC student account. If your account is paid in full, you can pick up your paycheck at the NIACC Business Office with a photo I.D.

Work Study



Earn & Learn



Thinking of buying a car while you are here?

To Buy or Not to Buy a Car, that is the Question...

When you purchase a car, you are required to have both insurance for the car and the license plate & registration fee paid yearly. You will also need a valid driver's license and your passport.

Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

Driver's License/ID Card/License Plates

Location:

2570 4th St SW
Mason City,
641-423-8391



www.iowadot.gov

Hours:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday-Friday	8:30am—5:00pm
Saturday	8:00am—1:00pm

You must bring:

- Current/Valid foreign passport accompanied by the approved I-94 documenting applicant's most recent admittance into the United States
- Your current school enrollment papers for an Iowa public or private school
 - Statement from a financial institution (bank, credit union or other financial institution)
 - Birth certificate

**BY
APPOINTMENT
ONLY**

Car Insurance

Insurance on a car is **REQUIRED** by the state of Iowa for any driver. Insurance can be purchased online or through an insurance agent. Several of these providers have local agents in the Mason City area that can help design the best policy to cover your car:

www.progressive.com
www.geico.com
www.statefarm.com
www.allstate.com
www.amfam.com
www.farmbureau.com



Got Insurance?

What Happens if I have a car accident?

First and foremost, if you have a car accident, and you are not hurt, you should contact the police by dialing 911 for further help. After the police have been contacted, you should call your insurance provider. Once the police have arrived at the scene of the accident, you will be responsible for making a statement, telling the officer what happened; he/she will file a report and you are responsible for filing one with your insurance agent.

If you are injured in the accident, a by-stander is likely to call the police and ambulance. The same process with the police and the insurance agency should be followed.

Traveling Outside the United States

This includes Mexico, Canada, Bahamas, & Puerto Rico. If you are interested in traveling beyond the United States, we recommend that you contact Dr. Golman (641-422-4106 or by email Bridgett.Golman@niacc.edu) To do any traveling, you are required to have your I-20 signed by a school official and with you and to have a valid passport. **Reminder:** Failure to produce a valid passport and signed I-20 will cause you to be quarantined by the INS for further investigation.

The **Mason City Post Office**, located @ 211 North Delaware or by phone @ 641-423-5231, has a passport department. They can assist you with any challenges.

Hours:

Monday-Friday
9:00am-1:30pm
2:30pm-5:00pm

*To find a local insurance agency, go to www.yellowbook.com

@ First!

First Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation which accepts the uniqueness of each person as a gift of God. They accept into the Congregation and as friends ALL who believe in God without regard to race, color, culture, age, marital status, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical ability, or mental ability.

[https://
www.firstchurchinmc.org/](https://www.firstchurchinmc.org/)

Religion/Church Options

Islamic Society of Cerro Gordo County
122 1/2 N Federal Ave
Mason City, IA 50401
641-424-0462

Greek Orthodox Church
131 2nd Street SW
Mason City, IA 50401

Church of Jesus Christ (LDS)
1309 South Kentucky Ave
Mason City, IA 50401

Riverside Friends Church (Quaker)
527 North Kentucky Ave.
Mason City, IA 50401

Messiah Lutheran Church
2620 4th St. SE
Mason City, IA 50401

**Praise Community Church
(non-denominational)**
2210 S. Federal
Mason City, IA 50401
641-421-1701

Grace Church
440 N. Illinois Ave.
Mason City, IA 50401
641-423-9401

St. Joseph Catholic Church
302 Fifth St. SE
Mason City, IA 50401
641-423-5001

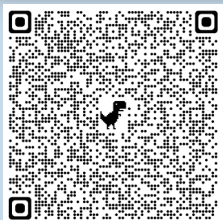
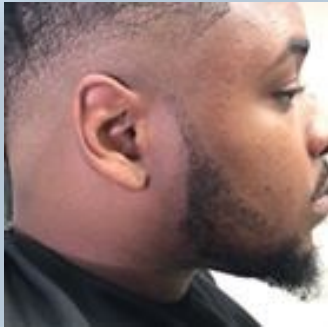
Wesley United Methodist
1405 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Mason City, IA 50401
641-423-6549

First United Methodist Church
119 South Georgia Ave.
Mason City, IA 50401

@First!
**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**
100 First St. NE
Mason City, IA 50401

***This is not an all inclusive list, other options may be available.

"So far my experiences at NIACC have been great! Teachers are great to work with in completing assignments and understanding the work put forth. All the staff are just as helpful with any questions." -Laurie, Canada

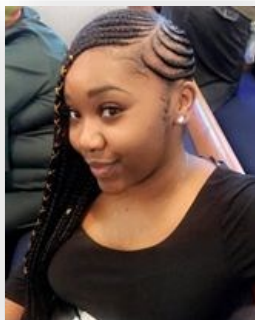


Hair Care/Salons/

Tip the Barber

Willowbrook Mall
1631 4th St SW #128
Mason City
(641) 231-2465
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-7pm
[@tipthebarber5](#)

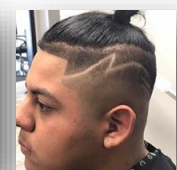
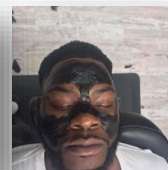
Ethnic Hair Care. Marie specializes in braids and Tyre does haircuts, beard trim, lineups and deep conditioning black facials.



Braids by Cassii Calawa

641-231-1356

Specializes in: (not limited to)
Cornrows
Kids braids
Installing, repairing and re-twisting
dreadlocks
Lock repair





Thinking of getting a cell phone while you are in the U.S. studying?

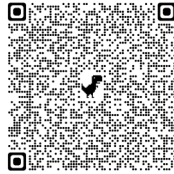
Cell Phones

Wal-Mart StraightTalk

4151 4th St SW, Mason City, IA 50401

Hours:

Monday-Sunday: 6 AM - 11 PM



A great option is StraightTalk since it offers a variety of plans, but without the need for contracts. The available plans include \$35 with 2GB data and unlimited call and text nationwide, \$45 with 8GB data and unlimited call and text nationwide, \$55 with 12GB data and unlimited call and text nationwide, \$60 with 8GB data and unlimited call and text worldwide, \$30 with 100MB data and unlimited texts, \$10 with international calling cards, and the extended plan with 8GB data and unlimited call and text nationwide.

You can use this plan with your own phone, under their bring your own phone program. StraightTalk is a prepaid plan, meaning that you prepay for the services ahead of time, and there are no overage charges. It also means more data for the same price compared to post-paid plans.

Verizon Wireless

4063 4th St SW
Mason City, IA 50401
641.424.8448

Hours:

Monday-Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM



Visit a Verizon Wireless Store with your international student documents for up to 2 lines with no deposit. Bring your international passport with a valid student visa. The deposit on up to 2 lines is waived.

Activate a device with monthly device payments.

Shop our selection of 4G LTE World Devices and SIM-card-capable smartphones. Or, activate a device you already own.

Choose your plan.

Choose the Verizon Unlimited Plan, for unlimited data, talk, and text! Or, choose the New Verizon Plan which offers five simple sizes that include Carryover Data, Safety Mode, unlimited talk, text, and more. And you can switch sizes at any time.

Cell Phone Plan Options:

Two-Year Contracts

These are the most common contracts in the U.S. Contract plans offer lower monthly rates and very low prices on new phones compared to prepaid plans. Typically, the best prices are offered to customers who sign two-year contracts for cell phone service. While the rates are lower, terminating a contract early requires the customer to pay a large penalty. To qualify for a contract plan, a cell phone provider will generally review the applicant's credit history. Since new international students do not have Social Security numbers or credit history in the United States, they typically require a security deposit which could be \$400-\$500. As with any contract, please ensure that you understand all requirements and charges before signing it.



Pay-As-You-Go or Prepaid Plans

These are easier for new International students to obtain because they do not require a Social Security number and/or a credit history check. These "pay-as-you-go" plans use the same cell phone networks and offer the same services as contract plans do, but usually at higher rates. Advantages of these plans include no long-term contracts, security deposits, or penalties for cancellation. Traveling Outside the United States



See Travel Guide, Mason City, IA

www.visitmasoncity.com

800.423.5724

Embrace Mason City



Bowling



Mystic Lanes Bowling

2571 4th St SE, Mason City, IA 50401

Hours:
Tuesday—Saturday
3–7PM

CLOSED: Sunday-Monday



Your NIACC OneCard allows you to go Bowling for FREE once a month on at Mystic Lanes:

See Trojan Home for specific dates of Student Activities.

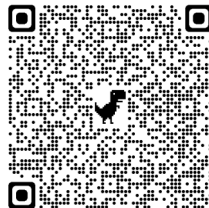
“Watching movies about the United States it is exactly what I expected. It is just an incredible feeling to be around Americans and see how they live. There is always something to do so you never get bored.” ~Katharina, Austria

Movies-Cinema West Movie Theatre

<http://www.cectheatres.com/>

4710 4th St SW
Mason City, IA 50401

Your NIACC OneCard allows you to go to the Movies for FREE once a month @ Cinema West Movie Theatre:
See Trojan Home for specific dates for Student Activities

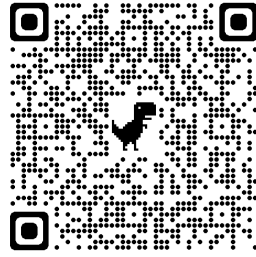


View your Trojan Home Portal for Scheduled Events throughout the year!



Mason City Farmers Market
SUMMER SEASON
Saturdays
(June – October)
9:00am – 12:00 pm

Central Park, Downtown, Mason City



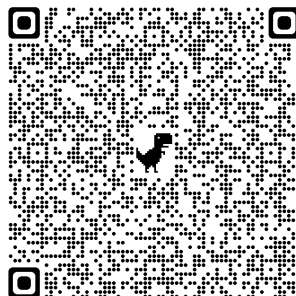
Find an amazing array of products:

Filipino Specialties
 Fresh Produce
 Specialty Fish
 Japanese Snacks, Noodles And More
 Thai, Korean, Chinese
 Kava & Betel Nut
 African Products
 Curry, Soups, Sauces
 Goat Meat & Pork Belly
 Micronesian Canned Goods & Snacks

Address:
1913 4th St SW
Mason City, IA 50401
(Behind Jimmy John's)

Hours:
Monday-Sunday 11am - 6pm

<http://pinoyasianmarket.com/>



Options for Buying Groceries:

- Hy-Vee (East) and Hy-Vee (West)
- Fareway
- Super Target
- Wal-Mart
- Pinoy Asian Market
- Mason City Farmers Market

*all accessible by taking the Mason City Transit Bus



North Iowa Area Community College

Valeria Gonzalez
Admissions Office
Bilingual Enrollment Advisor
Diverse Populations
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North Iowa Are Community College

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North Iowa Area Community College

Sandy Harrington/DSO
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Student Services Office Mgr.
500 College Drive
Mason City, Iowa 50401

Phone: 1-641-422-4208 Office

E-mail: Sandy.Harrington@niacc.edu

Travel & I-20s

If you are traveling home with intent to return to continue your studies at North Iowa Area Community College, make sure your travel documents are valid and signed by Sandy Harrington, the NIACC DSO, as needed. She is located in the Student Development Office in the Pierce Administration Building. **Be sure your form I-20 is signed two weeks before your departure date.**

Airport Shuttles

Valeria Gonzalez, Valeria.Gonzalez@niacc.edu, (WhatsApp +19706239530) will normally provide airport shuttles to and from the Minneapolis, Minnesota International Airport the Friday and Saturday before classes start and the Friday and Saturday after classes end. (**Subject to Change upon Availability) **There is limited space available**, so it is best to contact her in a timely manner with your travel itinerary, and it will be on a first come/first serve basis, otherwise it will be **your responsibility** to find transportation to and from the airport/campus.

Friday and Saturday before classes start

Arrival:

6pm Pick up Outside Baggage Claim

8pm Wal-Mart Stop

9pm Drop off at NIACC Campus View Housing

Friday & Saturday after classes end

Departure:

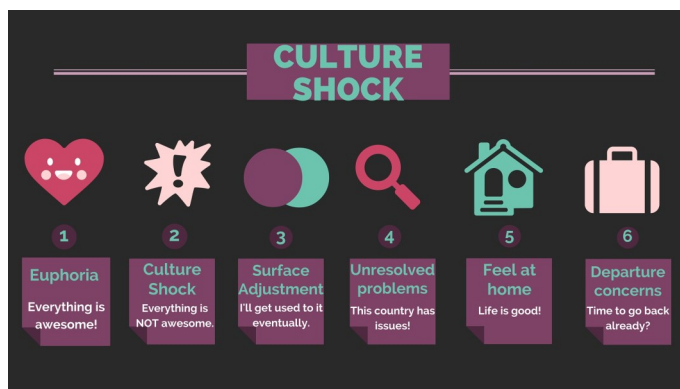
6am Pick up outside NIACC Campus View Housing

8am Drop off at Minneapolis / St. Paul International Airport

Cultural Adjustment Advising

International students may face challenges while adjusting to a new culture. International advisors can help you adjust as well as provide tips on how to find success as an international student. Contact Bridget Shultz, Bridget.Shultz@niacc.edu, Valeria Gonzalez, Valeria.Gonzalez@niacc.edu, or anyone on the NIACC Diversity Committee:

***Contact information is listed on the last page of this handbook.



NIACC FOOD PANTRY

The **NIACC Student Food Pantry** is available to **ALL** students. What a great way to supplement your budget, by taking advantage of this amazing resource on campus, that has partnered with the Food Bank of Iowa to bring you additional options to get groceries and other necessities.

NIACC Food Pantry is located in the Activity Center (AC) and has food, toiletry and personal hygiene items available to you for **FREE**.

Questions: Contact Tanya.Dadisman@niacc.edu

OPEN Hours: 8am - 4:15 pm Monday-Friday

Food Pantry Location: Activity Center (AC 136)



NO Drinking/NO Smoking

In 1984, the United States Congress passed the National Minimum Drinking Age Act, which required states to raise their ages for purchase and public possession to **21** years of age.

The legal drinking age in the state of **Iowa** is **21**. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of illicit drugs and alcohol on College property or as a part of any college-sponsored activity is prohibited. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, and may have legal consequences. There is **NO Drinking** allowed ANYWHERE on the NIACC campus.

In the spring of 2008, Iowa lawmakers passed legislation to protect employees and the general public. The Smoke free Air Act (ISAA) prohibits smoking in enclosed areas within places of employment as well as some outdoor areas. **NIACC** is a **SMOKE FREE** Campus. There is **NO** smoking allowed ANYWHERE on the campus including parking lots.

Sexual Harassment

The College recognizes that harassment related to an individual's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression can occur in conjunction with misconduct related to an individual's race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, marital status, or disability. Targeting individuals on the basis of these characteristics is also a violation of the community standards. Under these circumstances, the College will coordinate the investigation and resolution efforts to address harassment related to the targeted individual's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression together with the conduct related to the targeted individual's race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, marital status or disability.



For more information: See the NIACC Student Handbook

Slang Terms

As you encounter your classmates, watch American television, or meet people through organizations, clubs, church, or in the community, you might find they use a language you are unfamiliar with. To help you navigate language barriers, here are a few slang terms to help you:

Term:	Definition or usage:
Bet	affirmation, agreement, or approval along the lines of “Cool!” or “I’m down!” It can also suggest doubt or disbelief: “Yeah, sure.”
kk	meaning OK, is just pure acknowledgement; your message is received.
Hit me up	Call or Text me
Give me a break	Meaning to stop some action or statement; or to leave another person alone. Can be used as an expression of disbelief
Hook-up or hooking-up	Traditionally used to ask you to meet your friends, but may have a sexual connotation
Minding your p’s and q’s	Also, used to remind someone to do a complete job and not to leave pertinent information out. Remind someone to use their manner’s and be polite
My bad	Used instead of saying “I’m wrong” or an “I’ve made a mistake.”
On reserve	Often used in reference to additional course materials that can be found, at the student’s convenience, in the library
Rule of Thumb	Implies a standard or set of guidelines that are generally followed by all
Shut up	Traditionally a derogatory way to ask someone to ‘be quiet’, but now is used as an expression of disbelief
Switching gears	Traditionally used in reference to driving a car, but can also mean change the subject being discussed
T.M.I	Meaning “too much information”; used when too revealing or personal information is shared
Thumb’s up	Meaning Okay or a job well done
What’s Up? Sup? Suh?	Used to ask you how you are or what you are doing
Bae	No, it's not short for babe or baby. The letters actually represent the phrase "before anyone else," usually referring to the speaker's significant other, girlfriend or boyfriend
Lit	"Lit" can mean cool — but some people also use it as a synonym for drunk or high
Woke	While it's sometimes used in a sarcastic sense, getting called "woke" is usually a compliment. It means you're knowledgeable, sympathetic and aware, especially when it comes to contentious debates around race and gender
Cat Call	To whistle or yell something sexually suggestive to a stranger, usually in passing. Often by males as a way of getting attention from females. It is not recommended and can be considered harassment
GOAT	Abbreviation for Greatest of All Time
Spill the Tea	gossip or personal information belonging to someone else; the scoop; the news
Sic/Sick/Bussin’	Cool or tastes really good
Dope, That’s Dope	Cool or Awesome
OMG!	Oh my Gosh or Oh my God
To Ghost Someone	dating term that refers to abruptly cutting off contact with someone without giving that person any warning or explanation for doing so



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Contact the NIACC Diversity Committee

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Beucler, Alexis	Alexis.Beucler@niacc.edu	641-422-4242



It is the policy of North Iowa Area Community College to not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including pregnancy), disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, creed, religion, actual or potential parental, family and marital status or veteran's status in its programs, activities or employment practices. See <http://www.niacc.edu/about/non-discrimination-statement/> for additional information.

