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UNI Culture and Intensive English Program

MISSION

The primary mission of the Culture and Intensive English Program (CIEP) is to provide English language learners with high quality intensive academic English language instruction as well as academic cultural orientation in preparation for study at the University of Northern Iowa or other institution of higher learning. Through its many programs, events, and connections on and off-campus, the CIEP seeks to accomplish the following:

• Teach English for Academic Purposes in the Intensive English Program in preparation for enrollment in academic programs at UNI.
• Collaborate with different academic programs at UNI to co-teach specialized sections and workshops for international and multilingual students to support their academic success in university classes.
• Support the UNI vision to promote diversity, equity and inclusion on campus and the community.
• Provide students with the cultural knowledge and awareness which they will need to function well both academically and socially.
• Inform students about options and opportunities for academic study at UNI and encourage them to apply for admission.
• Recruit international students to the UNI campus for participating in the regular and special programs in order to develop cross-cultural and educational opportunities for both Americans and international students.
• Serve as a resource for faculty, staff, and students at UNI who are interested in international education or the teaching of English as a second language.
• Provide support to local school systems in preparing their English as a Second Language students for university study at UNI or other institutions of higher education.

GOALS

The primary goal of the CIEP is to improve our students’ ability to communicate in English. We do this through speaking and listening practice in all classes, not just listening/speaking classes. We also work with students to improve specific skills in grammar, writing, listening, speaking, and reading.

The CIEP does this by teaching students the skills and strategies that will help them use English both academically and socially. There are many opportunities for students to practice these skills outside of the classroom with roommates, conversation partners, other university students, and community members.

Another important part of the CIEP is learning about American academic culture and popular culture. We closely relate English language instruction with American cultural experiences because you cannot use a language well if you do not understand the society and culture in which it is used. It is also difficult
to study and work in the United States if you are not proficient in the English language. The CIEP works very closely with students to find the best opportunities for them to learn about the English language and American culture.

**ACCREDITATION**

The CIEP is accredited by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA) under the authority of the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. The CEA regularly reviews and regulates standards for intensive English programs wishing to be accredited. The CEA is the only officially recognized accrediting body in the United States and programs achieving accreditation status must undergo a rigorous process which includes a site visit, self-study report, and subsequent updates and reports after initial accreditation.

**AFFILIATIONS**

The Culture and Intensive English Program is a member of the following professional organizations:

- UCIIEP: Consortium of University and College Intensive English Programs
- AAIEP: American Association of Intensive English Programs

**ADMINISTRATION & FACULTY**

The CIEP has both office and teaching personnel on its staff. The CIEP Director plans class schedules, supervises the staff, answers students’ questions regarding the CIEP, and makes sure that the program follows its policies. The Director’s office is located in Bartlett Hall, Room 3023 (see Appendix A-1 for a campus map). You are encouraged to set up an appointment to talk to the CIEP Director, if you have questions such as:

- What should I do if I have a family emergency and have to miss several classes?
- I have talked to my teacher, but I still need help with academic or personal problems.
- What can I do if I do not understand my teacher?
- What can I do if I have a problem with a classmate?

In addition to the director, there are staff members who work to make the CIEP run smoothly. These staff members also work in Bartlett Hall, and can be contacted by telephone at 319-273-2812 or by email at ciep@uni.edu. The following CIEP Office staff is happy to respond to any questions you may have about the CIEP.

**CIEP Student Employees:** There are several UNI students who assist every day in the CIEP Office. The office staff will be the first people you meet when entering the main office. Our office staff helps you first or decides who can best help you. Please contact the CIEP Office staff if you have questions such as:

- Where do I pay my tuition?
- When can I pick up my class schedule?
• How can I get copies of the grades?
• Where is the classroom located?
• Why is my U-bill charged for this amount?
• How can I be reimbursed for a class that I dropped?
• How do I apply to the CIEP?
• Which documents are needed for the application?
• Are there scholarships available?
• My I-20 will expire next month. What should I do to keep my immigration status active?
• What should I do if I want to travel outside the U.S. during my summer break?
• How can I apply for admission to UNI or, if conditionally admitted, start academic classes?
• How can I enroll my friend or family member into CIEP classes?
• When is the next TOEFL test?
• Can I have a letter for my sponsor?
• Where can I pay my tuition?

CIEP Student Services Coordinator: This person organizes social, cultural, and educational activities for the CIEP and administers evaluations and is responsible for the Conversation Partner and the CIEP International Friendship Programs. Please contact the Activities Coordinator if you have questions such as:

• How do I sign up for a Conversation Partner?
• Who can participate in the field trips?
• Where should I go for the culture talk?
• Personal advising
• I want to work on campus. How do I get a job?
• Where can I sign up for a CIEP activity?

Instructors: In addition to the office staff, the CIEP also has several instructors who deliver English Language instruction in reading, writing, grammar and listening/speaking. These instructors have master’s degrees in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) and many years of experience in teaching English in the United States and overseas. Many of the CIEP instructors also have individual memberships with NAFSA: Association of International Educators and TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages).
All CIEP instructors have regular office hours each week so that you can meet with your instructors for additional help or to discuss individual course problems. It is best if you learn when your instructors have their office hours and use this time for assistance and review.

In addition to the previously mentioned office staff and instructors, the CIEP may employ 1-2 graduate students each year. These students work with the CIEP while completing their master’s degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (M.A./TESOL). In many cases, they have previous teaching experience and have lived or worked in the United States or in other countries.

Learn more about the CIEP staff!: https://ciep.uni.edu/staff

SESSIONS

The CIEP offers five full sessions per year: 2 in the fall semester, 2 in the spring semester, and 1 in the summer. Each session lasts eight weeks and includes 20 hours of class work per week. Exceptions to this rule are level 7 writing and lab class, which have independent study time.

PLACEMENT OF NEW STUDENTS

At the beginning of each session, the CIEP tests all new students entering the program and academic students provisionally admitted for academic study at the University. The teachers will review the results from the test and you will later receive your class placement. Sometimes students are placed in different levels for each class, but students are rarely placed in classes that are more than one ability level apart. A sample rubric used to score the exam is found in Appendix A-2. The placement test has five parts:

1) Written Essay: You will be given 45 minutes to write about a general topic such as comparing city life to country life or describing the ways you can learn a new language. You will not be able to use or have a dictionary, cell phone, or other electronic device.

2) Reading Test: You will have 50 minutes to read several small passages and select the correct answer on a multiple-choice test.

3) Listening & Note-taking Test: You will listen to a taped lecture twice about a general topic that is important to students studying in a foreign country. You will take notes on a sheet of paper. You will use your notes to answer questions about the lecture. The exam is 45 minutes long.

4) Grammar Test: You will have 30 minutes to answer multiple-choice questions that increase in difficulty and complexity.

5) Interview: In the interview, two instructors will ask you questions about yourself and other general topics. The interview is 5-7 minutes long.

RE-EVALUATION OF PLACEMENT

As a new student, instructors evaluate you to see if you are placed in the correct classes. If you believe the class is not an appropriate placement, you are encouraged to complete the Student Requests and Concerns Form (Appendix A-4). In addition, all CIEP teaching staff members meet after the first week of classes to discuss your placement and the placement of all new students. If the staff agrees that you are not placed correctly, they will recommend a change in level for one or more classes.
**CLASS INFORMATION**

After you complete the initial placement test, you receive a class schedule with a list of your classes, instructors' names, times, and room locations. The instructors will meet you in the classroom at the beginning of each class. See Appendix B-1 for the CIEP Proficiency Scale and Descriptors form.

As a full-time CIEP student, you receive 4 hours of daily classroom work (Monday through Friday) in one of 7 levels of instruction:

Level 1 - Beginner
Level 2 - High Beginner
Level 3 - Low Intermediate
Level 4 - Intermediate
Level 5 - High Intermediate
Level 6 - Advanced
Level 7 - Academic

You are expected to attend all classes daily, use English at all times in those classes, and complete homework assignments. CIEP instructors will do a combination of pair/partner work, group work, individual projects, and instructor presentations to teach English. You will not spend most of your class time listening to your instructors talk. Instead, you should be active in answering questions and doing activities in the classroom.

The CIEP curriculum is designed to meet the needs of our students, yet flexible enough to allow teachers to make use of their individual strengths in teaching. The classes are student-centered and use the latest methods in the field of teaching English as a Second Language (ESL). This means that you will be asked to participate in activities and perform work that is new and unique to you. Please have an open mind and take advantage of the opportunities to learn and practice English in class and outside of class.

CIEP classes meet 20 hours a week, for 4 hours a day, Monday through Friday during the 8-week session. There is a 10 minute break between classes. Please see the example of a CIEP Student Class Schedule:
CLASS SIZES AND OFFERINGS

Based on enrollment, not every level will be offered each session. If a level is not available, the CIEP Director will offer an alternative or the level will be available in the next CIEP session.

Classes with more than 16 students will be considered for a second section. The average class size at the CIEP is 12 students and the CIEP tries to limit its class size to 16 students.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

In special circumstances, the CIEP can arrange for you to do an independent study with a teacher. You could meet with the teacher alone on a weekly basis to discuss your progress as you study to complete the material. Independent study work is graded and recorded in the CIEP office and the University. Independent Study is arranged by the CIEP Director only.

There are different reasons why the CIEP Director would allow you to do an independent study. For example, sometimes students stop attending classes for reasons beyond their control or a CIEP class may not be offered because there may not be enough students. In any case, the CIEP Director will decide if there should be an independent study and if there is a teacher available. The price of an independent study is the same as one class.
**CLASS CANCELLATIONS**

If a CIEP class has to be cancelled due to weather, an instructor’s illness, or some other reason, the CIEP will attempt to reschedule the class. In certain instances, the University will cancel or postpone classes or other events. The University posts all weather and security related alerts on their website at http://www.uni.edu/.

**GUIDELINES FOR STUDYING IN AN AMERICAN CLASSROOM**

You may find American teaching methods and practices quite different from those you are familiar with at home. Regular class attendance, preparation for regular examinations throughout the term, and participation in class discussions are all expected in the American educational system.

In general, professors welcome questions from students and encourage student participation in class discussions. Never hesitate to ask a question about something you do not understand. In many classes, the professor expects discussion and questions from students.

Professors also keep regular office hours and usually announce them during the first or second class. Be ready to share information (culture, economics, politics, religion, etc.) about your country in class because many people are interested in learning about other cultures. It is also a very good topic for your future presentations. You are expected to:

- Come to class on time.
- Take notes in class.
- Pay attention and do not sleep in class.
- Have a positive attitude, make your best effort.
- Bring a pen, pencil, notebooks, and textbooks.
- Participate in class.
- Respect your fellow students and your instructors at all times; do not use offensive language, be disruptive, or refuse to cooperate with your instructors and classmates.
- Complete your homework by the due date.
- Use English inside the office and classroom buildings at UNI.
- CIEP classes are English-only classes; do not use your native language.
- Keep your classroom clean. Do not leave paper, empty containers, bags, or other waste inside or outside of the buildings.
- UNI campus is smoke-free; do not smoke inside of the campus buildings or outside on campus.
- Notify your instructors and the CIEP Office when you are absent. If it is because of an illness, go to the UNI Student Health Clinic for treatment. Please present notices and letters from your medical provider (doctor, nurse, etc.) to your teacher if available.
BEHAVIOR & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

If your behavior in your CIEP class(es) is not appropriate, your teacher(s) will tell you. They will also explain what appropriate behavior in an American university classroom is. Their explanation is not meant to embarrass you, but to guide you so that you are more productive.

If you continue behaving in an unproductive or inappropriate way, you may be asked to meet with your teacher or the CIEP Director. Together you will review your behavior in class and suggest appropriate behavior. A form called Guidelines for In-Class Behavior (Appendix B-2) is used in the meeting. Afterwards, you will be asked to sign the guidelines and given a copy (the original stays with the CIEP). This is a record of what was discussed in the meeting.

If the unproductive or inappropriate behavior continues, the matter may be referred to the Dean of Students and/or you may be dismissed from the CIEP class or program.

Behaviors that are not appropriate or acceptable in the classroom include:

• Coming to class late and disturbing the teacher as you enter
• Never having homework done or ready
• Not being respectful to your teacher or classmates
• Talking to classmates while the teacher is instructing class
• Using a cell phone or other personal communication device
• Speaking to others in a language that is not English
• Asking so many questions that the teacher has no time to teach or to take others’ questions
• Not wanting to join in group or pair work activities
• Leaving the class early in a loud manner by packing books and speaking to others
• Leaving and returning to the classroom often during the hour

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

It is the policy of the CIEP not to allow the use of personal electronic devices during exams and other testing situations without the permission of the teacher. Personal electronic devices include but are not limited to: electronic dictionaries, computers, cell phones, communication devices other than cell phones, etc.

If you use an electronic device during an exam without the permission of the teacher this is considered an act of cheating and you are subject to the same penalties as described in the cheating policy.

It is also the responsibility of the CIEP to instruct you on how to use non-electronic means of support for essay type exams that allow for support from texts such as a grammar or reference dictionary. The teachers in CIEP will instruct you on how to use these non-electronic means of support throughout the program.
TEACHER & STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS

The teacher-student relationship within the classroom regarding classwork or academics is confidential. Disclosures of a student's personal or political beliefs expressed in connection with course work may not be made public without explicitly granted permission of the student. However, personal information shared with an instructor that may indicate the need for immediate intervention may fall within mandatory reporting laws. Please see the following regarding the University’s policy on mandatory reporting: General Policy 13.02

International students often find the classroom atmosphere and the student-professor relationship very casual and informal in American universities. Even though it is a casual and informal relationship, the teacher is not your friend. The goal of the teachers is to help you learn and improve your English and assist you with questions that you have about your classes.

CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION

Class participation is also very important. Your instructors will give you many opportunities to speak and write during class time. Practice your English as much as possible, both in class and outside of class. Use your English-language skills at every opportunity.

CIEP classes are English-only, meaning that only English may be spoken in your classes. Also refrain from speaking your native language in the CIEP office and during CIEP activities. This will help you to learn English faster and more efficiently.

CHEATING

Presenting someone else’s work as your own in a testing situation or exam is an act of cheating. Cheating is also an act of academic dishonesty and is a serious offense in the U.S. academic environment. The CIEP adheres to the same academic standards as the University of Northern Iowa found in the UNI’s Policies and Procedures Manual (www.uni.edu/policies/301),

“Students at the University of Northern Iowa are required to observe the commonly accepted standards of academic dishonesty and integrity...Cheating of any kind on examinations and/or plagiarism of papers or projects is strictly prohibited.”

We also know that cheating and the consequences for cheating are not universal throughout the world. Therefore, the CIEP makes efforts to instruct students about cheating and CIEP’s policies about cheating. Teachers discuss cheating in class and should warn you about the penalties for cheating. If you are found to be cheating, you will be penalized depending on the type of offense and receive a Notice of Plagiarism/Cheating (see Appendix B-3). A copy is kept in your permanent file, too. Also, cheating offenses discovered after an exam subject you to disciplinary action as well.

Minor cheating offenses can result in a warning and/or a meeting with the teacher. Examples include:

- Glancing at neighbor’s paper during an exam
- Whispering to neighbors during an exam
• Making hand signals to others during an exam

More serious offenses can result in a failing grade for the exam. The teacher/proctor will ask you to pass in your paper and inform you that the exam will not be graded because of cheating. Examples include:

• Using textbooks, notes, papers during an exam
• Using an electronic device during an exam
• Leaving the room to get the help of others during an exam
• Using any non-exam materials (paper, electronic, or other) during an exam
• Distracting the teacher or proctor to help others cheat during an exam

Very serious offenses can result in a failing grade for the class or expulsion from CIEP. Examples include (but are not limited to):

• Sharing exam contents with others
• Copying or recording exam materials for others

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work as your own. Any ideas or materials taken from another source (student, website, book, friend, etc.) for either written or oral use and presented by you for evaluation purposes must be acknowledged and cited.

Anytime you do not cite a source, your teacher will assume that the words written are your original ideas. When using ideas or words from other sources to complete an assignment, you must cite where you found them. Your teacher will help you learn the correct way to cite and credit sources, but you can ask for help, too. Examples of plagiarism include:

• Copying words, phrases, sections of another student’s paper and presenting it as your own
• Cutting and pasting material from an internet source onto your own work and presenting it as your own
• Asking friends to help you edit and/or write papers and presenting the paper as your own
• Purchasing an essay or research product and presenting it as your own
• Submitting the same work/product/paper to more than one teacher to fulfill more than one assignment is also an act of plagiarism if the teachers are not aware of your action.

Please note that plagiarism is an act of academic dishonesty and a serious offense in the U.S. academic environment. Penalties for plagiarism can be severe. If you are found to commit plagiarism, you will be penalized depending on the circumstances. Please refer to Notice of Plagiarism/Cheating (Appendix B-3) for examples of plagiarism and penalties.

ATTENDANCE
Regularly going to class is not only important for learning a new language but it is also necessary to keep your immigration record in good status. United State immigration rules for F-1 students require you to attend classes regularly and full-time. Regular attendance in the CIEP means that you are maintaining 80% attendance in all your classes. Please note that many absences can mean placing you on academic probation.

TARDINESS

If you do not arrive to class on time, you will be marked late (tardy) by the instructor. For every three times you are marked late to class, you will receive an absence. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late to class, you will be marked absent. If you do arrive late, please do not interrupt the class or ask the instructor for permission to enter the room. Simply enter the class and sit down quietly. Please note that many absences can mean placing you on academic probation (see Appendix B-4 Notice of Academic Probation).

HOMEWORK

Homework is serious work and it is a very important part of your English study. It provides you with the opportunity to think about the topics that you study in class. Do your homework carefully and on time. During most weeks, you can expect to spend the following amount of time on homework**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Levels 1 – 4</th>
<th>Levels 5 – 6</th>
<th>Level 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>4-5 hours</td>
<td>5-6 hours</td>
<td>8-9 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening/Speaking</td>
<td>3-4 hours</td>
<td>3-4 hours</td>
<td>4-5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>4-5 hours</td>
<td>5-6 hours</td>
<td>7-8 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11-14 hours</td>
<td>13-16 hours</td>
<td>18-21 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Extra time may be required for Listening/Speaking and Reading logs and for Writing journals

TESTS & QUIZZES

During the first week of classes, your instructors will give you a class syllabus (plan) explaining the requirements for the class and how he or she will grade your work. Once the instructor makes his or her grades, they cannot be changed. You need a C grade or higher in each class in order to pass each class.

DIAGNOSTICS

At the beginning of your class you will take an exam to determine how much you know about different aspects of English. This exam can also help determine if you have been placed in the correct level or not.

CLASS EXAMS

Instructors will give you tests and quizzes as a way to see how much you have learned, understand your English skill level, and decide what you need to know. Instructors will also give you projects, oral reports, written essays and other assignments to improve your skills and to evaluate your progress. You are expected to complete and turn in all assignments given to you by the instructor. Failure to do so may result in a lower final grade.
Take all tests and quizzes on time. If you are absent, be sure to contact your instructor as soon as possible for a chance to take the test at a separate time. The instructor will decide whether or not you may take the test.

FINALS

Final exams are given during the last week of the 8-week term. Exams are not given before or after this time unless you have an emergency. If you miss final exams, it will affect your final grade for the class. Therefore, you need to check the CIEP calendar before making your travel plans. After you take finals, you will be able to see your class grade in your Student Center in MyUniverse two weeks later or when you pick up your new class schedule (see Appendix B-5 Final Grade Report).

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

For a detailed description of CIEP Student learning outcomes, visit https://ciep.uni.edu/sites/default/files/u6/ciep_course_goals_objectives_slos.pdf

BOOKS & SUPPLIES

Bring all of your textbooks and packets to class every day, along with your other school supplies. Your instructors will tell you which textbooks to buy from University Book and Supply on 23rd Street. The CIEP website also lists the textbooks needed for each class at https://ciep.uni.edu/levels. You should not share textbooks with other students. You can not re-use old textbooks with marked and completed pages.

If you wish to return a newly-purchased textbook to the bookstore, please save your receipt to show the store clerk. University Book and Supply will only accept returns during the first two weeks of the semester. After that, you will not get any money back for your book until the end of the semester during book buy-back hours.

GRADES

GRADING SCALE

The CIEP uses the same grading system as the University of Northern Iowa. You can earn grades from an A to an F. You must receive a C or above to pass your class. If you receive a C- or lower, you must repeat that same level for the next session (see Appendix B-6 for the CIEP Grading Scale).
HOW TO VIEW IN MYUNIVERSE

You may view your grades in MyUNIverse two weeks after final exams. To view your grades, log into MyUNIverse using your CatID. Click on the Go to my Student Center Link on the My Page tab. In the
Academics section, select Grades in the drop-down list. Click the Go button. Your View My Grades page should appear.

**GRADE APPEALS**

If you feel that a final grade is inaccurate, you must first meet with your instructor and notify the CIEP Director, in writing, before the first day of classes for the next session. To notify the director, you must complete a Formal Student Grievance (see Appendix A-3) and include the reason(s) for wanting a change in grade and submit it to the CIEP Director. The CIEP Director will notify you of a decision within ten days of receiving the form.

**NO GRADE AND INCOMPLETES**

Usually you receive grades for your classes in CIEP. However, if you begin the class late, midway through the session, or you do not wish to receive a grade, you will be given an incomplete (Inc) for the class. In these situations, you are required to repeat the class for the full session in order to receive a grade and pass to the next level.

**FAILING A COURSE**

If you fail a CIEP course, you should first talk to your instructors to find out how to improve and get extra help. You and your instructor may make a step-by-step plan for passing the course. It is the duty of the student to ask for extra help from instructors or CIEP staff.

If you request and need additional help, the CIEP instructors and staff can find various services on-campus to assist you such as the speech and hearing clinic and the counseling center.
CIEP Grading Scale

The CIEP uses the same grading system as the University of Northern Iowa. CIEP students can earn grades from A to F. Also, the grading system is based on a 4.0 point scale using plus (+) and minus (−) grades. Below are the grades, their meaning, and their point values in the students’ Grade Point Averages (GPA).

You need at least a C grade to pass the class. If you earn below a C grade, you must repeat the class.

The grading system is shown below:

For advancement to the next level or exit from the program, instructors use the CIEP grading scale to give students a final grade corresponding to performance in class on all tests, quizzes, exams, final exams and other assignments. The grade represents the degree to which students have met all the student learning outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Point Value (GPA)</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-93 (4.00)</td>
<td>The student exceeds all proficiency expectations and student learning outcomes. Overall, student performance is exceptional. The student passes to the next level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A−</td>
<td>92-90 (3.66)</td>
<td>The student meets all proficiency expectations and student learning outcomes. Overall, student performance is particularly outstanding. The student passes to the next level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87 (3.33)</td>
<td>The student meets almost all proficiency expectations and student learning outcomes. Overall, student performance is significantly above the average standard. The student passes to the next level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-83 (3.00)</td>
<td>The student meets most proficiency expectations and student learning outcomes. Overall, student performance surpasses the average standard. The student passes to the next level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B−</td>
<td>82-80 (2.66)</td>
<td>The student meets many proficiency expectations and student learning outcomes. Overall, student performance fulfills the average standard. The student passes to the next level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79-77 (2.33)</td>
<td>The student meets some proficiency expectations and student learning outcomes. Overall, student performance fulfills the average standard despite some minor deficiencies. The student passes to the next level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76-73 (2.00)</td>
<td>The student meets the minimum of proficiency expectations and student learning outcomes. Overall, student performance fulfills the average standard despite many minor deficiencies. More work and effort may be required in completing assignments to meet the average standard. The student passes to the next level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C−</td>
<td>70-72 (1.67)</td>
<td>Falling. Student performance is poor. The student fails to meet many or all major and minor proficiency expectations and student learning outcomes. The student does not meet the minimum standard for promotion to the next level. The student must continue in the same level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69 (1.33)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66 (1.00)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D−</td>
<td>60-63 (0.67)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60 (0.00)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade Point Values (GPA) are not calculated by the CIEP nor used for purposes of evaluating students. However the values in the box above are used by the University and correlate to the same percentages used in CIEP classes.
ACADEMIC PROBATION

The CIEP hopes that you make good progress in your classes. However, if you do not make good academic progress, you will receive an academic warning. If you are not successful in improving your academic progress, you will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation is a time when your academic progress and success are supervised by the CIEP Director and CIEP Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator. During this time, it is important to improve your grades and/or attendance by going to all classes, seeking help from your teachers outside of class, maintaining a positive attitude in class, and completing all assignments.

If you do not leave academic probation, you will be eligible to be dismissed from the CIEP. There are three ways to be put on academic probation: 1.) Low Attendance 2.) Poor Performance 3.) Repeating the same class. In all cases, you will receive a Notice of Academic Probation (see Appendix B-4).

If you have any questions about your academic progress or probation, you may ask the CIEP Office staff. If you feel you need more help in our classes to understand the material, you are encouraged to seek help from your teachers outside of class during their office hours, attend all of your classes, maintain a positive attitude in class, and complete all of your homework.

LOW ATTENDANCE

It is important to go to all of your classes. Regularly going to class is not only important for learning a new language, but it is also necessary to keep your immigration record in good status. United States immigration rules for F-1 students require you to attend all classes.

The CIEP expects you to attend all of your classes, allowing 7 missed days for illness or emergencies. It is also important to be on time to class. If you are late to class by less than 15 minutes, you will be counted as tardy. According to the University, 3 tardies is equal to one absence. If you are more than 15 minutes late to your class, you will be counted absent for the day.

If you miss more than 7 days of any of your classes, you will be placed on attendance probation. Once on probation, you must go to all of your classes in the next session. You may be placed on attendance probation two times at any point during your time in the CIEP. If you are placed on attendance probation for a third time, you will be eligible for dismissal from the CIEP.

POOR PERFORMANCE

The CIEP wants you to do well in your classes. Not all students progress through the CIEP at the same rate, and sometimes students do not pass all of their classes. You may need more time than other students to progress in the CIEP. The first time you fail two classes, you will receive a warning letter from the CIEP. If you are able to pass two classes next session, you will not be placed on performance probation. However, if you are not able to pass the two classes the next session, you will be placed on performance probation. You may be placed on performance probation three times (including the warning) at any point during your time in the CIEP. If you are placed on performance probation for a fourth time, you will be eligible for dismissal from the CIEP.
REPEATING A CLASS

The CIEP realizes that not all students learn English at the same pace. However, the CIEP also realizes that repeating a class multiple times signals that you may need some additional help with the material. The first time you fail a class, you will receive a warning letter. The second time you fail the same class, you will be placed on repeating probation. The third time you fail the same class, you will be eligible for dismissal.

PART-TIME STUDENTS

Students taking part-time CIEP classes can be placed on performance probation if you are taking 2 classes, and you can also be placed on attendance probation if you do not attend your classes. Part Time students cannot be placed more than 2 levels apart across the different skill areas unless under very special circumstances as granted by the CIEP Director.

MAKE-UP POLICY

The CIEP is an intensive English language program and it is important that you keep up in your studies and be prepared. Therefore, it is your responsibility to complete tests, quizzes, and other evaluations on the day they are administered. It is your responsibility to turn in homework and projects on the day they are due.

If you are absent, you are still responsible for the material covered in class. In addition, your teacher is neither obligated nor responsible to provide you a make-up test/quiz or accept and grade late homework. It is the teacher who decides the makeup policy for the class.

DISMISSAL

The following situations may cause you to be involuntarily dismissed from the CIEP:

- Falsifying documents or misrepresenting information on your CIEP application.
- Being convicted of a crime while you are a student at CIEP.
- Exhibiting behavior that is harmful to yourself or others.
- Failing to pay for tuition or other expenses charged by UNI.
- Acting in disruptive or threatening behavior in your classes.
- Habitual abuse of drugs or alcohol despite counseling.

You can be dismissed from the CIEP if you remain on academic probation for:

- Attendance probation for three sessions at any time during your studies.
- Performance probation for three sessions at any time during your studies.
- Failing the same class three times.

Note: Students dismissed from the CIEP are not eligible for refunds, certificates of completion, or letters of participation for university recommendations.
WITHDRAWING FROM CIEP

CIEP sessions are eight weeks in length. You must make special arrangements for late arrival or early withdrawal from the program with the CIEP Director before classes begin.

ACADEMIC CREDIT

If you withdraw from CIEP classes before the MidPoint, you will receive a W (for withdrawn) for your classes. If you withdraw from classes after the MidPoint, you will receive an F grade in your classes. To pass the class, you will have to attend the same class and level again. You may ask the CIEP Office Staff when the Mid-Point date is during each session.

REFUNDS

If you must withdraw and stop your studies at the CIEP, you must notify the CIEP office by email or letter to explain your reasons for leaving and complete the CIEP Transfer Form (see Appendix C-1) if you are transferring to another school. The date on your email or letter will be used to determine any tuition refund owed to you.

If you withdraw during the first three weeks of the session, your tuition will be refunded to you at a prorated cost. In addition, you are eligible to receive a letter of participation if you have completed at least one session in the program; however, currently enrolled courses will not be graded or counted on your letter.

The refund schedule for departing students is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days of Attendance</th>
<th>Refund Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 and After</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyond Mid-Point</td>
<td>0% (and F grade)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TRANSFERRING SCHOOLS

It is important that you follow all immigration rules concerning withdrawals. If you are not sure of the rules, please contact the International Students and Scholars Office or the CIEP Office.

If you come to the CIEP through an agency or educational consultant, you are not eligible for a tuition refund during your first session.

If you leave UNI to attend another school, you must be accepted by the school and complete a School Transfer Clearance Form from the school you will be attending. This form includes immigration information that we need to provide to the new school in order to change your I-20 form to that school.
You must also take your original I-20 to the new school. Leaving and not transferring your information can put your immigration status in danger (see Appendix C-1 School Transfer Clearance Form).

If you leave one school, exit the United States, and then later re-enter the United States to attend a different school, you must enter using the new school’s I-20 document.

**CHANGING LEVELS**

Very rarely the test scores from the CIEP Placement Test do not reflect your true ability. For example, you may be very tired because of your travel to UNI and this can affect your test scores. Therefore, if you are a new student and find that a class is too easy or too difficult, the following steps will take place:

1. Speak to the instructor before day 4 of your new class. The instructor will reassure you that you are in the correct level or will talk to you about changing your level.
2. You should complete a Student Requests & Concerns Form (Appendix A-4).

The only reason you can change classes is if you show that you have mastered the material by performing exceptionally well during the first few days of class. In other words, you must have nearly perfect scores on your quizzes, tests, homework and attendance. If you have any unexcused absences during the first week of class you may not be able to change levels.

In addition, please know that:

- Time and lack of money are not acceptable reasons to change levels.
- Less than 1% of CIEP students change classes during the semester and the reason is generally because they were sick or tired when they took the placement test.
- Only students in their first session may change levels. Students may not take the placement test again.

If you are unsatisfied with the results about the change in your class level, talk to your instructors and discuss the reasons for the decisions. If you are still unsatisfied, follow the student complaints procedures in your student handbook.

**LATE ARRIVAL POLICY**

Students who arrive after midterms, four weeks into a session, have two options. These students may wait until the following term to begin their classes, or they may choose to be placed in a level lower than they tested into through the placement exam to serve as additional practice. In the second option, students pay 50% of the tuition for that session. For example, if a student tested as a Level 4 in Reading, they could take Reading 3 for the remainder of the session and move on to Reading 4 the following session. Please note that in this option, the student pays 50% of normal tuition for the half-session.

**RE-ENROLLMENT & PLACEMENT**

If you are studying in the CIEP on a continual basis, your placement for each session is based on your grades from the previous session. However, if you leave the CIEP for a period of only one session, you will be placed into classes based on your grades during the last session that you completed. If you are
absent for two or more sessions, you will be re-tested before you start classes again and placed according to the results.

**STUDENT RECORDS & PRIVACY**

All of your student records about performance, progress, attendance, and other personal data such as address, phone number, or email are privileged (private) under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This information cannot be viewed by anyone except school officials employed at UNI or other individuals who you provide written permission for the ability to view that information. If your sponsors, parents, or friends request this kind of information, you will be asked to sign a Release of Information for Individuals Form and/or a Release of Information for Sponsors Form (see Appendices C-2).

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

The teachers and staff of the CIEP recognize that you must make several adjustments in addition to learning a new language. While you are enrolled in the CIEP, you will be adapting to our culture, its rules, and its expectations probably without the support of family and friends. Knowing the changes and challenges a student from a foreign culture must face, University faculty and staff know some problems will occur and some of these first-time problems are a learning experience.

However, as a student at the University of Northern Iowa, you are required to follow the student conduct codes and rules. The University of Northern Iowa Student Handbook includes information about rights, policies, and rules for misconduct. Students need to be aware of the rules related to alcohol use, possession of drugs, property theft, sexual abuse and assault, verbal abuse, academic dishonesty, and many more topics. Please read the rules in the handbook and ask instructors and staff to help you understand their meaning. The UNI Student Handbook is available on-line through the UNI website at this URL: [https://success.uni.edu/sites/default/files/documents/NewStudentHandbook.pdf](https://success.uni.edu/sites/default/files/documents/NewStudentHandbook.pdf). The rules are grouped into three main areas: honesty, respect, and responsibility. The following includes examples of each area:

**Honesty:** This means living a life of honorable and fair actions that reflect well on your person and character. To do the opposite is to act in a dishonest way such as lying, stealing, vandalizing, cheating, misrepresenting yourself, and misusing university facilities.

**Respect:** This means living a life that values the rights of others to live in a safe environment that promotes the educational ideals of the University. To do the opposite is to act in a disrespectful way such as engaging in physical and verbal abuse, intimidation, harassment, disruption of teaching or university activities, and failing to listen to law enforcement (police).

**Responsibility:** This means living a life that reflects well on the University and community. To do the opposite is to act in an irresponsible way such as using and distributing drugs or other illegal substances, neglecting to meet financial obligations, illegally distributing alcoholic beverages, and illegally possessing firearms.

If a student’s behavior in class becomes a problem (to the teacher or other students), the director will meet with him or her to discuss the problem. See Appendix B-2 for the letter to the student called Guidelines for In-Class Behavior.
The list below is a guide to some problems you should avoid. Participating in these actions can lead to dismissal from UNI and even criminal charges. This list is only an example; it is not a complete list.

Problems that will be addressed by UNI and/or the CIEP:

- Academic Misconduct: cheating on tests, using another student’s work as your own, hiring someone to write your papers, etc.
- Poor Attendance: not going to class, always arriving late to class, etc.
- Cheating: looking at another student’s paper during a test, text messaging or using your cellular phone or personal electronic device during a test, etc.
- Rude Behavior: talking to other students while the instructor is speaking, making noises during class, listening to music during class, threatening another student, etc.
- Plagiarism: stealing ideas from other sources like the Internet, a friend’s paper, print material, etc., and presenting them as your own in an essay or presentation without giving credit to the source.

Problems that will be addressed by law enforcement (UNI Police and/or city/state police):

- Having Controlled Substances: buying, keeping, or using illegal drugs like marijuana, ecstasy, cocaine, etc.
- Alcohol: driving while drunk, drinking alcohol under the age of 21 years-old, giving alcohol to someone under the age of 21 years-old, public urination, public intoxication, etc.
- Dangerous Driving: speeding, disregard for posted traffic signs and signals, etc.
- Assault: fighting, attacks on other persons with or without weapons, etc.
- Theft and Vandalism: stealing and destroying or defacing public or private property.

Allegations of the following will be investigated by the Office of Compliance and Equity Management on campus. Please see the following link that details the reporting procedures for sexual misconduct: https://equity.uni.edu/procedures

- Sexual Harassment: unwanted touching or suggestive language, unwelcome and persistent attention towards someone, etc.
- Sexual Assault: non-consensual sex, forcing someone to have sex, sex while intoxicated, etc.

Learn more about the UNI Code of Conduct: https://policies.uni.edu/302

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Abusive behavior is not allowed at UNI. If you are being verbally or physically abusive to anyone on campus, you will be subject to immediate dismissal from the UNI campus and the CIEP.

SMOKING POLICY

Smoking is not permitted on the campus of the University of Northern Iowa. This means that you cannot smoke anywhere on campus. If you choose to smoke, you will need to go outside of the UNI campus.
to the city of Cedar Falls. Students who violate this policy may receive any of a number of sanctions, including an official warning, conduct probation, or referral for prosecution and may be required to pay for any damages they caused. Depending upon the circumstance, participation in an educational program and/or a treatment program may also be required.

Some acceptable places to smoke are the corner of Hudson Road and 27th Street, along College Hill Road, and the corner of Campus Street and the Dancer Hall parking lot.

**ACTIVITIES POLICIES**

**CONDUCT AND SAFETY**

The CIEP does not seek to organize or sponsor activities which are inherently dangerous or likely to cause physical injury. If the activity is deemed potentially harmful to you or other participants (i.e. canoe trip, hike, or other outdoor recreational activity), you will be asked to sign a waiver of liability.

The CIEP does not provide insurance for participants and will not assume responsibility for injuries incurred through participation in CIEP-sponsored activities. All participants are strongly encouraged to have personal medical insurance plans in effect during the period of a CIEP-sponsored activity.

Participants are expected to function in a mature and responsible manner both on and off campus and in all CIEP-sponsored activities. Participants risk being banned from participating in future CIEP-sponsored activities for inappropriate on or off campus actions and behavior while participating in a CIEP-sponsored activity. The CIEP offers students several ways to become introduced to American culture:

**CONVERSATION PARTNERS PROGRAM**

The CIEP matches you with an English speaker from UNI to help you experience American culture and practice your listening and speaking skills in a relaxed way. Partners meet at least one hour per week.

**CULTURE TALKS**

Presenters talk about many topics in American culture. Students take notes and ask questions from the presenter for improving their listening/speaking skills.

**CIEP INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM**

This is a way to learn American culture and conversation skills in the community. If you are interested in spending time with a family in Cedar Falls or Waterloo, then apply with the Activities Coordinator. These families want to know you and learn about your culture by being your hosts. You will not live with them, but you will visit them and participate in their family activities.

**RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)**

You meet seniors (age 65+) from the community who volunteer their time one hour per week to meet international students from the CIEP. The program also provides an opportunity for you to speak one-on-one or in small groups with a local person/volunteer.
FIELD TRIPS

The CIEP offers you a chance to enjoy a cultural event or place and learn more about the people and history of the United States. In the past, students have visited the State Capital Building, the Mississippi River Museum, the Amana Colonies, skied in Dubuque, and went on shopping trips. Annual trips outside of Iowa are offered as well.

CLASS EXCHANGE PROGRAM

In this activity, students in CIEP classes are matched up with students from academic classes in programs across campus. Both groups meet during the academic class time and work on different topics.

UNIVERSITY BILLS (U-BILL)

University bills are charged to an account called your “U-Bill.” Any fees that you need to pay to UNI will be shown on the bill. Fees may be UNI tuition, housing, food from dining halls, computer fees, etc. The student or her/his sponsor must pay this bill by the due date on the bill. These bills will be sent electronically to you through your MyUNIverse account.

The CIEP charges tuition for its classes. You will receive an invoice for tuition and fees when you enroll in the CIEP. The charges will appear on your student ‘U-bill’ in your MyUNIverse account online. The charges will appear within the first two weeks of classes and will be due before the end of each term.

HOW TO PAY

Tuition can be paid by personal check, traveler’s check, money order, or cash at the Cashier’s Office in Gilchrist Hall. Payments can also be made online with an electronic check. If you have not paid your tuition, you will not be registered for classes and you will not receive a class schedule. If you are not enrolled in classes, this can affect your immigration status. The University will not register you with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and your immigration record may be automatically cancelled.

To pay your U-bill online, access and log into your MyUNIverse via the UNI homepage. Select the Student Center link on the My Page tab. View your account summary in the Finances Section, then click the Make a Payment link. On the Pay my U-bill tab, review the Online Payment Information, and enter the amount you wish to pay in the Amount to Pay field. Click the Pay My U-bill by Echeck button. The U-bill Payment Confirmation should display. You should have your checking or savings account and bank routing number ready before you click the Pay by Echeck button. When you are ready, complete the E-Check Payment form and click the Submit button at the bottom of the form.

DUE DATES

Your U-bill will be calculated and billed each month during the session. The billing date is usually the first of the month, and payment is usually due on the 20th of that month. For an up-to date list of U-Bill due dates, visit https://obo.uni.edu/student-accounts/due-dates-for-ubill

LATE FEES

If you do not pay your U-bill on time, a late fee will be added to your account. The late fee will be charged if your bill is 30 days or more past due. The rate is 1% of the amount past due and will be
charged each month the U-bill has a past due balance. For example, a past due bill of $1500.00 will be assessed a late fee of $15. A hold will also be placed on your account if you do not pay your U-bill on time.

**ACCOUNT HOLDS**

All CIEP students have a “CIEP Hold” on their account. Do not worry about this hold. However, you can also have a hold on your account for:

1. Not paying your U-bill. The Office of Business Operations will place a hold on your account. You will need to pay your U-bill to remove it.
2. Needing an additional vaccine or screening at the Student Health Clinic. The clinic will place a hold on your account. You will need to schedule and go to the appointment to remove the hold.
3. If you are a conditionally admitted student, you can also have a hold from your academic advisor. You will need to schedule an appointment to meet with your advisor to remove the hold.
4. If you are a conditionally admitted student, you will need to complete a series of training sessions to be conditionally admitted to UNI. An example is the sexual assault prevention training. If you do not complete these training sessions on time, a hold will be placed on your account.
5. If you are a conditionally admitted student, you may need to update or submit your contact information for the university. A hold may be placed on your account until you submit updated information through MyUniverse.

It is important to take care of any holds on your account as soon as possible. If you have a hold on your account, the CIEP Office Staff will not be able to give you your grades or class schedule, and they will not be able to register you for your classes, which could affect your immigration status. Feel free to stop by the CIEP Main Office if you have any questions about your account.

**STANDARD ENGLISH TESTS**

**TOEFL**

Most academic institutions require nonnative students to show proof of their English proficiency in order to be admitted for academic classes. Most students submit an official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score report. The CIEP administers Institutional TOEFL exams during the year. You may sign up to take the test for a fee. The test results are only valid for academic study at UNI.

Undergraduate students must score 550 or above, and graduate students must score 500 or above for UNI.

**IBT**

You may sign up to take the internet based TOEFL (iBT) online and later take the test at the Academic Learning Center in the ITTC Building, room 7 on the UNI Campus. The UNI Examination & Evaluation Services through the Academic Learning Center gives the iBT test several times a year. The test results are valid for any and all colleges and universities worldwide.
More information is available on the UNI website at https://examservices.uni.edu/our-exams or by calling (319) 273-3926. To register for the test through ets.org, visit https://www.ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/take/register

**STUDENT PROBLEMS/CONCERNS/ GRIEVANCES**

We hope your experience at the CIEP is rewarding and trouble-free. However, problems can happen and we want to help you solve them as quickly as possible.

If your problem is about your class grade, please see the Grade Appeals section of this handbook. If your problem is about insurance needs, application assistance, TOEFL exams, payment of fees, etc., please speak first to the CIEP Office staff. They will refer the problem to the director, if necessary. If your problem is not about your grade but involves a class, its books, its instructor, its exams, or other related issues, please speak to the instructor first. You may have to make an appointment to speak to the instructor outside of class.

If, at any time, your problem is not resolved to your satisfaction or involves something personal that you cannot discuss with your instructor or the office staff, please follow the steps listed below:

**Steps for Problem Resolution:**

1. Complete a Formal Student Grievance Form and write down your problem or situation, any dates, names of people, or other information (See Appendix A-3 for a copy of the Formal Student Grievance Form. Copies of this form are also available in the CIEP office).

2. Give the form to the CIEP Office staff and wait for a reply from the CIEP Director.

3. If necessary, meet with the CIEP Director to talk about the problem and look for solutions (see Grade Appeals).

**CLASS/STUDENT/CIEP EVALUATION & SUGGESTIONS**

At the end of each session, you will be asked to complete an evaluation for each class you are enrolled in at the CIEP (see Appendix C-3 for a Class – Teacher CIEP Evaluation). The purpose of the evaluation is for you to tell the CIEP about your feelings or complaints about the way you were taught, the instructor, the class, and the CIEP in general. It is also an opportunity for you to write your suggestions about how the CIEP can improve its classes and services.

After the session is complete and grades are recorded, your answers will be tabulated along with your classmates’ answers on a separate sheet of paper. Also, your written comments together with your classmates’ comments will be typed on a separate piece of paper and given to your teacher. Your original Teacher/Class Evaluations will stay with the CIEP Director and your name will not be included on the typed piece of paper with your comments nor will your name be on the piece of paper with the tabulations of everyone’s answers.

You are encouraged to be open and honest in making your answers. The information you provide will be used to improve the CIEP.
Quick Reference Guide
Paying & Viewing Your U-Bill
In MyUNiverse

PAY YOUR U-BILL
1) Open browser and go to the UNI home page; www.uni.edu
2) Select MyUNiverse on the UNI home page.

3) Enter your CATID Username and Password. If this is the first time you have accessed this site, follow the directions on the screen.

- If you can't access this site, call the Computer Consulting Center at (319) 273-5555 option 1 or go to the Curris Business Building Room 27 for assistance.

4) Select "Pay My U-Bill" from the My Personal Records tab.
- This link shows all charges and credits posted after U-bills are created on the evening of the 10th of each month.

My Personal Records:

- This will display the "Activity since last Bill" screen. There are 3 buttons at the bottom of the screen.
  a. "View Past Billing"
  b. "Pay My U-Bill"
  c. "Print in PDF"

5) Click the "Pay My U-Bill" button to pay U-bill by electronic payment. Have your bank account number and routing numbers in front of you. Follow the instructions carefully on each screen.
- This payment is not reflected immediately on the U-bill. It is a two business day process. If you do not enter the numbers correctly and the payment is returned as unpaid, you will be assessed a Returned Check Fee. If you have questions, call 319-273-2164.
6) Select one of the following Payment Amount to Pay (see below)
   1. Total amount Due
   2. Minimum Amount Due
   3. Other

7) Click the "Pay My U-Bill" button and follow instructions on screen.

8) Click the "Pay My U-Bill by E-Check" button.
   1. Complete the required fields.
   2. Enter the Security Code.
   3. Click the Submit button.
   4. Once you have received confirmation of your payment, close your browser. This completes the transaction.

VIEW U-BILL PAST BILLING
1) After login, click the "View Past Billing" button and three choices will display:
   a. View Past Billing Activity: this allows the choice of a date range to view
   b. View ALL Past Billing Activity: this shows all activity (past and current)
   c. Return to Start: return to "Pay My U-bill link"

2) Logoff when finished

For questions, please contact the Student Accounts Office at 319-273-2164

Created 7/18/05 by dmnpb. Revised 11/27/07 pbw
CIEP & Government Policies

VISA & IMMIGRATION STATUS

Like every country, the United States has laws for foreign students studying in the United States. You must follow these laws so that you will not be deported.

You must have a passport and visa to enter the United States. Also, you must keep your passport valid at all times. If your passport will expire soon, contact your country’s embassy or consulate. As you enter the United States, you will also receive an electronic I-94 arrival/departure card. If you have questions about visa and immigration information, please contact the CIEP Director or the Foreign Student Advisor. Most CIEP students have an F-1 or a J-1 visa. Below is information about these two visas. For information regarding other student visa types, visit http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/study-exchange.html.

F-1 VISA

To be a full-time student in the United States you must have an F-1 visa. Your F-1 visa does not need to be renewed as long as you remain in status and do not leave the United States. However, if you leave the U.S. with an expired visa or are out of status when you leave, you must get a new visa to re-enter the U.S.

As an F-1 student, it is important that you maintain your immigration status. Your status with the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) can be terminated for: (1) failure to get off of academic probation, (2) failure to attend 80% of your classes, and (3) failure to pay tuition. You may file for reinstatement if your F-1 status is terminated; however, this is a lengthy process and approval by the ICE is not guaranteed.

MAINTAINING F-1 STATUS

It is your responsibility to maintain your immigration status. There are several important things you must do to maintain F-1 status:

• Keep your passport up-to-date. If your passport expires, get a new one.

• Enroll in the minimum number of credits: (12) hours for undergraduates, (9) hours for Master’s degree students, and (6) hours for PhD students; and maintain normal progress towards your certification in the program. For CIEP students, you must enroll in all 3 subject areas (Listening/Speaking, Writing/Grammar, and Reading) in order to be a full-time student.

• If you enter an academic program at UNI, be sure to get a new I-20 from International Admissions.

• Do not work off-campus without authorization of the ICE. Also, talk with the CIEP Student Services Coordinator or the Immigration and Advising Coordinator on UNI's campus.

• Attend the school listed on your I-20. If you have transferred schools, request a new I-20 from the new school and complete Appendix C-1.
• Contact the CIEP Office if you plan to travel outside of the U.S. or transfer to another school. It may be necessary to notify the ICE and SEVIS. The CIEP will advise you in completing the necessary papers (see Appendix D-1 Notification of Absence Form).

• Obtain extensions, as needed, for permission to stay in the U.S. beyond your time limit. Contact the CIEP about extension procedures.

• Report any changes to your address, telephone number, names of dependents to the CIEP.

**J-1 VISA**

The Exchange Visitor (J) nonimmigrant visa category is for individuals approved to participate in work- and study-based exchange visitor programs. You may not arrive more than 30 days before the program start date shown on your DS-2019. Upon completion of your exchange program, you have a grace period of 30 days to depart the United States.

**MAINTAINING J-1 STATUS**

It is your responsibility to maintain your immigration status. There are several important things you must do to maintain J-1 status:

• Keep your passport up-to-date. If your passport expires, get a new one.

• Perform only the activities listed on your DS2019 form and as stated in the regulations for that category of exchange.

• Attend only the school and program listed on your DS-2019. If you want to transfer schools, you will have to get a new type of visa.

• Contact the CIEP if you plan to travel outside of the U.S. Report any changes to your address, telephone number, names of dependents to CIEP.

• Your program may be extended by your program sponsor for up to its maximum length. If an extension is granted, a new DS-2019 Form will be issued to you reflecting the change. Designated sponsors are authorized to issue DS-2019 Form to prospective or current exchange visitors they select for their program. Contact the CIEP about extension procedures.

• When you agree to participate in an Exchange Visitor Program you will be subject to the two-year home-country foreign residency requirement if your exchange program is funded by either your government or the U.S. government, involves specialized knowledge or skills deemed necessary by your home country or you received graduate medical training. If this requirement applies, you must return to your home country for a cumulative total of two years at the end of your exchange visitor program.

• If you plan to withdraw from your program, you must notify your program sponsor. Your program sponsor will enter this information into SEVIS and you will be expected to depart the United States immediately. You will not be entitled to the post completion 30-day period because you did not successfully complete your program.

Regardless of your visa type, if you are changing your address, be sure to notify the following offices within ten days:
• U.S Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS)
• The International Students Office.
• The CIEP Office.
• The office in your residence hall.
• The Registrar’s Office.

ABSENCES

Immigration rules say that any student attending classes on an F-1 visa must attend class full time. Full time registration at the CIEP is 20 hours per week of classes. As an F-1 student, you may take fewer than 20 hours per week if you have completed one or more of level 7 classes and have no other classes available to take. If you are not sure of your immigration status, be sure to ask the CIEP Office or the International Students and Scholars Office.

There are no excused absences in CIEP. If you miss a test or homework assignment, you are responsible and your teacher may or may not accept the assignment or have a makeup test. Please be sure you understand the teacher’s policy for missed tests and homework (see Make-up Policy). If you know you will be absent for several days, please call (319-273-2182) or email (ciep@uni.edu) the main office. Excessive absences due to special circumstances should be discussed with your instructors as well as the CIEP Director.

ON CAMPUS JOBS

If you hold an F1 visa and you would like to have a job on campus, you may look for one through the UNI Job Board. To find the UNI Job Board, log into your MyUNIverse and click on the “Work @ UNI” tab. Find the section that says “Student Employment” and in the box called “Job Opportunities:” click on the “Online Job Board” link. After that, set your search filters to “on-campus” and “non-work study”. Then you will be able to look at job opportunities and be able to apply for the job.

Keep in mind that international students may only work 20 hours a week and cannot work in a co-op or work study position. International students are not permitted to work more than a total of 20 hours from all jobs during ANY week (Sunday through Saturday) while school is in session. There are no exceptions to this rule.

TAXES

All international students and scholars must file IRS form 8843, even if no income was earned during a calendar year. This is a simple form that you can do yourself. If you did earn income, you will need to file form 8843 along with a 1040 form (tax form) All international students who are employed in the United States must file a tax form with the Internal Revenue Service by April 15th of each year. Filing a tax form provides proof of where you worked, when you worked, how much money you earned, and how much money was collected from your paychecks to pay for taxes. If you complete the form correctly and the amounts are verified, you may receive a refund check. Free income tax assistance is offered to the public each year at the University of Northern Iowa through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Senior and graduate accounting students provide the assistance. No appointment is necessary.
If you seek VITA assistance, be sure to bring your I-20 or DS-2019 form, your passport, and all tax documents (W-2 and possibly 1042-S and 1099 forms) that were sent to you by your employer.

Professional tax preparation services are also available. If you would prefer to hire someone to do your taxes, look in the yellow pages of your telephone directory under “Tax Return Preparation”. You may also prepare your income tax return yourself. To get started, read the information from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service at https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/resources-to-help-you-prepare-your-tax-return.

**VACATION FROM STUDIES**

You may take off an 8-week session from the CIEP to return home, travel or simply take a rest. However, to take a session off or “vacation session” you must have completed four consecutive sessions (CIEP offers five sessions a year). For example, if you began the CIEP in August, you can take a session off beginning in June.

Before leaving, please visit the CIEP Main Office in Bartlett 3025 and fill out a Notification of Absence Form (Appendix D-1). Also, do not forget to get your I-20 signed if you are leaving the country and plan to return. If you decide to leave before you have completed four consecutive sessions in the program or decide to leave for longer than one session, you will have to make a new application and receive a new I-20 to return to the CIEP.
Notification of Absence Form
for students in CIEP

Dear Student:

This form is for students planning to return to CIEP after being away. Therefore, if you plan to be away from the CIEP for at least one session, please complete this form.

Please understand that UNI policy offers you ONE session away from studies; however, you must have studied for FOUR consecutive sessions in CIEP or TWO semesters at UNI. Of course, you may leave the university at any time for any reason, but you may have to get a new I-20 and/or visa to return. Knowing your plans, helps us keep your immigration record in good status.

Before you leave, please answer the questions below and give to the office staff in Baker 72.

Your name

Your address in U.S.

Your country address

Your e-mail

Your plan to return (when)

Your reason for leaving
TRANSITIONING INTO ACADEMIC CLASSES

As a part-time or full-time CIEP student, you are eligible to apply and become a part-time or full time UNI student in academic classes. Although admission into the CIEP does not mean admission into UNI academic classes, you have choices that are not available to non-CIEP students. As a CIEP student, you can be considered for full time academic study if you have successfully completed the CIEP. The Office of International Admissions alone makes the final decision to admit undergraduate students to UNI academic classes.

If you are not a conditionally admitted student, you must apply first to the International Admission Office. After that, the International Admissions Office will request information about you from the CIEP Office and decide the worth of your application. For graduate admissions, you should apply to the individual department that you are interested in on campus. They, in turn, may contact the CIEP for a recommendation.

CONDITIONAL VS. DIRECT ADMISSION PROCEDURES

The procedure for CIEP students who have conditional admission and want to transition into academic classes is different than the procedure for students who are directly admitted to the CIEP.

If you are a conditionally admitted CIEP student, it means you applied to the University of Northern Iowa but failed to meet the minimum English language requirements to enter UNI, so you were conditionally admitted to UNI. This means you will be admitted to full-time academic study when you have met the requirements set by the Office of International Admissions. This also means that you are admitted conditionally to an academic program of study at UNI and your first obligation is to fulfill your English proficiency requirement—that is the condition of your admission. Therefore you should focus on developing your English skills before taking academic courses. The Office of International Admissions will determine the CIEP classes you need to meet your conditional courses.

Once you reach a certain level in the CIEP, you may be eligible to take some academic classes while taking CIEP classes. The CIEP will work with the Office of International Admissions to try to fit academic courses into your CIEP class schedule. You should make an appointment with the Admissions staff to discuss your intentions of taking academic classes. The Admissions Office will make the final decision about you taking academic classes at UNI.

If you are a conditionally admitted student and you have completed your CIEP classes, we encourage you to meet with the CIEP Director who will help you contact Admissions in order to begin enrolling in academic classes. The Admissions Office will make the final decision about you taking academic classes at UNI.

If you are a directly admitted CIEP student interested in taking academic undergraduate classes at UNI after CIEP, the first step is to apply to the University. When you apply, you will need to completely fill out the application form, submit an application fee, supply official transcripts from any schools that you have attended, supply proof of your English proficiency (such as a TOEFL or iBT score, or the CIEP Certificate of Completion), submit a financial statement and certification form, and submit a completed

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**

All students must attend an academic advising session with International Admissions Assistant Director and/or their desired program of study academic advisor in order to determine their class schedule. For more information on academic advising, visit http://uni.edu/advising/.

**OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS**

Located in Gilchrist Hall within the University of Northern Iowa Office of Admissions, the Office of International Admissions is dedicated to recruiting, serving, and processing applications and inquiries from undergraduate and graduate international students interested in studying at UNI. For more information about the Office of International Admissions, visit https://intladm.uni.edu/.

**MAJORS & MINORS AT UNI EXPLANATION**

If you decide to take academic classes, you will have to choose a degree program that you want to major in and if you want to also include a minor (if you are an undergraduate).

A major is the main subject that a student studies while in college, and it often reflects how a student feels about their career goals. A minor is a second area of study or specialization that a student is interested in learning more about. UNI offers over 90 different majors. For a complete listing of majors and minors offered at UNI, visit https://majors.uni.edu/majors-a-z.

**ABOUT UNI**

The University of Northern Iowa has many honors. UNI has consistently ranked high in the “Best in the Midwest” Princeton Review Best 368 College Rankings guide and was ranked second in the Midwest top public comprehensive universities by U.S. News and World Report for fifteen consecutive years.

**ISSO**

The International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) provides the following services specifically for international students: information for prospective academic students, graduate and undergraduate application packets, foreign credential evaluation for graduate students, general assistance, personal counseling, immigration regulations for students, initial orientation for academic students, and government liaison support. The ISSO is located on the second floor of Maucker Union, Room 113, and is open from 8:00-5:00 pm Monday-Friday. The telephone number is (319) 273-6421. You can find more about the International Services at https://isso.uni.edu/.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

There are many international student organizations at UNI. Student organizations are a good way to meet new people and get involved on campus. Current UNI International Student Organizations include the African Union, International Student Association, International Student Promoters, Indian Student Association, UNIdos, and the UNI Tibetan Students. For more information about these organizations, and a complete list of all UNI Student organizations, visit https://java.access.uni.edu/StudentOrgsDirectory/.
MAIL

To mail letters, the nearest campus locations are the University Bookstore on 23rd Street and the HyVee store on University Avenue. If you need to go to a main U.S. Post Office, there are two locations. One is located on 221 West 6th Street in Cedar Falls and another is at 300 Sycamore Street in downtown Waterloo. You can receive letters and packages at your residence hall or apartment every day except Sundays and legal holidays.

To send a letter or package, be sure that your envelope or package has the following information on it:

![Sample envelope template]

CHANGING YOUR STUDENT INFORMATION

Any time that you have a change in your address, phone number, or email you must inform the CIEP office. It is very important that we have all of your up-to-date contact information in case we need to reach you. Email is particularly important because we send announcements about events, TOEFL, social activities, and CIEP changes via email.

You will receive a UNI email account when you become a student at UNI. You must use your UNI email account to receive emails from the CIEP staff and UNI offices. The CIEP will send important messages to you by your UNI email address only. Other email addresses will not be used by the staff and staff will not respond to emails from non-UNI email accounts (for example, hotmail, yahoo, gmail, etc.) Therefore, you are responsible for reading your UNI email account messages regularly. Also, if you live off-campus and change your address you should notify the local post office by completing a Change of Address Form (available at University Book and Supply or the main post office buildings). Letters will be forwarded free of charge by the post office to your new address.

STUDENT RESOURCES

ACADEMIC LEARNING CENTER

The Academic Learning Center has staff to help UNI students with their writing and math assignments. If you are taking non-CIEP classes, you are welcome to go to the Center for Academic Achievement Office for help. The staff will not proofread or edit your work, but they will help coach you in building your skills. The Center is located in the ITTC Building, Rooms 7 and 8, and is open 8:00 – 5:00 pm Monday - Friday during the school year. Academic students are encouraged to make an appointment by calling 319-273-6023 or 319-273-2361. You can also visit the website at [https://unialc.uni.edu/](https://unialc.uni.edu/).

WELLNESS & RECREATION CENTER (WRC)
The Wellness and Recreation Center is UNI’s main recreational facility on-campus. You can take certification classes in CPR or First Aid; fitness and leisure classes like yoga, aerobics, and dance; play basketball or run on the track; rock climb; play racquetball; or use cardio and weight-lifting machines. There are also various outdoor recreation trips that the WRC offices offer for students such as winter camping, caving, backpacking, or canoeing. All WRC services are either free for UNI students or offered at a reduced price.

**ROD LIBRARY**

The UNI Rod Library has various academic, entertainment, and professional resources for students. If you need a quiet place to study, a place to make photocopies, a computer or laptop for a few hours, or have questions about searching for a resource, you can go to the library for answers.

**COMPUTER LABS**

The University of Northern Iowa also has many computer labs on-campus. The computer labs are for all students to use for email, homework, etc. The different labs are open at various times and you will be able to find a lab to use at any time during regular business hours/days. The computer labs are called Student Computer Centers (SCCs) and provide convenient computing and network access for students, faculty and staff in many locations on campus.

These Student Computer Centers are located in the Consulting Center, Maucker Union, Redeker Center, Redeker Cyber Bar, ROTH Complex, Schindler Education Center, Campbell Hall, Lawther Hall, Bridge Lounge, Wellness Center, Shull Hall, Panther Village, Lang Hall, and Towers Center. Each Computer Center offers a variety of software applications, access to UNI’s email system, the Internet, and laser printing.

Important things to remember when using the SCCs:

- No food or drink in the lab.
- Do not download software onto the computers.
- Use your own CDs and memory sticks.
- Do not shut down the computer, just log-off.
- The lab monitor/assistant is there to help you.
- Ask for help if you are not sure about something. Failure to follow the SCC rules can result in loss of access to the SCCS.

**How to use the Student Computer Centers:**

1. Choose any Windows or Macintosh computer that is not in use.
2. Log into the Validation program (the system that allows you to log-into UNI computers at any time) by pressing Ctrl+Alt+Delete all at the same time.
3. Once you are at your station, select the software you would like to use from the START menu. You may run your own software, however, you are NOT allowed to add or save anything to the hard drive (thus installation of software is not permitted).

4. You will need a flash drive in order to save your work. Make sure your disk will work for the system that you are using (Windows vs. Macintosh).

Logging Onto a Computer in the SCCs:

1. Username: The Log-In screen will ask you for your UNI Username (your Username is ONLY the portion before the @ sign in your UNI email address). For example, “johndoe@uni.edu” will log-in with the username “johndoe”.

2. Passphrase: Use the passphrase that you set up during orientation and use to log-in to your UNI email and MyUniverse.

3. Domain: The section that says “domain” should always be AD-ITS or the computer will not allow you to log-on.

4. Auto-logout: After ten minutes of not using the computer, a message will appear and you will then have ten additional minutes to click cancel in order to bring you back to your desktop. If you do not click cancel you will then be logged off of the computer.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

If you have a disability or would like to request accommodations for your classes or campus experience, the University of Northern Iowa has resources to provide specialized services to help students in their academic, career, and personal development. The Student Accessibility Services Office at UNI offers many different services and works to allow equal access to education and university life. If you want services for a disability or would like to request accommodations, you can contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible to arrange for support. You can call 319-273-2676, fax 319-273-6884, or visit the website https://sas.uni.edu/.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The UNI campus is one the safest in the country, yet precautions are made to make life safe for students. Click here https://publicsafety.uni.edu/crime-prevention-safety-tips for a list of helpful advice from the UNI Public Safety website https://publicsafety.uni.edu/.

PARKING PERMITS

If you want to park your car on the UNI campus, you will need to have a UNI parking permit from UNI Public Safety. You can find more information about purchasing a UNI parking permit by visiting https://publicsafety.uni.edu/parking-division-vehicle-permits or by visiting the Department of Public Safety office located in the Gilchrist Building on the UNI campus.

LIVING ON CAMPUS

HOUSING
Students in the residence halls on-campus come from everywhere including Iowa, other states in the United States, and other countries. To live in the residence halls you must be registered as a UNI student. There are also campus apartments and married student housing at UNI. All residence halls are open during academic breaks during the academic year. You must sign a housing contract for any on-campus residence. Contracts differ depending on the length of time and type of residence. For more information about on-campus housing and meal plans, please see the UNI Department of Residence website at https://dor.uni.edu/.

INTERIM HOUSING

Only certain residence halls are open for students to live in during the breaks. Visit https://dor.uni.edu/residence-halls to see which halls are open over the breaks. You can also talk to your RA and your residence hall secretary to find out more information about living on campus over the breaks.

DINING & MEAL PLANS

Students living in residence halls must purchase meal plans, which are an amount of meals you have for the school year. These plans have different prices too. For information on different types of meal plans, visit https://dor.uni.edu/dining/meal-plans-2019-20. You may use these meal plans to eat in the on-campus dining centers, the Piazza and the Rialto. Some meal plans also include dining dollars, which you can use at retail locations around campus. Retail locations around campus can be found in the Maucker Union, 23rd Street Market, Redeker Center, Rod Library, Schindler Education Center, Curris Business Building, and the Wellness and Recreation Center.

LAUNDRY

Laundry facilities are available in the residence halls if you are a resident of the dorms. The machines are operated by your UNI ID card and the cost is included in your housing bill.

LIVING OFF CAMPUS

If you choose to live off-campus, you will need to find an apartment. There are many apartments located close to the UNI campus. For more information about apartments see the yellow pages of the telephone book or search the internet. If your apartment (building) does not include laundry facilities, you will have to use a Laundromat.

Useful terms to know when looking for apartments: Unfurnished: apartment contains no furniture but usually has a stove, oven, and refrigerator, Furnished: apartment contains furniture including bed, sofa, chairs, and table.

Utilities Included: the rent money you pay includes the cost of heating, water, and electricity. Utilities Not Included: the rent money you pay does not include the cost of heat, water, and electricity. AC: air conditioned.

Lease: the agreement or contract you sign to rent the apartment (usually leases can be for 9-12 months). Security Deposit: when you sign a lease you must also include extra money (usually one month’s rent) as insurance that you will not damage the property. Landlord: the property owner.
HEALTH

REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS & VACCINATIONS

Measles Immunization: Measles, which is commonly thought of as a childhood illness, is also potentially very serious for adults. It is highly contagious. Measles immunizations have been commonly required of all school age children in the United States for many years. The University of Northern Iowa requires documentation of measles immunization by ALL students. You will be considered immune to measles with proof of one of the following:

- A physician’s dated statement indicating that you had measles and your age at the time of illness.
- A physician’s dated statement that you received your most recent measles vaccination after 1980.
- Laboratory (serologic) evidence of measles immunity.
- You were born before 1957, you will not need to provide immunization information.

Also, you are required to take a TB (tuberculosis) test. You will be exempt (not required) to provide verification or receive immunizations for two reasons:

- Medical reasons: If you qualify to be exempt for medical reasons you must provide a statement that the immunization is not advised for medical reasons. The statement must be signed by a physician. You are also exempt, if you are a woman who knows or suspects that you are pregnant.

- Religious reasons: An exemption may be granted to you if you are a member of a recognized religious denomination in which the beliefs and practices of the religious denomination conflict with immunizations.

HEALTH INSURANCE

You must have health insurance to be a student at UNI and the CIEP. If you are already covered by insurance from an American company from your own country, you must bring proof of your insurance information to the UNI Student Health Center. In order to waive the mandatory insurance enrollment, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- Government-sponsored students whose home government purchases insurance for students and does not just supply funds to purchase an insurance plan of their choice. (ex: Government of Kuwait, Saudi Mission.

- Corporate health insurance provided by an employer in the U.S. (ex: John Deere & Co.)

- Other comparable coverage that meets the requirements of the university policy and is approved by the UNI Student Health Clinic. For more information regarding international student health insurance, visit https://www.uni.edu/health/ insurance/international or stop by the UNI Student Health Clinic.
**MEDICAL SERVICES**

If possible, you should call and make an appointment before going to the UNI Student Health Center (located on 23rd Street, near Schindler Education Center). This will ensure that you will see a nurse and/or doctor at that time. You can call 319-273-2009 to make an appointment. Be sure to bring your student ID card and your health insurance card to your appointment. When you arrive at the UNI Student Health Center, check in at the front desk and be sure to inform the staff if it is your first time coming to the UNI Student Health Center.

If it is your first visit, you will be required to complete a Medical History Form that asks about any illnesses or conditions you or anyone in your family has had or may have. This is necessary to best serve your medical needs. You will also be asked to provide a copy of your insurance card.

If the clinic is not open or you cannot make an appointment at the time that you want, you can go to the emergency room if your condition is not good. If you become sick and do not feel well but it is not an emergency: Contact the UNI Student Health Center to make an appointment.

If the Health Center is closed, contact your resident advisor (RA) in your residence hall. If your RA (or another RA) is not available and you are worried, contact UNI Police at 319-273-4000. The UNI Police can be contacted 24 hours/day.

Here is a list of some of the things that you may go to the clinic or the emergency room for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Go to the Student Health Center</th>
<th>Go to the Emergency Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cold, cough or flu</td>
<td>Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor aches and pains like an earache</td>
<td>Fainting, sudden dizziness, and weakness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insect bite</td>
<td>Changes in vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunburn</td>
<td>Confusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexually transmitted disease</td>
<td>Deep cuts or uncontrolled bleeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever that lasts for more than 12 hours</td>
<td>Uncontrollable long-term headache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sore throat or swollen glands</td>
<td>Poisoning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor rash</td>
<td>Loss of consciousness, convulsion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor sprain</td>
<td>Broken bones or very painful sprain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor cuts and bruises</td>
<td>Persistent diarrhea or vomiting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sudden or severe pain, especially chest pain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pain or pressure in your chest or upper abdomen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WEEKEND MEDICAL SERVICES

If you become sick or need emergency care in the evenings or on the weekend, you may seek care from your family doctor, an urgent care center, or even the hospital emergency room. Please remember that hospital emergency rooms are for emergencies only such as an accident, a serious illness, or serious injury. All medical care facilities will require insurance information. If you seek care outside of the UNI Student Health Clinic, you may need to complete insurance forms.

Hospitals & Clinics in the area:

Sartori Memorial Hospital
515 College Street, Cedar Falls
319-268-3000

Allen Hospital
1825 Logan Avenue, Waterloo
319-235-3702

Covenant Medical Center
3421 W. 9th Street, Waterloo
319-272-8000

For life threatening emergencies at any time, day or night, call 9-1-1 for the police, ambulance, or fire department. (From an on-campus phone, dial 9-911)

EMERGENCY RESOURCES

If you find that you need assistance for any reason, there are groups and organizations at UNI and in Cedar Falls that you can go to for help.

If you are experiencing thoughts of suicide, depression, debilitating anxiety, or substance abuse contact the UNI Counseling Center at 273-2676. For more information on the UNI Counseling Center, visit https://counseling.uni.edu/. After hours contact UNI Public Safety at 273-2712 and they will contact the on-call counseling center staff member to assist you. You may also contact 24-Hour crisis lines such as the National Suicide Hotline at 1-800-784-2433 and the Foundation 2 Crisis Line at 1-800-332-4224.

If you feel as though you are in physical danger, contact the UNI Police at 273-2712 or call 911 if you are in immediate physical danger.

If you become a victim of sexual assault or violence, contact Violence Intervention Services at 273-2137. You may also contact the University Title IX Officer at 273-2846. If you feel discriminated against based on your gender, race, sexual orientation, or as though any of your civil rights have been violated, contact the UNI Office of Compliance and Equity Management at 273-2846 or visit their website at https://equity.uni.edu/.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

REPORT ALL EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL EMERGENCIES
• Report all emergencies by dialing 911 or 319-273-4000.
• Classes are suspended in the affected area for the duration of the emergency.
• Always follow instructions provided by emergency personnel, UNI ALERT and campus officials.
• Stay away from the affected area until given the “all clear” by emergency personnel.
• Whenever possible, assist persons with special needs.

BUILDING EVACUATION
Evacuation may be required due to fire, hazardous materials release, bomb threat or other emergency
• Gather personal belongings if safe to do so. DO NOT delay evacuation.
• Immediately evacuate the building using the nearest safely accessible exit.
• DO NOT use elevators.
• Meet outside the building and await further instructions.
• Assist persons with special needs as able.

THREATENING PERSON/ARMED INTRUDER
• If the person approaches you, your actions will depend solely on your judgment and capabilities. No strategy is 100 percent effective.
• Do not confront the person.
• Call 911. Provide as much information as possible about the person and direction of travel.
• Do not block the person’s access to an exit.

If you hear gunfire or see a person with a weapon, take immediate steps to protect yourself
• Try to escape the area if able.
• If unable to escape, immediately close and lock or barricade the door.
• Stay away from windows and out of view. Turn off lights. Hide behind heavy furnishings if possible.
• If you are in an open area and cannot escape, find a room to hide in.

FIRE
• If you smell smoke or witness a fire, activate the nearest fire-alarm pull station.
• Evacuate the building immediately when the alarm is activated or there is evidence of a fire.
• If you are the last to leave a room, office or building, close doors as exiting.
• After evacuating, call 911 to report the location of fire or smoke.

TORNADO WARNING
• Immediately seek shelter in designated severe-weather shelters (interior areas of lower level of building away from windows).
• Stay in a designated shelter until warning expires.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE
Shelter-in-place may be required due to hazardous materials release, acts of violence, or other emergency
• Instructions will be issued via UNI ALERT and other available emergency notification systems.
• Stay calm.
• Stay away from windows, doors and outside walls.

SUSPICIOUS OBJECT

• Do not touch or disturb the object or package. Room to hide in.
• Do not use your cell phone near the object in question.
• Call 911 and notify someone in charge of the area

For more information, see www.uni.edu/alert

Culture & Community

CULTURE SHOCK

When moving to a new community, especially in a different culture, students often experience “Culture Shock.” Culture Shock is the feeling you experience when you are taken out of a familiar environment and placed into a new one. It is normal for a visiting student to feel depressed and isolated. You may feel frustrated and confused with foreign ways and speech, but understanding Americans’ behavior will help you understand your own feelings. Some helpful ways to cope with culture shock are:

• Go out: Don’t sit in your apartment or the library every day. Find some campus activities that sound interesting to you. By getting out and into social settings, you will begin to become more comfortable with new customs. You can join in activities through the CIEP or the International Students and Scholars Office.

• Get exercise: Exercise has been shown to reduce stress and fight depression. Take a walk downtown or join an intramural sports team. Find some fellow students who want to get active, and schedule a regular activity. As a CIEP student, you are able to use the WRC at UNI for free.

• Make friends: Make an effort to become friends with both Americans and with other international students. The international students will be able to relate to your feelings and may be able to offer advice and support. American friends can answer general questions you have about life in the U.S. By making new friends, you will reduce feelings of loneliness and will begin to form bonds with your new surroundings.

• Learn about the new culture: Resist the urge to judge behaviors or practices that are different from your own as being “bad” or “unintelligent”. Instead, try to learn the reason behind the behavior. While you may not agree with the practice, you will have a better understanding of how to respond when faced with it.

• Seek assistance: If you find that you cannot seem to adjust to the new culture, make an appointment to speak with one of the staff in the Office of International Programs. If you find that you are very depressed, make an appointment with the Counseling Center. In both cases, your meeting will be completely confidential.
• Be patient: Most people require several weeks or more to feel comfortable in a new culture. Give yourself time to adjust. Focus on the positive experiences, and try to view negative experiences as learning opportunities.

• Get plenty of sleep.

• Try to think through your feelings and be positive about your experience.

• Be hopeful and have a positive attitude, but do not avoid negative feelings that need to be expressed.

• Make your new home as comfortable as possible.

• Keep a diary or journal. This helps to express your feelings. It may also be an interesting record of the changes that happen over time.

• Have an open mind and a sense of humor.

**AMERICAN CULTURAL HABITS**

**GREETINGS**

In the U.S., “Hi, how are you?” “Hello, how are you?” or, when introduced for the first time, “I’m pleased to meet you,” are the most common forms of greeting. “So long”, “See you soon”, “See you later”, and “We should get together sometime” are also common expressions used for saying goodbye. An expression such as, “Hello, how are you?” does not require a lengthy response but can be answered by saying, “Fine, thank you” or “Good, and you?” Also, “See you soon” or “Later” are not promises to get in contact with you, instead, they are simply ways to say “Good-bye.”

**NAMES AND TITLES**

First names are commonly used in the United States. People may call each other by their first names immediately after they have met. Americans often use first names even with persons of a different age and status. However, there are some small differences in vocabulary and manner, depending on the relationship between the people involved. For example, an American is less likely to use slang when speaking to a person who is older, whose social standing is higher, or whom she or he does not know very well. Any faculty member can be addressed as “Professor” whether she or he holds the rank of assistant professor, associate professor, or full professor. Again, people might ask you to address them by their first names.

A “nickname” is not the person’s real name but a shorter name used by him or her among friends. The use of nicknames is fairly common among friends. International students often use nicknames if their own names seem long and unpronounceable to Americans. For example, a student whose name is Takashi might come to be known as “Taka.” Being called by a nickname is not viewed as negative and is completely optional.

**UNSPoken LANGUAGE**

Gestures and body language mean different things in different cultures. To avoid misunderstandings, be careful about the gestures you exchange with people from other cultures. In the United States, shaking
hands is common in formal introductions and often goes with “How do you do?” or “Nice to meet you” or “Nice to see you again.”

**SOCIAL EQUALITY**

Americans expect all people to respect an individual regardless of occupation, disability, sex, race, religion, or sexual orientation. All individuals you meet will expect the same consideration and courtesy.

Both men and women in the United States have an active part in community life. Most women have jobs outside of the home and, in many cases, both parents take care of small children and share with home chores. A woman’s status in the United States is different than in some other countries. American women have much personal freedom and it is not unusual for unmarried women or men in the U.S. to live alone or share households with others. In addition, it is not unusual for an unmarried woman or man to go to public places without companions.

**DRINK**

Tap water is safe to drink and used by many Americans as their normal drinking water. Americans generally do not drink alcoholic beverages with their meals. However, alcoholic beverages are frequently served at meals when guests are present. If you are offered an alcoholic beverage, it is acceptable to decline. In Iowa, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to drink alcohol. Service people in bars, restaurants and other establishments will ask you for your identification to verify your age.

**TIME**

There are four time zones in the continental United States. These are (from east to west) Eastern Time, Central Time, Mountain Time, and Pacific Time. Iowa is in the Central Time Zone (GMT-06:00). In addition, the U.S. has Daylight Savings Time from March to November. This begins on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November. In April, one hour is added to the clocks (if it was 7pm, it is now 8pm). In October, one hour is subtracted from the clocks and Daylight Savings Time ends.

Being on time is very important in American society. School, plays, concerts, meetings, weddings, and formal dinners begin on time. It is impolite to be late. Please arrive a little early for your appointments with a professor, medical doctor, or other professional. In informal social occasions such as parties and dinners, time is less important.

**CLEANLINESS**

Americans put great emphasis on personal cleanliness. Most Americans are sensitive to body odors, even their own. For this reason, most Americans bathe once a day (and sometimes more during hot weather or after exercise), use deodorant or an antiperspirant, and wash their clothes frequently.

**SMOKING**

A number of Americans smoke, but many Americans dislike being exposed to the cigarette smoke of others. Therefore, do not assume that it is acceptable to smoke indoors. This is especially true in American homes. You should always ask if it is acceptable to smoke before you begin. Most public
buildings, buses, airplanes, and trains do not allow smoking. *All public areas in Iowa, including bars, restaurants and stores, do not allow smoking.*

**SPACE/PRIVACY**

Most Americans like to keep some distance between each other when talking, walking, and standing in elevators or elsewhere. Sometimes contact is unavoidable and a person will say, “Excuse me.” In addition, Americans generally like to make eye contact while talking with one another and generally stand two to three feet apart. A closer distance will make them feel crowded and uncomfortable unless they are very familiar with the person. They may stand closer when speaking to family members or intimate friends. Personal space is important to them, as is minimizing physical contact with others.

As friendly gestures, Americans may pat others on the upper back or shoulder, or they might briefly touch another person’s arm. Close friends may hug. Generally, you will find that the atmosphere in a U.S. university is more relaxed than it is in other countries. However, while Americans tend to be informal, there is great importance on personal privacy. If a professor is friendly with students, this does not mean you can call her or him at the office or at home without first making an appointment.

**FRIENDSHIP**

Although Americans greatly value individuality, independence, and personal privacy; they are generally open and warm people. If you want to get to know someone, it is often wise to ask the person to join you for coffee or to get together to study. Such short events may prove to be the beginning of a strong and long-lasting friendship.

**SOCIAL INVITATIONS**

If the host of a party or gathering invites you to an event over the phone, in person, or via a written invitation, the invitation is usually only for you unless the host specifically invites your family or friends. Bringing your own guest without asking for the host’s permission ahead of time is considered impolite.

When accepting an invitation for a meal, be sure to tell your host about any foods you are unable to eat. This will help the host plan food and drink for everyone to enjoy together. If you must refuse something after it is prepared, refuse politely. It is polite to ask for any food on the dinner table (for example, “Would you please pass me the vegetables?”) since a request for more food is considered a compliment to the host.

Sometimes events will be potluck dinners. At these dinners you bring food to share with others. Social events with others can either be formal or informal. You should ask the host what to wear if the invitation does not give you an idea. It is not necessary to bring a gift for the host unless it is a special occasion (such as a birthday or an important holiday).

**SHOPPING IN THE US**

In stores, bargaining or negotiating prices is not practiced in the United States. However, you can bargain prices for large items like cars, washing machines, and houses.

When buying things, be sure you understand the store’s rules for returning them. Remember to keep your sales receipt because you will need it if there is a problem and you must return your purchase. Some products also have a warranty, but you must mail (or sometimes email) the warranty card to the
manufacturer. Ask the salesperson about the store’s return/refund and service policy. If you do not like the answer, shop somewhere else. Most stores will allow you to return something in good condition and with a receipt or proof of purchase, but others will not.

In Iowa, you must pay a state/local sales tax. This is automatically added to the cost of the item at the register. It is not included on the price tag.

**Supermarkets**

Supermarkets offer a variety of products for you to purchase that you may normally buy in several shops. These stores will usually include fresh, canned, dried and frozen fruits and vegetables, meats, baked goods, laundry and cleaning supplies, paper products, personal needs, non-prescription drugs, beverages, and many other items. Supermarkets are open daily and sometimes they are open 24 hours. Places like Aldi and Fareway sell food items at lower prices than some other stores. Purchases can be made by cash, credit card, debit card, or check. Some stores, however, may not accept all types of payment or may require additional identification such as a driver’s license.

**Drug Stores/Pharmacies**

Drug stores/pharmacies have a registered pharmacist who will provide you with the medicine that your doctor has prescribed. These stores also sell many items such as magazines, cigarettes, candy, newspapers, personal items, film, and often a place to print photos.

**Discount/Department Stores**

There are discount/department stores that have prices lower than other stores and sell a wide variety of merchandise. Check things carefully to be sure that they are what you expect. Some of the big discount stores in the area are Wal-Mart, Target, K-Mart and Sam’s Club.

**Thrift Shops**

Thrift shops sell used clothing, furniture, household items, and many other things. Some of them are operated by religious or charitable organizations such as Saint Vincent de Paul or Goodwill. These are most likely the places where you will find items for the least amount of money.

**Garage Sales**

Many people will have garage sales in/at their homes. At these garage sales they offer used items for sale at a very cheap price. The owner will ask for a price but you can bargain for a lower price. These garage sales are typically on Saturdays during the spring, summer, and fall months. They will be announced by notices on bulletin boards, signs in yards, and classified ads in the Northern Iowan, Waterloo Courier, and Hometowner newspapers.

**Coupons**

Coupons are paper promotions available in magazines, newspapers, and mailed ads. Some may be cut out and used to reduce the price of a specific product when it is purchased. Other coupons can be downloaded from the internet. You can use coupons by giving the appropriate coupon to the sales clerk when you are buying the specific product on the coupon.
*For shopping locations you can check the yellow pages in the phone book or ask some of your instructors where they are located.

**TIPPING**

Service charges are often, but not always, added to your bill in American hotels, restaurants, and hair salons. However, tips are expected and needed by the employees. In restaurants, average tipping is 15% of your total bill, or more depending on how good the service was. You can visit this website to use an online tip calculator [http://www.onlineconversion.com/tip_calculator.htm](http://www.onlineconversion.com/tip_calculator.htm) or download the app if you have a smartphone.

**HOLIDAYS**

These holidays are celebrated almost everywhere in the United States. Schools are closed for all of them except Halloween. Stores, banks, post offices, and other government offices may close or have reduced hours for some of these holidays. UNI is closed for New Years, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

- **New Years Day**: January 1 marks the beginning of the year. Celebrating starts the night before, known as New Year’s Eve, and continues until the countdown to midnight.
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**: The 3rd Monday in January marks the celebration of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an assassinated civil rights leader.
- **President’s Day**: On the Friday between February 12th (President Lincoln’s birthday) and February 22nd (President Washington’s birthday), Americans celebrate these U.S. President’s dates of birth.
- **Memorial Day**: The last Monday in May honors those who have died in war.
- **Flag Day**: June 14th is a day in which Americans mark the adoption of the American flag.
- **Independence Day**: July 4 marks the celebration of the birthday of the United States.
- **Labor Day**: The first Monday in September is a day of rest to honor workers.
- **Columbus Day**: On October 12, or the Monday closest to that day, Americans celebrate Christopher Columbus, an explorer who landed on the shore of North America.
- **Halloween**: October 31 is a fun holiday/festival to dress up, usually, but not only, celebrated by children.
- **Thanksgiving Day**: The fourth Thursday in November is a day that Americans give thanks for many things.
- **Christmas**: December 25 is a Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

**ONLINE SAFETY TIPS**

When you use the Internet, it is important to comply with the law and keep yourself and your information protected. Even though UNI does not monitor ResNet for copyright violations, it does comply with infringement notifications in accordance with the DCMA (Digital Millennium Copyright Act). Copyright owners do monitor peer to peer networks for intellectual property misuse, and under the law
UNI has an obligation to respond to various legal notices from copyright owners or their representatives.

In order to comply with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, it is important that you protect yourself online. To do this, it is recommended that you remove any and all peer to peer file sharing programs on your computer. Peer to peer file sharing is used to both download files and make them available for upload to other computers.

LimeWire, Kazaa, FrostWire, and BitTorrent are examples of peer to peer file sharing programs. When you use these programs, you directly violate copyright law, but you also open up your computer to potential hackers and viruses or spyware.

To avoid copyright infringement and potential hackers and viruses, you should remove any peer to peer programs installed on your computer. You should also make sure to obtain copyright material legally using legal downloading services such as iTunes, Napster, Google Play, Rhapsody, and Amazon.

For more information regarding file sharing programs, visit https://itservices.uchicago.edu/services/safecomputing/disableptp/. For more information regarding US Copyright laws, visit http://www.copyright.gov/.

**TEMPERATURE & WEIGHT CONVERSIONS**

International measure uses the same definition of the units involved as is used in the UK and other Commonwealth countries. U.S. survey measure uses an older definition of these units which the United States used prior to adopting international measure.

For more detailed information, visit http://www.onlineconversion.com/article_US_units.htm. To view an online conversion website, visit http://www.metric-conversions.org/.

**AFTER GRADUATION**

Once students have completed the CIEP and received their certificate, they go on to do many things. To get a Certificate of Completion you have to complete all the CIEP classes assigned to you by CIEP. If the CIEP waives you from taking the class because you initially tested out of the class at placement, you are not assigned the class and this class is not required. If you do not attend all the classes assigned to you because UNI Admissions Office does not require you to take the class, you have not completed all the CIEP classes assigned to you, and you will receive a Certificate of Participation. The CIEP will also provide you a Certificate of Participation if you complete at least one CIEP class. You can pick up your certificate in the CIEP office or we can mail it to you.

Here are a few ideas for students who want to know what they can do after completing or taking classes at the CIEP:

- Apply to an academic program
- Start or finish your career
- Travel the world
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Some CIEP students may benefit from going to a community college. In the U.S., community colleges provide two types of programs. The first type allows students to transfer to a 4-year college or university after finishing the 2-year Associate of Arts degree. Many students from the U.S. choose this option because most community colleges are small and the work may be easier.

The second type of program at community colleges prepares students for a career in one or two years. Information about Iowa community colleges can be reviewed online. For information about 2-year colleges in the U.S., students may go to the Reference section of the UNI Library and ask for the reviews on 2-year colleges.

TROUBLE WITH THE LAW

If you are accused of violating the law and you are taken into custody (arrested) by law enforcement officials, you have the right to know why you are being detained and you have the right to make a certain number of telephone calls to contact family members or others who you choose to notify or seek assistance from. You are entitled to consult with a lawyer if arrested, so you may respectfully request this of authorities. In many cases, a public defense attorney will be appointed to your case unless you have chosen your own attorney. You have the right not to answer law enforcement officer’s questions without a lawyer present.

If law enforcement officials arrest you and take you into custody for alleged immigration offenses, we recommend that you seek the assistance of an attorney who specializes in immigration cases. A directory of licensed immigration attorneys is available from the American Immigration Lawyers Association here: http://www.ailalawyer.com/

CONSULAR NOTIFICATION

U.S. law enforcement officials who make arrests are required in some cases to notify the consulate or embassy representing the foreign national in the U.S. Countries where this notification is mandatory are: Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Hungary, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Belize, Brunei, Bulgaria, China (including Macao and Hong Kong), Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dominica, Fiji, Gambia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Tanzania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Consular notification is an area addressed by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations: http://untreaty.un.org/cod/avl/ha/vcdr/vcdr.html

If you are from a country not on this list, you may request to have your embassy notified. Additional information about this topic is available at http://travel.state.gov/law/consular/consular_753.html

SOCIAL SECURITY

A Social Security Number (SSN) is required for you to work in the United States. If you are employed by UNI, the Payroll Office must have your SSN in order to give you a paycheck.
Social Security numbers will be assigned to those students who have obtained employment on-campus. Applications are available in the International Students and Scholars Office and in order to apply, you must have a job on-campus. Also you have to present, in person, your I-94 (a square, white card that should be stapled into your passport), I-20 form, a letter from the CIEP Director stating that you are a student and eligible to work, and a complete application form to the Social Security Office.

If you have questions about getting a SSN, you can visit the Social Security Office at 3121 Greyhound Dr, Waterloo, IA or call 1-888-456-9554. About 6 weeks from the date of application you will receive a card with your Social Security Number on it in the mail. However, you may obtain the number assigned to you if you call the Social Security Office (319-234-1554) about 2 weeks after completing the application form.

**REQUIRED RECORDS**

In order to keep proper records as required by the United States Immigration Service, we need to photocopy certain information. ALL students are expected to bring their passport, visa, I-94, I-20, and insurance card to the CIEP office during the first week of their first CIEP session.

**UNI Student ID**

Your student ID is proof that you are a student at UNI. You should keep your student ID with you at all times. If you lose your student ID, there is a fee to replace it.

**Age Verification**

You can get a State of Iowa identification card at the Iowa Department of Transportation Driver’s License Bureau. This ID is proof of your identity and age. If you use a credit card, apply for a phone contract, or open and use any accounts; your ID will be required.

**International Student**

You can get an international student identification card to provide worldwide proof that you are an international student. This card will allow you to obtain discounts in the countries where you travel. Information and application procedures about the international student identification card are available in the Office of International Programs; Maucker Union, Room 113. You will have to provide a 1” x 1” picture of yourself and payment for the processing fee.

**CEDAR FALLS**

Cedar Falls was founded in 1845 by William Sturgis. It was originally named Sturgis Falls, for the first family who settled on the site, but the Sturgis family moved on and the city was renamed Cedar Falls because of its proximity to the Cedar River. Because of the availability of water power, Cedar Falls developed as a milling and industrial center prior to the Civil War (1861-1865).

In 1876, the Iowa State Normal School was founded in Cedar Falls to train teachers for schools in the state of Iowa. As the school continued to grow and develop, it was renamed the University of Northern Iowa. Today, the city is home to several companies, both large and small, including an industrial park with more than 125 businesses.
The population of the surrounding Cedar Valley, is about 125,000 people and Cedar Falls accounts for about 37,000 of those people. The cost of living is below the national average and far below the cost of living in larger urban areas.

The Cedar Valley area offers a rich diversity of cultural opportunities including art galleries, museums, libraries, theaters, and a variety of performing arts venues such as the beautiful Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center at the University of Northern Iowa.

**WEATHER**

Iowa weather can change very quickly. In the winter months of December, January, and February, expect temperatures below zero degrees Celsius. Be sure to have warm clothing such as heavy coats, scarves, gloves, and boots. If there is bad weather (like a big snow storm), the University and the CIEP may close.

If the University of Northern Iowa is closed due to severe weather, the CIEP will also close and classes will be canceled. If you are not sure, please call the CIEP office (273-2182) after 8 a.m. or check the UNI Web site (www.uni.edu). You can also watch the local news or listen to it on the radio for information about closings.

In the summer months of June, July, and August, expect hot, humid days. Drink lots of water to prevent dehydration. In case of Tornado and Severe Weather Watch:

**Tornado or Severe Weather Watch**

- Means conditions are right for a tornado or severe weather.
- Staff should be alert to weather conditions.
- Alert siren is NOT sounded

**Tornado or Severe Weather Warning**

- Means a tornado/severe weather is sighted or indicated on the weather radar.
- When the alert siren sounds, remain calm and avoid panic.
- Proceed quickly and safely to area of shelter, NO ONE should leave the building
- Areas of safety - rooms and corridors on the lowest floor or basement in the innermost part of a building. If outside, seek shelter indoors. If no shelter is nearby, find the lowest point or depression possible. DO NOT stay in underpasses for roads.
- Areas to avoid - stay clear of windows, corridors with windows, or large,free standing expanses.
- Assist individuals who have trouble moving during weather related emergencies.
- Stay in the shelter area until the severe conditions pass or an “All Clear” message has been transmitted over the emergency broadcast system or local radio or television stations.
• After leaving the shelter area, report to the designated person/phone number to assist in accounting for all employees.

• After the tornado has passed, evaluate the situation and if emergency help is needed, call UNI Public Safety at 3-4000.

• Be aware of dangerous structural conditions and downed power lines. Report damaged facilities to Physical Plant at 3-4400.

• Be alert for fires, gas leaks, and power failures.

There is no guaranteed safe place during a tornado. However, it is important to seek shelter in the best location to help minimize your exposure.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

There are a number of religious institutions that practice different faiths in Cedar Falls and Waterloo. You can visit https://www.bestplaces.net/religion/city/iowa/cedar_falls to see the percentage breakdown of religions in Cedar Falls and Waterloo. To view of list of places of worship in the Cedar Valley, visit https://www.cedarfallstourism.org/about-cedar-falls/communities-of-worship/

TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

If you are traveling outside of the United States, it is important for you to have the proper documents. Be sure to visit the CIEP office or the International Students and Scholars Office before leaving in order to make sure you are prepared to travel.

Automobiles

The price of purchasing a car is just the beginning of the total expense involved in having a car. Gasoline, license plates, repairs, and insurance coverage are also necessary. If you wish to buy an automobile, have someone with you who knows cars and local prices. After you have the car, you can only drive it if you have the appropriate insurance coverage and licenses. Check with the Department of Transportation for complete details on these matters and to get a booklet to familiarize you with U.S. and Iowa driving laws.

If you want to drive an automobile or motorcycle, you must get a drivers’ license or an International Driving Permit. International Driving Permits are only valid for 30 days in the U.S. To get a drivers’ license you will have to take a written test and a driving test. You will also have to provide your passport, I-20, I-94, and visa. You can get information about an Iowa drivers’ license by calling the Iowa Department of Transportation Drivers’ License Department at 319-235-0902 or by visiting their office at 2060 Crossroads Center near the Sears Store in Crossroads Center Mall in Waterloo.

Driving an automobile while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is dangerous and illegal. If you do this, you are risking injury and police arrest. A conviction for this offense can result in an expensive fine, a jail term, and/or the loss of your drivers’ license.
**Buses**

The Panther Shuttle is a free bus service offered to UNI students and staff. The bus runs a regular route around the UNI campus. To board the bus, wait at one of the stops and have your student ID ready. The Panther Shuttle runs Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., except in the summer. The Route 9 Cedar Falls Route shuttle takes students to the Wal-Mart discount/department store. You can check the UNI Department of Public Safety Website for schedules and route maps: https://publicsafety.uni.edu/parking-division-panther-shuttle

The Metropolitan Transit Authority runs a regular route between the UNI Campus and off-campus locations. The bus stop at UNI is located on the corner of College Street and Seerley Blvd. There is a charge to ride this bus. Riders can transfer to other bus routes at the Central Transfer Station in Waterloo. For more information about this service, you can go to http://mettransit.org or call 319-2345713.

**Planes**

The Waterloo Airport is served by Northwest Airlines. For airline information, you can call 319-291-4483 or visit http://www.flyalo.com/ The Waterloo Airport is located at 2790 Livingston Lane, Waterloo, IA. There are also other airports in Iowa located in Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, and Des Moines.

**BANKING**

You may want to open an account at a United States bank for easier access to your funds. The two major types of accounts are checking accounts and savings accounts. It’s likely that you will want a checking account, which allows you to use checks to pay bills and make purchases. A checking account also usually gives you an ATM or Debit card which you can use to make purchases. If you have a large amount of money that you do not plan on using right away, a savings account is a type of account designed for storing money. When you put money into an account, it’s called a deposit. When you take money out of an account, it’s called a withdrawal. Below is a list of major banks and credit unions in Cedar Falls/Waterloo. Banks tend to be much larger than credit unions and have offices in more areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bank</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| usbank       | ATM on College Hill by Copyworks; offices near College Square Mall (6301 University Avenue Cedar Falls, IA 50613) and Downtown Cedar Falls (222 Washington Street Cedar Falls, IA 50613) | • Visa and Passport  
• Complete IRS W8 form beforehand or in person. If completed in person, employees cannot help with the document.  
• Minimum deposit: $25  
• Social Security Number should be provided if student has one |
| Veridian     | Office in Mauker Union; ATMs around campus                                | • US Government Issued ID (ex. Driver’s License) AND Passport OR Passport AND I-94 document AND proof of address  
• PLUS $5 to open account |
In some instances, a W8 form may be required.
• Social Security Number should be provided if student has one

ATM at intersection of 23rd Street and College Street; offices near College Square Mall (6309 University Avenue Cedar Falls, IA 50613) and Downtown Cedar Falls (302 Main Street Cedar Falls, IA 50613)

• Passport and Student ID or Driver’s License
• Minimum deposit: $100
• In some instances, a W8 form may be required
• Social Security Number should be provided if student has one

There are requirements for opening accounts at each of the banks listed above.

CELL PHONE OPTIONS

Before buying a cell phone and cell phone service, think about the kind of service you want. Do you call often, send SMS, or use data services? Will you use the phone to call internationally? You have the option of contract service or prepaid service. Contract service means that you sign a contract for a certain amount of time (usually two years) and pay a monthly bill. Prepaid service means that you pay in advance for your service and have no contract or monthly bill. Many companies offer both contract service and prepaid service. If you are in the United States less than two years, or are unsure of the amount of time you will be in the US, we recommend prepaid service. Prepaid service is simpler and easier. It now offers many of the same features as contract service. Oftentimes, prepaid service is much cheaper. With prepaid service, you only pay for the months you use your phone and have no contract. It can cost hundreds of dollars to cancel contract service. International service for cell phones, no matter the company, can be expensive. Be sure to ask about the rates. Skype is a good option for calling internationally, but requires a smartphone or computer to use. Be sure you read contract and service information carefully before buying a cell phone and cell phone service. Ask any questions you may have before buying.

1200 W 23rd Street Room 3025
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0511

Phone: (319) 273 – 2182
Email: ciepadmissions@uni.edu