Some Tips for BEFORE You Pack

It is difficult to know what to pack when you are going to be away from home for a long time. What you wish to bring is your own personal choice, but we hope you take the following suggestions into consideration.

1) **Check with the US Government about what you cannot bring into the country.** The US Customs and Border Patrol restricts some items from entering the country. Check the CBP website for more information about [prohibited and restricted](https://www.cbp.gov/travel/prohibited-restricted-exports) items. Your airline may also have restrictions and it is advised you check with them also.

2) **Check with your airline(s) before you start packing.** You airline will have information about what can or cannot be packed in your luggage. They can also advise on the size and weight limits you are permitted to carry with you. Oversized bags can incur large fees so it is better to pack lighter and buy some things when you arrive.

3) **Check your electrical devices before you leave your home country.** Carefully check the voltage requirements of electronics. The voltage used in the United States is 110V so make sure your devices are compatible with that. You will be able to buy transformers and adaptors in the US but it might be a better idea to leave some things behind.
   Most students will bring their laptop computers, tablets, cell phones, digital cameras and other electronic devices with them. These can usually be used in the US as long as they have an adaptor.

4) **Leave large items in your home country.** Large or heavy items will take up precious space in your luggage or use up your luggage weight limits. Consider leaving bedding, towels and books at home unless they are essential.

### What to Pack

**Remember:** the US has plenty of shopping options and you can buy most things either in stores or through online shopping.

**Clothing:** In the US, most people wear casual clothes on a daily basis. Students often dress for comfort more than style. Commonly worn items are: jeans, trousers, t-shirts, trainers, sweaters and sweatshirts. We suggest you bring at least one set of clothes that is formal. There might be a special occasion when men will normally wear a suit and tie and when women will wear a formal dress or pantsuit.

**Shoes:** High quality leather shoes and athletic shoes (for example Nike, Adidas, or Puma shoes) are expensive in the United States, ranging in price from $80-$150. You may want to bring these from your country. Consider bringing more pairs of shoes if you have very small or very big feet.

**National Clothing:** If you have a national costume, clothing or outfit and have room in your luggage for it, please bring it. There may be international festivals and events where you want to wear them. You will also do presentations about your country and audiences like to see the beautiful and unique clothing worn in other countries.

**Items of Interest:** We encourage you to bring souvenirs and photos from your country that you can share with others. Displaying these things will help you talk about your home country and inspire conversation.

### What NOT to Pack

**You may want to consider leaving these items at home unless you have extra space in your suitcase.**

**School supplies:** You may want to bring your calculator but otherwise, school supplies are readily available in the campus bookstore or nearby stores. You should be able to get anything you need in order to complete your work in the US.

**Heavy clothing:** Clothing, such as winter coats and boots, can be heavy and take up a lot of space. When you arrive in Marinette, the weather will be fair for a few months. You will have the opportunity to buy these items before the weather turns colder. For more information about the climate of northeastern Wisconsin check [here](#).

**Food:** Check with the government and airlines before packing food. Some foods like dried noodles or chocolate will probably be okay but some foods may not be. Some students have food mailed to Marinette by their parents or friends.

Once you are in Marinette, you will have plenty of time to shop for items to decorate your apartment, host a dinner for friends, and help you with your studies. Many students have found online shopping very useful. Our Housing Staff also hosts a weekly shopping trip for all students living on campus.

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**Are you still unsure about what you need to bring?**

Contact us at:

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