

# Got Questions? Read THIS!

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## ***International Student Orientation***



Grossmont College requires new international students to attend the New International Student Orientation Program. You will **not** be able to register for classes until you complete **the entire** orientation. An Orientation Reservation Form with next semester's orientation dates is included in your admissions information. Send this form as soon as possible to the International Student Counseling Office with your choice of orientation dates. See a description of the program listed below. Students will register and pay for classes on the final day of their orientation program.

Immigration regulations allow a new student with an F-1 visa to use their I-20 to enter the U.S. up to 30 days prior to the program start date on their I-20. You need to be in the U.S. at least one day before orientation. If you are unable to attend the orientation due to visa issues or cancelled flights, you must contact International Admissions immediately in order to postpone or cancel your admission and I-20. Contact an Int'l Admissions Specialist, Yumiko Hudson ([yumiko.hudson@gcccd.edu](mailto:yumiko.hudson@gcccd.edu), tel 619-644-7175) or Mika Miller ([mika.miller@gcccd.edu](mailto:mika.miller@gcccd.edu), tel 619-644-7182). Classes at Grossmont College fill up quickly. *Your attendance at the earliest possible orientation will increase your ability to register in the classes of your choice.*

## ***Assessment & Orientation***

### **1st Part: Assessment, Campus Introduction & Canvas**

An **English/ESL Placement Questionnaire** is used to place students in appropriate English/ESL classes. This questionnaire is on WebAdvisor / Self-Service.

*Learn about campus resources, how to select classes, and take a tour led by our Int'l Student Ambassadors.*

*If students have attended a U.S. or foreign university and have NOT YET met with a counselor with their transcripts, then they must meet with a counselor with an appointment.*

### **2nd Part: Orientation, Counseling & Registration Info**

*Learn about F-1 immigration regulations and the U.S. educational system; choose your courses, meet with an*

*academic counselor for course approval, and learn how to register for classes online.*

Food will be provided for in-person orientation events.

**Students MUST attend ALL of the orientation in order to register for classes, in-person and through Canvas. Students who do NOT attend the orientation program IN FULL will be BLOCKED from registering and will have their admission to Grossmont College cancelled.**

## ***Payment***

When possible, new students will register on the final day of Orientation. Full payment for classes or enrollment in the Payment Plan option is due immediately upon registering. **Students who do NOT pay in full or do not sign up for the Payment Plan will be dropped for nonpayment and risk losing their admission.** Full payment may be made by credit card, personal check (from a U.S. bank), Money Order, or US\$ travelers' checks. The Payment Plan option costs \$25/semester and requires a 25% immediate down payment from a *US bank account* followed by 2 or 3 monthly payments throughout the semester. Be sure to bring enough U.S. Dollars to pay for the first semester fees (approximately \$4,500), medical insurance, books, transportation, and first few months of living expenses. You may wish to bring \$6-8,000 to cover these initial costs. (We suggest you to NOT carry large amounts of cash and to use credit cards/wire transfer instead). For your own safety and protection, remember to safeguard your money, passport, and personal belongings.

## ***Transcripts (Previous College Work)***

- 1) **Do you want to earn an Associate's Degree from Grossmont College?**
- 2) **Have you taken university level courses outside of the U.S. that you want to use toward a Grossmont College degree?**

If you answered "Yes" to both of the above questions, you may want to obtain official transcripts (in a sealed envelope) and unofficial transcripts (or photocopies) from your university and bring them with you to the U.S. It is recommended that you meet with a counselor **BEFORE** orientation. Contact a student assistant at 1-

619-644-7841 or at [grossmontintlens@gcccd.edu](mailto:grossmontintlens@gcccd.edu) to schedule an appointment with an International Student Counselor. Identify yourself as a newly-admitted F1 Student with previous college coursework and bring your unofficial transcripts with you to the appointment. During Orientation, you'll also have an opportunity to talk with a Counselor and learn what to do to try to transfer courses to Grossmont College..

## **Health Insurance Information**

Health care costs in the United States are extremely expensive. It is common for doctor's visits with lab work, x-rays and medication to reach into the thousands or tens of thousands of dollars. Injuries such as broken bones can cost \$5,000-\$25,000 and more. Grossmont College STRONGLY recommends that international students have medical insurance which will cover these costs. Many students choose to purchase travellers' insurance from their home countries. Other students purchase medical insurance after their arrival to the U.S. An international student insurance plan, which can help pay for medical bills related to injury or illness, is available in the Grossmont College Health Services Office. You can view all insurance options online and here are some websites that you may be insured with to enroll online:

[www.isoa.org](http://www.isoa.org)  
[www.visitinsurance.com](http://www.visitinsurance.com)  
[www.intlinsure.com/isp](http://www.intlinsure.com/isp)  
[www.internationalstudentinsurance.com](http://www.internationalstudentinsurance.com)  
[www.psiservice.com/plandetails.do](http://www.psiservice.com/plandetails.do)



- 1) ***Our college does not provide housing.*** The majority of students at our school live in apartments, either alone or with roommates. Rental rates can vary widely, depending on the type and location of apartment. Shared apartments range from \$500-\$700 per person per month, not including utilities or meals.
- 2) Grossmont College International Student Counseling maintains a **housing email list** for international students seeking apartments and/or roommates. Students who either have available rooms or are seeking a room or roommate email an advertisement which includes their name, telephone number, email address, preferred move-in date, preferred price range and any other relevant information (such as whether you prefer to be located near a bus line). To receive or place advertisements, please email [bryan.lam@gcccd.edu](mailto:bryan.lam@gcccd.edu). Ads are sent out for only one month. Students must resend their ad to for

each month they wish to advertise. If you would like to receive these housing ads prior to orientation, please request to be added onto the "Housing Email List."

- 3) Grossmont College does not have a **homestay** program, but several of our students have obtained homestays through agencies like the ones listed below. Homestays through such agencies cost \$650-\$800 per month and include a private room and two or three meals per day. Other agency charges may include a \$200-300 placement fee, a \$100 refundable deposit, and a \$50-75 airport pick-up fee (optional).

Home Placement Services, Inc.  
P.O. Box 181002  
Coronado, CA 92178-1002  
TEL: (619) 423-1449  
FAX: (619) 423-1480  
E-mail: [info@homeplacement.com](mailto:info@homeplacement.com)  
Website: [www.homeplacement.com](http://www.homeplacement.com)

OvECS Ltd.  
625 N. Gilbert Rd., Suite 202  
Gilbert, AZ 85234 USA  
Phone: (480) 633-8191  
Fax: (480) 633-8193  
E-mail: [homestay@ovecs.com](mailto:homestay@ovecs.com)  
Web site: <http://www.azhomestay.com>

Homestay Services International  
P.O. Box 402  
Spring Valley, CA 91976  
TEL: (619) 461-4764  
FAX: (619) 660-9857  
E-mail: [homestay@homestayservices.com](mailto:homestay@homestayservices.com)  
Website: [www.homestayservices.com](http://www.homestayservices.com)

- 4) To get an idea of available apartments, students can do a **web search**. You can do a search simply by typing "apartments" in your Internet search engine or you can visit one of the following web sites. To find an apartment in the immediate area of Grossmont College, type "El Cajon," "La Mesa," or "San Carlos, San Diego" under city name.
- 5) You can also visit our website out housing for more information at <https://www.grossmont.edu/student-services/applyenroll/internationalstudents/housing.aspx>

### A few websites to visit for rental lists:

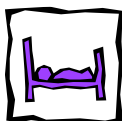
- Rental Search – <http://www.move.com/apartments/main.aspx>
- Apartments.com - <http://www.apartments.com>
- Apartmentguide.com – <http://www.apartmentguide.com>
- Apartments For Rent – <http://www.forrent.com>

(Free bi-weekly and monthly printed editions of *Apartment Guide* and *Apartments For Rent* are available in magazine racks at local supermarkets and shopping centers).

### **Temporary Housing (Motels/Hotels)**

There are **no** motels/hotels available within walking distance to the college, but you may want to check the following local motels for temporary stays until you find permanent housing. These motels are all within 10 miles of campus and are located next to or near bus stops or trolley stations. Prices listed below are based on special discount rates available to Grossmont College students. Prices are approximate only and are subject to change. Below each hotel listing is a set of instructions for using public transportation from the hotel to Grossmont College, with corresponding travel times. It is a good idea to make your room reservation well in advance of your arrival. **Remember, you are responsible for making your own motel/hotel reservations.** To make your reservation, have ready your 1) arrival and departure dates, 2) number of people to stay in room, 3) smoking/non-smoking preference and 4) credit card information to guarantee reservation (exact name and spelling of card-holder, number, and expiration date). When making your reservation, *be sure to mention that you're a Grossmont College student, and want the discounted room rate.*

***You may also wish to look at other hotels via the Internet or a travel agency, but keep in mind that any hotel NOT in the La Mesa area will require at least 45-90 minutes by public transportation to reach Grossmont's campus. The hotels listed are just for information ONLY. Your experience with the hotel is up to the hotel management. If you don't have a great experience, please let the manager know.***



### **Hotel Information**

**Holiday Inn of La Mesa** price range  
Tel (619) 698-7747 **\$89-115**  
Fax (619) 698-6347 Ask for Grossmont College discount  
8000 Parkway Drive plus tax (10%)  
La Mesa, CA 91942

<http://www.holidayinn.com> (Enter "La Mesa" under destination to view photos of this Holiday Inn. To make a reservation using the Grossmont student discount, call or fax the La Mesa Holiday Inn directly, and identify yourself as a new Grossmont College student).

Bus stop close by at corner of Parkway Drive and Baltimore. 15-minute ride on Bus 854 takes you directly to Grossmont College. (Bus ticket costs \$2.25/1-way or \$5 for a day pass).

**Courtyard by Marriott of San Diego El Cajon**  
Tel: (619) 334-6999 **\$125-\$190**  
141 North Magnolia Ave (Plus 10% tax)  
El Cajon, CA 92020

[www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com) (Enter "El Cajon, CA" under destination to search for bookings at this location.)

Bus Stop is close by at corner of Claydelle Avenue and East Main Street.

8 minute bus ride to El Cajon Transit Center using the 815 bus. Then change to the 115 bus to SDSU / Grossmont College for a 16 minute ride. (Bus ticket costs \$2.25)

**Best Western Plus** **\$89.99\***  
Tel (619) 466-0200 (Ask for GC student discount rate)\*  
Fax (619) 460-6674 plus tax (10%)  
9550 Murray Dr. Includes wireless Internet,  
La Mesa, CA 91941 breakfast, laundry facilities

[www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com)

*\*This discount rate is subject to room availability, and is not guaranteed. To learn whether the discount rate is available, the student must contact the hotel general manager at 1-619-466-0200.*

3.5 miles drive to Grossmont College. Not as convenient for public transportation. Walk 0.8 mile to Amaya Trolley Station. Take bus 854 (\$2.25) from Amaya to Grossmont College (10-20 minutes ride).

**IMPORTANT:** *Keep your money and passport in a safe place. Do not display a lot of cash and/or traveler's checks while you are traveling and do not leave them in your motel room if you are not there. Upon arrival to San Diego International Airport, make sure to keep your luggage with you at all times.*

## **Bus & Trolley** **Information:**



In general, it is not convenient to take a bus or trolley from the airport. Students are recommended to take shuttle services listed below. Once settled in a hotel or homestay, students can obtain information on local public transportation at [www.sdcommute.com](http://www.sdcommute.com) (select Trip Planner for route and cost information) or at Tel (619) 233-3004.

## **Shuttle Service** **Information:**



Our college does not provide any transportation service between San Diego International Airport and El Cajon. For information on airport ground transportation, go to <http://www.san.org/sdia/transportation/>. The following information on some of San Diego's local shuttle services (large vans which provide door-to-door transportation and carry several passengers at a time) is provided for your convenience. Prices are not guaranteed and are subject to change. It is customary to leave a few dollars (approximately 15% of trip cost) for the driver, especially if you have a lot of heavy luggage. **You are responsible for making your own shuttle arrangements.** To make a reservation via phone, fax or email, prepare the following information:

- ✓ Name
- ✓ Number of people traveling (2<sup>nd</sup> person is less \$)
- ✓ Airline and flight number
- ✓ Arrival date and time
- ✓ Destination within the San Diego County area

### **1. Prime Time Shuttle**

Three ways to reserve your shuttle:

- 1) Call (800) 733-8267, enter 1 for reservations and give discount code 601527
- 2) Go to [www.primetimeshuttle.com](http://www.primetimeshuttle.com) and enter discount code "GROSSMONT" where it asks for Frequent Rider ID
- 3) Go to the shuttle company's Grossmont College discount portal link at <http://primetimeshuttle.hudsonltd.net/res?USERIDENTRY=GROSSMONT&LOGON=GO>

**Cost:**      **\$36\* to La Mesa 91942**  
              **\$45\* to El Cajon 92020**

### **2. SuperShuttle**

Tel: 1-800-BlueVan (1-800-258-3826)

Use Grossmont College Discount Code UZFJF

Fax: (619) 574-8050

Web Site: [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com) OR

GC Int'l Student Discount Link:

<https://www.supershuttle.com/default.aspx?GC=UZFJF>

- Reservation necessary and must be pre-paid by Debit/Credit Card.
- From the Baggage Claim in Terminal 1 or 2, follow the signs to the Ground Transportation Sky Bridge. Proceed to the "Shuttle for Hire Island" and ask the Transportation Coordinator for a Supershuttle van.
- From the Baggage Claim in the "Commuter Terminal" (for incoming short-distance flights on airline "shuttles"), follow the signs to the Ground Transportation Sky Bridge. Proceed to the "Shuttle for Hire Island" and ask the Transportation Coordinator for a Supershuttle van.
- Prices below reflect a discounted rate for Grossmont College students; ask for discount code: **UZFJF**.

**Cost:**      **\$33 to La Mesa 91942**  
              **\$41 to El Cajon 92020**

## **Contact Information**

### **About this document & orientation...**

Questions or comments about information provided on this document may be addressed to Stephanie Cunningham, International Student Counseling Office.

E-mail: [bryan.lam@gcccd.edu](mailto:bryan.lam@gcccd.edu)

Telephone: (619) 644-7209

Int'l Counseling Office: (619) 644-7841

### **About applying & immigration (I-20, F1 visa)...**

Questions or comments about admission requirements, the application process, or immigration (I-20 or F1 visa) matters may be addressed to International Admissions Specialists, Mika Miller or Yumiko Hudson, in the Grossmont College International Admissions Office. Yumiko Hudson: [yumiko.hudson@gcccd.edu](mailto:yumiko.hudson@gcccd.edu) 619-644-7175

Mika Miller: [mika.miller@gcccd.edu](mailto:mika.miller@gcccd.edu) 619-644-7182

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*\*Prices are subject to change. Always verify with shuttle companies upon reservation.*

*The above information is provided to assist you in your travel arrangements. The company names listed are simply examples taken from a larger group of related businesses. It is the student's responsibility to determine for him/herself the most suitable travel and housing arrangements. Grossmont College in no way endorses any of the businesses listed, nor does it take any responsibility for a student's individual experience with those businesses.*



GROSSMONT COLLEGE \* 8800 Grossmont College Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020-1799 \* Phone: (619) 644-7000 \* Web Site: <http://www.grossmont.edu>  
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