Preparing for Travel to the United States

We are happy you are coming to UW-Barron County! In just a few weeks you will be enjoying the beautiful landscape of Wisconsin and meeting friendly people eager to help you. We know you are excited to come to Wisconsin to begin your university career and you may have questions about what it will be like. This paper will help answer some of these questions.

Time to Pack!

It is challenging to know what to pack when you are going to be away from home for so long. Most international students say they did not know what to pack so they brought too much. What you wish to bring is your own personal choice, but we hope you take the following suggestions into consideration.

**Check with the airline before you start packing** so that you know how much luggage will be free of charge and how much you may need to pay for. (See the section below for airline websites). Have clear labels with your name and address both inside and outside each piece of luggage. Make sure that you do not exceed the weight limit for luggage on the plane, unless you are willing to pay for excess baggage.

**Clothing:** Most people in our area wear comfortable and casual clothes on a daily basis. This includes items such as blue jeans, slacks, t-shirts, trainers, sweaters and sweatshirts. We suggest you bring at least one set of clothes that is formal. There will be special occasions when men will normally wear a suit and tie and when women will wear a formal dress or pantsuit.

**Warm clothes:** Due to luggage space and weight considerations, think carefully before you pack heavy, large items like a winter coat and boots. The weather will be pleasant and warm for a few months before you need heavy outdoor clothing. You will have the opportunity to purchase these items here before the weather turns colder.

**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.

**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. These will help you talk about your culture and enrich others with stories about your country.

**School supplies:** You may want to bring your calculator or, if you are involved in studio work, some of your art equipment may be necessary. However, school supplies are readily available in the campus bookstore or nearby stores.

**Toiletries:** You can bring toiletries for immediate use, but they are readily available at nearby stores.

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**Electrical appliances:** 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.

**Electronic devices:** Most students will bring their laptop computers, tablets, cell phones, digital cameras and other electronic devices with them. Please check the airline web site for information on how to travel with these devices.

**Restrictions on what you can bring**

The United States government has laws about what you can bring into the country. Do not bring any items that are not allowed. You can learn about these restrictions by visiting this website:

http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/kbyg/prohibited-restricted

Airlines also have restrictions related to what you can bring. Check the airline website for complete baggage information. Click on the link, or cut and paste the web address printed below it.

- **American Airlines**
  http://www.aa.com/i18n/travelInformation/baggage/main.jsp?anchorEvent=false&from=Nav

- **Delta Airlines**

- **United Airlines**

- **US Airways**
Items you may want to leave at home

**Books:** Do not bring a lot of books because they are very heavy. Textbooks are available in the campus bookstore and we have excellent library facilities.

**Umbrella and Rain Jacket:** These may be needed year round and can be purchased here.

**Bed linens and towels:** Do not bring bed linens and towels
The Office of International Student Programs will purchase the following items for you and apply the purchase amount to your account. We anticipate that the total amount will be less than $130 USD.

- Pillow
- Mattress pad
- Bottom sheet, top sheet and pillow case
- Blanket or comforter
- 1 bath towels (Large)
- 1 hand towels (Small)
- 1 face cloths (Flannel)