



# International Education Program

college of san mateo



## ***Dear International Student,***

Congratulations on your acceptance to College of San Mateo! Your admission to CSM is a confirmation of your potential and recognition of the unique qualities that you will bring to our campus community. You will undoubtedly enrich the spirit and culture of our diverse student body. CSM offers a rewarding environment where faculty, staff and fellow students can help to ensure you are successful.

This handbook is a step-by-step guide to help you prepare for your arrival in the United States. You can also find information online by visiting our college website: **[collegeofsanmateo.edu/international](http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/international)**.

Our staff is excited to welcome you to our campus and we are here to answer any questions you have prior to your arrival. We hope your experience at College of San Mateo a memorable and valuable one. See you at orientation!

All the best,

International Education Program Team



Danni Redding Lapuz  
Program Manager, PDSO  
[reddinglapuzd@smccd.edu](mailto:reddinglapuzd@smccd.edu)



Dr. Henry Villareal  
Dean, Enrollment Services



Christina Su  
Retention Specialist  
[suc@smccd.edu](mailto:suc@smccd.edu)



Chris Burwell-Woo  
Program Services Coordinator  
[wooc@smccd.edu](mailto:wooc@smccd.edu)



Silvana Grima  
Office Assistant II  
[grimas@smccd.edu](mailto:grimas@smccd.edu)



## STUDENT ORIENTATION



International students making friends at orientation

Our 3-day orientation will welcome you to our campus and provide everything you need to get ready for classes.

*“I learned information about my stay in the States, insurance, school, and what I am expected to do.”*

*“I met so many friends at orientation!”*

*“I learned about counseling to transfer to a university.”*

**Attendance is required** for all new international students. Our Student Ambassadors also attend orientation to assist new students. Contact the International Student Office by emailing [csminternational@smccd.edu](mailto:csminternational@smccd.edu) or calling +1 (650) 574-6525 to confirm your:

- Arrival Date at College of San Mateo
- International Student Orientation Date

**REMEMBER:** Please bring your passport and SEVIS I-20 when you arrive at CSM.

### Orientation includes:

- College placement tests in Math and English – find sample placement tests at: <http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/testing/sampletests.asp>
- Class Registration
- Campus tour
- Workshops on topics such as:
  - Adapting to life in U.S.
  - Health Insurance
  - Housing
  - Tuition payments
- Academic counseling
- Making new friends



Lunch is provided to new students at orientation



## PAYING TUITION & FEES



You will pay your fees once you have completed the following steps:

- Arrive at College of San Mateo
- Attend Orientation (includes Placement Test)
- Register for Classes

**You DO NOT** pay your fees before you arrive at College of San Mateo.

After you register for classes you can pay your tuition online using a credit or debit card or in-person at the Cashier's office by cash, cashier's check, debit or credit card. CSM accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover.

All tuition fees are due upon completion of your registration for classes.

For more information about fees go to: <http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/fees/>



International Students enjoying lunch in the Student Center at CSM.

# HOUSING

College of San Mateo **does not** offer on-campus housing or dormitories, but there are many housing options for our students to choose from. It is important to secure temporary housing **BEFORE** you arrive.

Please visit <http://smccd.edu/international/housing.php> to find the websites for information about temporary housing and finding permanent apartments, room rentals and homestays:

### Option 1: Rent an apartment

The rent of a one or two-bedroom apartment ranges between \$1,100 and \$2,500 per month plus a refundable security deposit. Students must be prepared for additional costs such as utilities (gas, electricity, water, telephone).

### Option 2: Rent a room

The rent of a private furnished room in the Bay Area ranges between \$900 and \$1200 per month. This price usually covers all utilities and kitchen privileges. Students are responsible for their own personal expenses, such as cooking, laundry and telephone.

### Option 3: Homestay

Homestays place a student in the home of an individual or family. Generally homestays have an initial contract and at the end of the contract the student and homestay provider will decide if they would like to extend the contract. Those students who sign up early have the most successful homestay placements. Homestays costs are similar to those for room rentals. Homestays should be secured **BEFORE** you arrive.

### Tips on renting a room or apartment

When looking for housing, you may be asked for financial information. Since you will have no financial history in the U.S., you should bring a current bank statement and a letter from your sponsor, showing funds that cover about 6 months of rent.

A **lease** is a binding legal contract between you and a landlord stating the duration of residence, rent rate, amount of refundable security deposit and apartment rules.



International students enjoying food at a campus event

**Remember** to also think about transportation costs when looking at housing options.

## TRAVEL TO THE U.S.

CSM is located near San Francisco (SFO) International Airport and not too far from Oakland (OAK) and San Jose (SJC) International Airports. Please be aware that you must enter the U.S. before the program start date listed in item #5 of your I-20 but no earlier than 30 days before the program start date. **You must travel with these documents:**

- Valid original passport
- Valid F-1 visa stamp in your passport
- Valid original I-20
- SEVIS Fee Receipt
- Copies of your financial documents
- College of San Mateo Acceptance Letter

### Immigration Inspection at the U.S. Port of Entry

Upon arrival in the U. S., U.S. Customs and Border Protection will inspect your documents (CBP is a component of the Department of Homeland Security). CBP will provide you with an admission stamp in your passport that is marked with your date of admission, class of admission (visa type), and “admitted until” date. Your “admitted until” date will be noted as “D/S” meaning “duration of status.” This will allow you to stay in the U.S. until your program of study is completed. The electronic arrival/departure record (Form I-94) can be obtained at [www.cbp.gov/194](http://www.cbp.gov/194). CBP may also ask questions about the information on your I-20 form so familiarize yourself with the information before your travel.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Transportation from the Airport

CSM cannot provide airport pick-up. You can take a taxi, shared van service such as SuperShuttle, which picks up passengers on the street-level arrival areas, or a transportation network company like Uber or Lyft. SuperShuttle fares are between \$25 and \$45. Please visit <http://flysfo.com>, [www.sjc.org](http://www.sjc.org) and [www.oaklandairport.com](http://www.oaklandairport.com) for more transportation tips including fares for shuttles.

### Transportation in the Bay Area

San Mateo is a safe and convenient city with easy public transportation. College of San Mateo is accessible by SamTrans bus routes #250 and #260 and it is about a 15 minute bus ride to campus from the Hillsdale Station. You may also take Caltrain, a local railway system that runs from San Francisco to San Jose, to Hillsdale Station. From the Hillsdale stop, you will take the SamTrans Bus #250 to our campus.



**For more information on public transportation, visit [www.511.org](http://www.511.org)**

## GETTING READY TO LEAVE

Leaving home to start your education in the U.S. is a major life change. The more you prepare for leaving, the easier your adjustment will be. However, CSM will provide you with any assistance you may need once you arrive.

When you first arrive in the U.S., you will need to have some essential items for your first few weeks. Here is what we suggest you bring:

- A small amount of cash (US dollars) to purchase items such as snacks, drinks, and transportation fare. When you arrive, we will give you information on how to open a bank account using cash, money orders, or travelers checks. You **may not** travel with more than \$10,000.
- A variety of clothing that will be comfortable during the day when it may be hot but also warm clothing for cold nights. San Mateo has an average high temperature of 77° Fahrenheit/25° Celsius from April—September, and 63° Fahrenheit/17° Celsius from October—March, with more than 160 sunny days.
- A few toiletries and personal hygiene items such as soap, contact lens solution, and deodorant for your first few days. You can buy more after you find places to purchase them.
- A few personal items from home that will make you feel good when you are homesick. Some students bring photos, cultural items, and music or DVDs.



CLUB FUN!

## MEDICAL HEALTH INSURANCE

All international students at the College of San Mateo are automatically enrolled in a medical health insurance plan purchased at the time of class enrollment. **The insurance cost is \$648 per semester or \$1296 per year.** A pre-arrival physical **is not** required.



International students stay healthy with fitness classes

This fee will be automatically added to your tuition and fees when registering for classes. The college does not accept third-party health insurance.

**NOTE:** The plan covers illness and injury only so you should refill prescriptions and complete all dental, eye and medical check-ups before arrival.

To find out more about the International Health Insurance Plan, visit:  
[www.4studenthealth.ascensionins.com](http://www.4studenthealth.ascensionins.com)

### CSM Campus Map

**One-day Permits**  
 \$2 per day. Valid only during class hours from 7 am to 10 pm  
 Permit machines indicated by **D** on the map: Hillsdale Lot 1, Beethoven Lot 2, Galileo Lot 6, and Stadium Lot 11

**Visitor Parking**  
 Visitors to campus may park in PayBySpace visitor parking in Beethoven Lot 2A and 2D (between 7 am and 5 pm) and Forum Lot 8 (between 7 am and 10 pm). Visitors must purchase a visitor permit (\$1 per hour) at the PayBySpace permit machines located in the lots (indicated by **V** on the map).

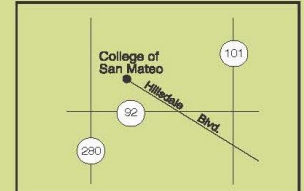
**Student Parking**  
 Hillsdale Lot 1, Beethoven Lot 2, Galileo Lots 6, Bulldog Lots 9B, 9C, 9D or Stadium Lot 11

**Staff Parking**  
 Beethoven Lot 2B, DaVinci Lot 3, Socrates Lot 4, Marie Curie Lot 5, Edison Lot 7\*, Bulldog Lot 9A, Sandbox Lot 10  
 (\* indicates lot available for student parking after 5 pm only, permit required)

**Restricted Parking**  
 Olympian Lot 12 staff and members of San Mateo Athletic Club, and patrons and clients of Cosmetology and Dental programs

**Disabled Parking**  
 By special permit only (contact Disability Resource Center, Building 10, First floor, 574-6438)

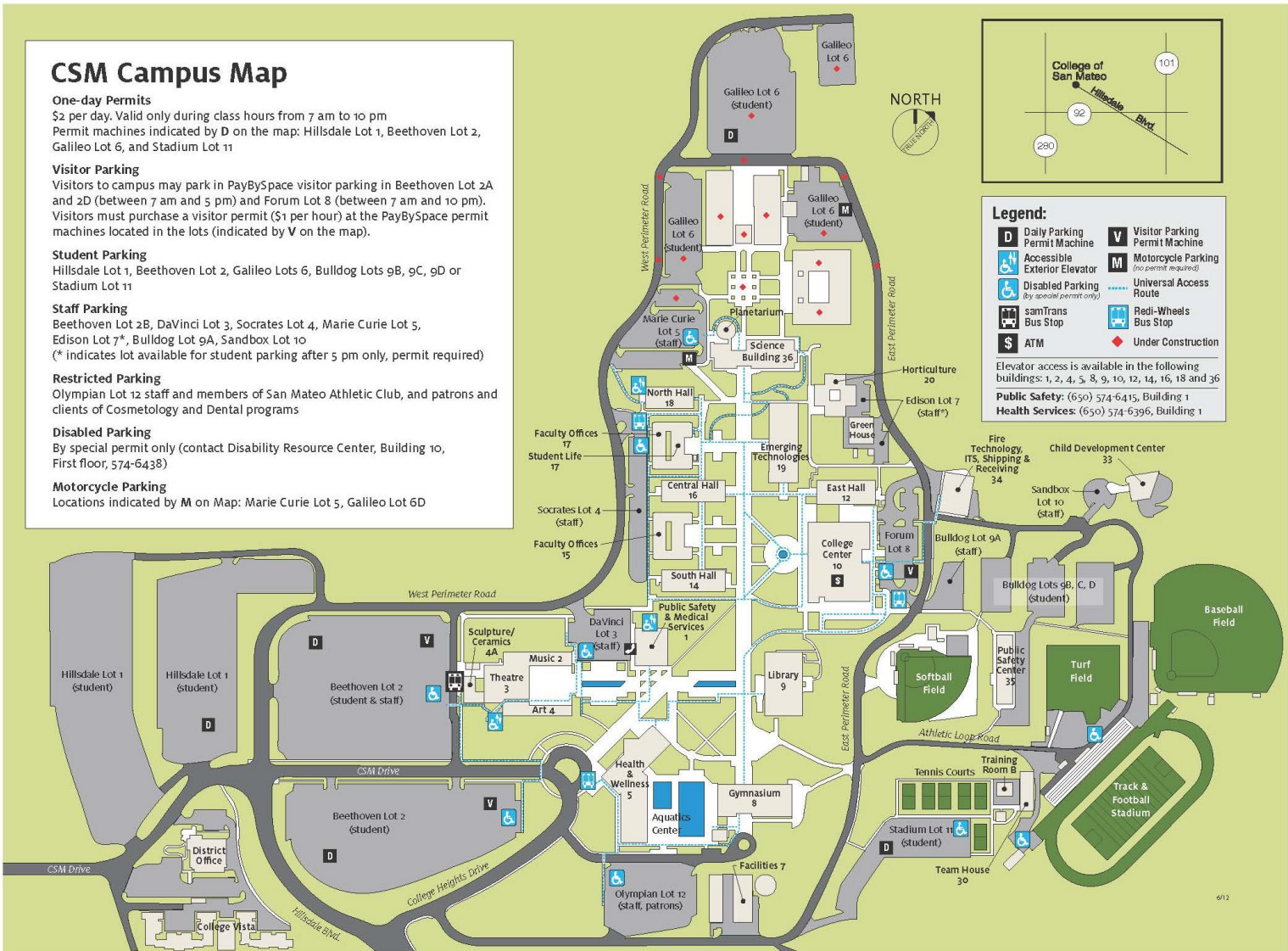
**Motorcycle Parking**  
 Locations indicated by **M** on Map: Marie Curie Lot 5, Galileo Lot 6D



**Legend:**

- D** Daily Parking Permit Machine
- V** Visitor Parking Permit Machine
- A** Accessible Exterior Elevator
- M** Motorcycle Parking (no permit required)
- ♿** Disabled Parking (By special permit only)
- U** Universal Access Route
- ♿** samTrans Bus Stop
- ♿** Redi-Wheels Bus Stop
- \$** ATM
- ♦** Under Construction

Elevator access is available in the following buildings: 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 36  
 Public Safety: (650) 574-6415, Building 1  
 Health Services: (650) 574-6396, Building 1



**International Education Program**  
 college of san mateo

**Building 10, Room 310**  
**1700 West Hillsdale Boulevard**  
**San Mateo, CA 94402**  
**Phone: (650) 574-6525**  
**Fax: (650) 574-6166**  
**Email: [csminternational@smccd.edu](mailto:csminternational@smccd.edu)**  
**<http://www.collegeofsanmateo.edu/international/>**



College of San Mateo President Claire and other campus officials celebrate with international students at World Mixer!

