Dear International Student:

Southwestern Community College is one of Iowa’s smaller two-year community colleges. The campus setting is rural and located in Creston, Iowa (population 7,800). Creston is approximately 70 km south of Des Moines, Iowa’s capital city (population 191,000). Southwestern provides educational offerings that may lead to gainful employment or course work that is transferable to a four-year college or university to continue studies for an advanced degree. Detailed information about our programs and advanced degree offerings is available in the college catalog or on our web site at www.swcciowa.edu.

**International Admissions Requirements**

1) Application for Admissions. This can be found here: [http://www.swcciowa.edu/apply/](http://www.swcciowa.edu/apply/)

2) Official Transcripts. We will need official transcripts in English from your high school and any previously attended college or English language programs. All documentation will need to be provided in English.

3) Financial Statement. We will need dated and notarized bank statements indicating that there is sufficient funds to pay for college. The bank statements need to have a minimum balance of $13,374.00. The bank statements do need to be in English, and also the amounts need to be in U.S. dollars. The notarized bank statements must be in your name or in the name of your sponsor indicated on the SWCC Student Financial Statement.


6) Official TOEFL or IELTS scores. This can be waived by the International Admissions Representative based on Application and the English Proficiency Form.

7) Copy of Passport. You can take a picture and email it, or scan a copy and email it. The image needs to be clean and readable.

8) ACT or Accuplacer test scores. You can complete the Accuplacer when you arrive on campus, but you will need to schedule that with the Assessment Center prior to arriving (641.782.1320).

9) $75.00 Processing Fee. You can call our Business Office at 641.782.1448 and pay with a Credit Card or Debit Card over the phone.

10) Dorm Living Application. You can find the application here: [http://www.swcciowa.edu/student-life/student-housing/student-housing-application](http://www.swcciowa.edu/student-life/student-housing/student-housing-application). This...
needs to be completed if you plan to live on campus. This needs to be done in a timely manner. If you plan to live off-campus, please alert the International Admissions Representative.

11) Dorm Living Deposit. This is $150.00 and you can call out Business Office at 641.782.1448 and pay with a Credit Card or Debit Card over the phone. This will need to be paid before you room can be saved. If you plan to live off-campus, please alert the International Admissions Representative.
I-20
An I-20 Certificate of Eligibility for Non-immigrant “F-1” student status will not be issued until you have 1) completed all admissions requirements, 2) been accepted into the College or program of study, and 3) paid the required $75.00 processing fee. This fee is NON-REFUNDABLE. When all requirements are met, we will issue a completed I-20 form. You will need to bring this form with you each time you enter and exit the United States.

COSTS

International Student Processing Fee ............................................ $75.00

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Credit Hours</th>
<th>16 credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition per semester ($165.00 per credit)</td>
<td>$2,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees ($12.00 per credit)</td>
<td>$192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books (approximate)</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approximate one year expenses:
- Tuition and Fees (32 credits) $5,664.00
- Room and Board (dormitory, 9 month contract) $6,210.00
- Books (approximate) $1,500.00
- Total (estimated for 9 months) $13,374.00

Immigration and Naturalization Services regulations do not require “F-1” students to be enrolled for the summer term.

Housing
Southwestern offers limited dormitory space. Rooms are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis when housing application and deposit ($150) are received. The Housing Application is located HERE.

Transportation
AMTRAK trains run through many major cities to downtown Creston. A bus service, Greyhound Lines, Inc. runs from most of the major cities, including Des Moines, Iowa. There is a Greyhound bus station located in Osceola, which is 40 km east of Creston.

Insurance
Due to high medical costs in the United States, we recommend that you subscribe to some health care insurance in case of accident or illness. Creston offers numerous medical and dental facilities. The college is located one block from Greater Regional Medical Center.

Climate
Temperatures range from –26 C to 37 C. The autumn months of September, October and November are fairly cool; winter months of December, January and February are cold; spring months March, April and May bring more moderate temperatures; and summer months of June, July and August are our hottest temperatures. Because there is such a variety of
weather conditions, be prepared to dress for rain, snow or sunshine.

Acceptance
Mail or email all correspondence to the Admissions Office to the attention of your International Admissions Representative. Final action will be taken on your application after ALL requested documents are received. Upon acceptance, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Form I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for Non-Immigrant “F-1” Student Status) will be issued to you to apply for your visa and admission to the United States.

If you are already in the United States intending to transfer to Southwestern from another college, the I-20 must be taken to the last school you attended for further processing by the international student advisor.

Upon arrival to Creston, all international students must report to the admissions coordinator/international student advisor in the Admissions Office to arrange formalities. The student may make arrangements to set up a class schedule at that time.

I-901 Fee
As a “F-1” nonimmigrant student, you are required to pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee. The fee is used to support the F, M, and J nonimmigrant reporting system authorized by Public Law 104-208,Subtitle D, Section 641. After receiving your I-20 issued by Southwestern, you will be able to pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee of $200.00. You can fill in the Form I-901 online at www.fmjfee.com or send a paper version, which you can obtain at www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/i901/. More information about the fee and about additional payment options can be found at www.fmjfee.com. You cannot pay this fee to Southwestern. The phone number for the I-901 Help Desk is 1-785-330-1048. If you do not pay this fee, your application will not be processed.

Enrollment and Registration
Southwestern will send notification of registration to you after acceptance. Registration is usually no later than one week prior to the start of each semester (see academic calendar in the catalog). Immigration requires “F-1” students to be enrolled full-time and maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Payment and Expenses
Before attending Southwestern, you must be prepared to pay all educational and living expenses. Careful planning will help make your college experience a successful one. Work permits are only granted under the permission of the United State Office of Immigration. Federal and State financial assistance is not available for international students; however, some students may be eligible for scholarships through the music and athletic program. Class space will not be held if payments are not received in the Business Office by payment due dates. Failure to pay by the deadlines will result in the cancellation of your registration process and the Immigration Office will be notified that you are no longer enrolled. Immigration and Nationalization Regulations require that international students on an “F-1” visa must be enrolled full-time (12 credit hours or more).
Resources to Utilize

How to study in the United States: [https://www.usa.gov/study-in-us](https://www.usa.gov/study-in-us)

Creston, Iowa Information: [http://www.crestoniowa.gov/](http://www.crestoniowa.gov/)

Creston, Iowa Video Tour: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18YCgE3-aZI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18YCgE3-aZI)

Southwestern Campus Tour: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0AmlBeuezo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0AmlBeuezo)

Education Credential Evaluators (if you need translations): [https://www.ece.org/](https://www.ece.org/)