

What to bring...

1. Your license - You must carry your valid driving license from your home country to drive legally in the US.
 - a. Even if you are not sure you will want to drive while you are here, it is best to bring your license. Without it, you will not have the option of driving or renting a vehicle if you decide you want to.
 - b. Visitors staying less than one year are not required to obtain an Illinois driving license.
 - c. If your license from your home country is not printed in English, you must carry an international driver's license to drive in Missouri: <http://www.idlservice.com/index.php>
 - d. If you drive in other states (besides Illinois and Missouri), please visit the states' Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) website to check their regulations. Not all states have the same laws about driving on a foreign license.
2. Your automobile insurance card and policy details (in English, if possible) - All drivers in the US are required to carry insurance. If you have automobile insurance in your home country AND you are sure you are covered by that policy when driving a rented vehicle in the US, you may be able to save money on insurance for the rented car if you bring proof of that insurance to the car rental office.
3. Proof of international health insurance coverage is required. Please carry a copy of it in your wallet while you are here - in English, if possible.
4. A plug adapter for electronic devices might be useful.
 - a. Computer labs will be available on campus during your stay. You are not required to bring a laptop, but students often find it helpful for class projects and personal use, such as calling home via SKYPE.
5. A basic calculator may be helpful.
6. At least one change of "Business Casual" clothing for class presentations and company tours – Classroom presentations are common at SIUE, and students normally wear something a bit more professional-looking when they present than they do routinely. In some cases, you may also be participating in company tours while you are here, in which case you will probably need to adhere to a dress code in order to participate.
 - a. Dress shoes for class presentations.
 - b. Please keep in mind that closed toe/heel hard-soled shoes may be required if you participate in any factory tours. Tennis shoes may not be allowed for the factory tours.
 - c. Pants (Khakis are a good choice, but NO jeans for company tours!) – Shorts, dresses, and skirts are generally not allowed on company tours, but they would be fine for classroom presentations.
 - d. A couple of polo shirts or other shirts with a collar - It is not generally acceptable to wear t-shirts or tank tops on company tours or for classroom presentations.
7. Clothing for sports/exercise – we have a terrific gym facility, which students often enjoy.
8. Sunglasses and sun block - It is often warm (or hot) and sunny outdoors from mid-April through early Oct. here.
9. Attire for the pool - Swimwear, a beach towel, and perhaps goggles (We have indoor and outdoor pools on campus. The indoor pool is year-round, but the outdoor pool is only open from June – Sept.)
10. Comfortable shoes for walking on campus – You may be doing a lot of walking.
11. Check the Weather Channel for seasonal highs/lows throughout your stay in the US, so you can bring appropriate seasonal clothing.
http://www.weather.com/outlook/health/achesandpains/wxclimatology/monthly/graph/62025?from=36hr_bottomnav_aches
12. A sweater or light jacket – This is important year-round. Even in the summer when it is very hot outside, restaurants, movie theaters, and classrooms on campus sometimes are cold due to over-zealous air conditioners in summer. So, you may need a jacket even in hot weather.
13. Casual clothing, such as jeans or shorts and t-shirts, is appropriate for class.
14. A small rucksack or book bag for carrying texts
15. An extra suitcase – students often do a bit of shopping in the States. You may want extra room to carry your purchases home. (If you plan to shop a lot, you may want to check with Customs in your country for the allowed purchase amount that you can return with without paying a duty.)
16. Any medications or remedies you take regularly – Non-prescription medications in the US may not be the same as your usual products. So, you may prefer to bring these items from home.
17. Any special eqpt. you prefer for cooking.
18. A travel alarm clock

What not to bring...

1. Formal clothing – you are unlikely to wear suits, ties, or elegant dresses while here.
2. If your cell phone from your home country works in the US, it will probably be very expensive for you to use and for others who call you. Be sure to check with your cellular service before coming to the US for exact details on the costs you (and people who call you) will incur if you use your phone in the US.
 - a. You may want to consider purchasing an inexpensive cell phone (available in Edwardsville at Radio Shack) with prepaid minutes for use while in the US.

For information about your apartment...

- Info about Cougar Village - <http://www.siu.edu/housing/livingoptions/cougarvillage/>
- Virtual tour of Cougar Village – http://www.siu.edu/housing/livingoptions/cougarvillage/virtual_tour.shtml

What you will find inside your apartment...

Our apts. normally have only basic furniture in them, as they are normally used by local students who bring many of their own items from home to outfit their living space. Your situation is different because you travel from another country, so you do not bring a lot of supplies to use in your apt., and you do not stay here long enough to justify buying many household goods.

1. The campus apts. normally only have this basic furniture when students move in, nothing more:
 - i. A bed
 - ii. A desk
 - iii. A table and chairs
 - iv. Some lamps
 - v. A sofa
 - vi. Two living room chairs
 - vii. A coffee table
2. As a courtesy to help you acclimate, we loan exchange students some basic items for use while at SIUE. We ask you to return these items to us at the end of your stay.
3. Here are some of the items we have been able to loan students in the past. We cannot guarantee that you will be able to borrow all everything listed here for your apartment. All items are loaned on a “first-come, first-served” basis.
 - i. Pans for cooking or baking
 - ii. Basic silverware for eating
 - iii. Coffee maker
 - iv. Microwave
 - v. A few cooking utensils
 - vi. Plates
 - vii. Cups
 - viii. Bowls
 - ix. Glasses
4. We also provide you with a telephone for your apt., a shower curtain, towel, and blanket - upon arrival.
 - i. You can purchase inexpensive sheets, pillows, and other linens soon after you arrive. Please bring about \$50 - \$100 for this and other household items you may need for your apt.
 - ii. People usually want more than one towel for their stay, so you might consider packing extra towels or buying a couple of inexpensive ones when you get here.

What you should not expect to find at your apartment...

Please understand that we cannot supply your apts. with everything a student might normally have if they lived here long-term. Thus, your apt. will not have the following upon arrival:

1. Radio
2. TV
3. Rugs
4. Food
5. Much equipment for cooking
6. Any equipment for cleaning
Brooms and other basic supplies for cleaning can be purchased locally and are not expensive.
7. Trash cans
These also can be purchased locally and are not expensive.

Some remarks made by students from past exchange students:

The following is practical advice from past students for those planning to come to SIUE to study. The focus is on offering tips regarding what to pack, preparing to come here, or any challenges they met or avoided during their stay here.

- Be careful to watch your budget. Also, consider renting a car.
- You need almost three hours to buy food in Edwardsville! It takes about one hour to get to the market by bus and another hour to get back home.
- Take a suitcase which offers a lot of space for bringing back items bought in the U.S.!
- It is hard to go shopping without a car.
- You will meet nice people if you are friendly and speak English.
- Bring some a sharp knife for cooking. Bring a lot of sweat shirts and jeans because of the air conditioning in the classroom. Bring shorts for the weekends during warm weather.
- A car is really important – the bus takes hours to get to St Louis.
- The student should know that the housing has almost no cooking and cleaning supplies.
- Bring enough clothes for about one week so you will have enough clothes to wear until you can go shopping. Save space in your luggage to take home new things from the US.
- Bring towels, use Skype as cheap information system
- Rent a car for the whole time. All the shops and the food stores are far away!
- Keep an eye of calculating or spending money, for instance in renting a car
- Get a car or bicycle
- You need to have a car to get to the market and shopping mall. If the exchange rate is good, bring a big, empty suitcase!
- Remember to speak English and make friends! The rest works out.