

The background features a vibrant collage of numerous hands in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, brown) reaching upwards. A stylized world map is overlaid on the hands, with the continents colored in shades of green and brown. The overall theme is global unity and community.

Welcome to UCM and Warrensburg!

Campus Community Health

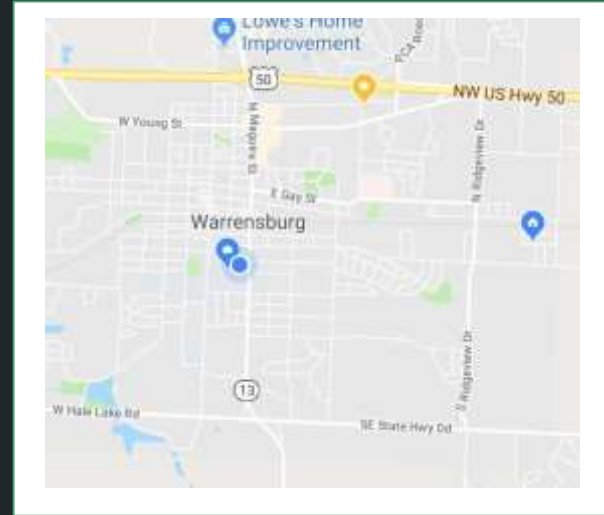
We're glad you're here!

Here's what this presentation covers:

- UCM and Warrensburg
- Friendship Families
- Apartments and landlords
- Food resources
- American culture
- Personal habits in America
- Some stereotypes about Americans



About UCM and Warrensburg



Getting Around Warrensburg

- When walking: use the crosswalks to cross the road; wear something reflective at night
- When driving:
 - use turn signals
 - use “hazard” button if you must stop at the side of the road



- [Old Drum Transportation, free Tuesday Night Shuttle to Walmart, ETS Taxi Service](#)

About UCM

- Working on campus: [Human Resources](#)
- [Campus map](#)
- [On-campus food options today](#)
- Be on time to your appointments and class
- “Please” and “Thank you” help in any situation
- Consider signing up for **TextCaster** for alerts and other important information (ucmo.edu/public-safety/)



Getting involved at UCM

Student organizations and clubs

- ISO: International Student Organization
- Sanskrithi: Indian student organization
- Saudi Student Club
- African Student Association
- Japanese Student Organization
- Muslim Student Association
- Student Organization of Latinos



Getting involved at UCM

Conversation Partners and English Cafe:

- Part of the English Language Institute (ELI)
- Starting in September



Friendship Families



The Friendship Families Program

- A local family or individual to spend time with (not a homestay)
- A way to improve your English skills and share your culture
- Meet once a month
- No cost to you or family
- No overnight travel
- We match students who are here for only one semester first, then other undergraduates

*Applications are due by **Sunday August 25.***



Apartments and landlords

Several things are
different here in the
States...



Apartments and landlords

- The application process can take a few days
- Some require a Social Security number, some require a copy of your visa; may be other requirements
- All will require some proof that you'll be able to pay rent for the entire time of the lease
- DO NOT “break” your lease by moving out and not paying
- Many landlords will allow someone else to replace you on the lease but you **MUST** ask



Protect yourself

- Missouri's Landlord-Tenant Law
- Try to look at the apartment before renting it
- **Make sure to READ, understand, and keep a copy of your lease**
- Get receipts for rent or other payments



Protect yourself

- Do NOT bring in upholstered furniture from the street
- Keep your apartment door and car doors locked
- Don't leave valuable items in your car



Protect the property

- No more than 2 people per bedroom
- Only people on the lease may live in the apartment
- Do NOT turn off the heat or air conditioning (A/C) if you leave for a few days/weeks
- Don't leave piles of clothing or textile items
- Clean the dryer filter



Protect the property

- Do basic cleaning once a week - **especially the kitchen**
- One roach is too many!
- Garbage disposal in the sink
- Used cooking oil goes in the trash, not the sink
- Don't leave food scraps in the trash for several days
- Vacuum and sweep often, especially if there is carpet



Read the [Off Campus Living](#) handbook for students



Food Resources



Campus Cupboard



- Free, for any students who need help to have enough food (bring your student ID)
- Inside the Student Recreation and Wellness Center
 - Lowest level, in the hallway past the locker rooms (look for the signs with the logo)
- Packaged food and some prepared meals
- Summer hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 3-6 PM
- Summer hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday 3-6 PM

BSU Tuesday Meals

- BSU: Baptist Student Union
 - Free meals for any students
 - Tuesdays at 6:00 pm
 - Located North of Ward Edwards
- Everyone can come
- Fall and Spring semesters only (not during Summer)



On-Campus Dining

- Company that provides food service at UCM is Sodexo
- Check this link for the most current information:
 - <https://ucmo.sodexomyway.com/dining-near-me/hours>
- During Fall and Winter breaks:
 - UCM Dining Halls will be closed
 - Most on campus dining options will close or have different hours



Cooking and Ordering Food

- Students can cook in residence hall kitchens
 - Some residence halls do not have kitchens
- If you cook, you will need your own dishes and cleaning supplies
- You can call local restaurants for delivery service



American Culture



In the classroom

Active participation is expected

- Teachers typically encourage students to ask questions that help the discussion
- Falling asleep or not being involved in class can result in losing points



In the classroom

Informality is Normal

- Most college students dress casually
- Eating or drinking in class is allowed if the teacher gives permission
- Administrators and teachers will often call students by their first name
- Some teachers and staff may dress more casually on Fridays



In the classroom

The Teacher and Student Relationship

- Often casual and friendly
- Some teachers only lecture, but some focus on group discussion
- Some assign projects instead of only grading students with exams



In the classroom

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic integrity is vital in U.S. higher education
- In research papers and presentations, you **MUST** list your sources with citations
- It is also vital to *paraphrase*, or put the research in your own words (to show you understand it)
- Academic dishonesty has significant negative consequences at UCM



In public

“Tipping”

- Gratuity: Additional payment that goes to the worker that is serving you (restaurants, hotels, cafe, bar, casino)
 - This may be automatically added for large groups
- Amount: typically at least 15%, 20% if the service was very good
 - Ex: 15 % of the meal, 1 dollar per drink



In public

Greetings

- Shaking hands: for business and sometimes social situations
- “How are you” is usually just a greeting (not a real question about you)

Body Language

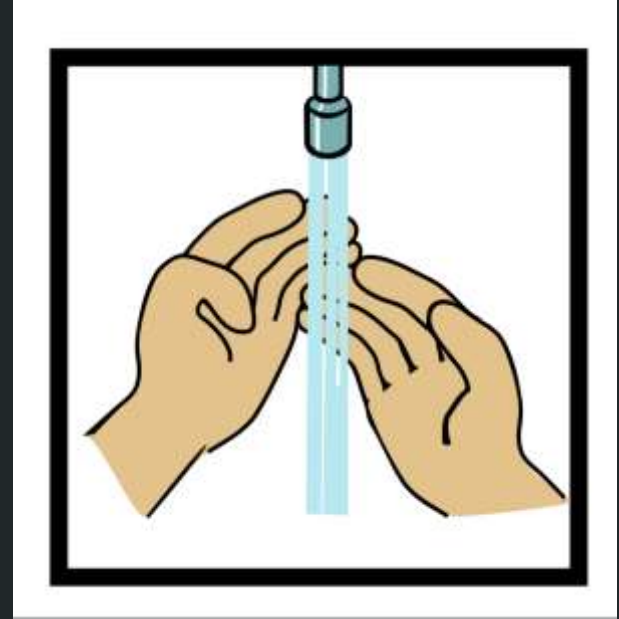
- Make eye contact
- It's normal to smile at strangers
- Don't get very close when speaking with someone

Other

- Smoke in designated areas
- Don't be surprised to hear private information



Personal habits in America



Bathroom Etiquette

- **Always** wash your hands before you leave the bathroom.
- If you need to be sick, use the toilet - **not** the sink.
- In public sinks, only wash your hands (not your feet or hair).
- Don't stand on public toilet seats.
- Put toilet paper in the toilet - **not** the trash can.
- Do not put paper towels in the toilet.



Other Personal Etiquette

- Cough or sneeze in your elbow - not your hands.
- Water fountains are only for drinking water
 - Not spitting or washing your hands
- Americans usually shower once each day or once every two days
- Saying “please” and “thank you” is very important



Stereotypes about Americans



A few common stereotypes

- Every American is rich
- Americans only speak English
- All Americans only eat hamburgers and pizza
- Classes must be easy for Americans because we speak English
- Most Americans think alike



Again - We're glad you're here!

- We know culture isn't a light switch
- Please ask **the most knowledgeable person** when you have a question:
 - A **UCM staff** person about UCM policies
 - Your **UCM instructor** about your class
 - The **landlord or apartment manager** about issues with your apartment



What questions do you have?

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