

TELEPHONES

LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE SERVICE

- There are many different companies in the United States that offer long distance telephone service. Some of these include:

AT&T

Sprint

MCI

And more

- Another option for long distance service includes the use of Calling Cards. Many international students find it most convenient to use calling cards when calling home. Cards can be purchased at any local pharmacy, and many local dollar stores. Campus area locations to purchase discount calling cards are:

Rouse's 6600 Franklin Ave. (504) 288-1600

Walgreens 6201 Elysian Fields Ave. (504) 283-2891

Dialing Long Distance within the US:

1 + Area Code + Number

Dialing Long Distance outside of the US:

011 + Country Code + City Code + Number

- **WATCH HOW MUCH YOU SPEND ON INTERNATIONAL LONG DISTANCE CALLS.** YOU MAY FIND THAT YOUR CHARGES ADD UP TO HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS EACH MONTH, AN AMOUNT THAT YOU DID NOT BUDGET FOR.
- One of the favorite options of international students for long distance is **Skype**. This service allows **free** voice calls over the Internet, instant messaging, file transfer and video conferencing. If both parties have computer and internet access, Skype is very convenient and affordable! See www.skype.com for additional information.
- Another favorite option is **Whatsapp**. Whatsapp is a free application for your smartphone that allows you to share photos and videos, leave voice messages, chat, talk, and video chat with friends and family internationally for free. You must have an internet connection or a generous data allowance to use Whatsapp, and the person you are calling must also have Whatsapp installed on their device.

SPECIAL PHONE NUMBERS

911 is the phone number for emergencies throughout the USA. Dial 911 to reach emergency medical services, fire

department or police.

6666 UNO's Campus Police

(504) 280-6666 UNO's Campus Police (from off campus)

1.800, 1.877, and 1.888 numbers: Telephone numbers that start with either of these three numbers are usually free for you to call. The institution or business that has this number pays for the call.

1.900 and 1.976 numbers are very expensive. You are not only charged for the phone call, but also for some special service offered via telephone per minute of your call. You may want to consider getting 900 and 976 numbers blocked so that no one can make such calls from your telephone. Blocking the use of these numbers is a free service. **BEWARE of 1.900 AND 1.976 NUMBERS.**

DIALING ON CAMPUS

Internal UNO Campus Calls

- UNO uses four digit dialing to call internally among three of its locations:
Main and East Campus 280-xxxx
- To call internal UNO extensions within and between any of these locations simply dial the desired four-digit extension.
- To call outside from these three UNO locations listen for the dial tone, then dial the seven-digit number desired.

CHOOSING A CELL PHONE

- Unless you already have a U.S. Social Security Number, your first cell phone will be a pre-pay plan. There are many service providers, and each one offers different service plans and options, including “**pre-pay**” plans that do not require you to pay a monthly fee (you buy your airtime minutes in advance). The following is a list of terms to help you in your choice of a service provider:
- **Coverage area** = area where your phone will be in service.
- **Roaming** = ability to travel throughout the US and still be able to use your phone.
- **Activation fee** = a one-time fee you pay to start your service.
- **Credit check** = the service provider looks at your credit history before starting service.

SERVICE PROVIDERS:

- T-Mobile
- AT&T
- Metro PCS
- Sprint
- Verizon Wireless

TIPS TO REMEMBER:

1. Most service providers will check your credit or require a DEPOSIT to begin service (may not include “pre-pay” plans).
2. Be aware of any ACTIVATION FEES that they may charge to begin service.
3. Except for special offers, you generally must purchase the phone (does not come with the service).
4. Once your free airtime minutes expire during the month, you are charged a fee for each minute of use thereafter. AIRTIME MINUTES REFER TO BOTH INCOMING AND OUTGOING MINUTES. If someone calls you, YOU spend your minutes (free or not) on the call.
5. Unless it is covered in your plan, you may be charge an extra per minute fee when using the ROAMING feature.
6. Unless it is covered in your plan, you will be charged extra money for LONG DISTANCE calls in or out of the state.
7. Ask about INSURANCE in case the phone is lost or stolen.
8. Be aware of additional charges for sending and receiving text messages.
9. Check for availability of other plans, such as flex plans, that combine the benefits of traditional and prepaid cell phone plans.