

Living in Tucson

Tucson is a safe, welcoming, multicultural city in the beautiful Sonoran Desert.

- Tucson is an affordable city with a lower cost of living.
- Tucson enjoys a healthful, desert climate. Winters are warm and mild.
- CESL arranges many activities for students to interact with the local community and to visit sites in southern Arizona.

Tucson has an extensive support system for international visitors, including

- Restaurants with cuisine from around the world
- Specialty Grocery Stores
- International Community Groups



Students and visitors to Tucson can visit Arizona's world-famous natural wonders.

The city is only a 1-hour drive from Mexico, and in less than 7 hours you can drive to the Grand Canyon, the beaches of the Gulf of California, The Grand Canyon, The Petrified Forest, The Red Rocks of Sedona, and Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley on the Navajo Indian Reservation or Las Vegas, Nevada!

Tucson has access to many sports and recreational opportunities.

- World-famous spas and resorts in Tucson with many facilities.
- Winter skiing at the southernmost US ski resort and water skiing on Arizona's lakes.
- Spring training for three major-league baseball teams.
- Home state of the world-champion Arizona Diamondbacks.

Tucson has 19 nationally-ranked golf courses with

- The opportunity to play on both public and private 18-hole courses year round.
- A range of courses for all handicaps – from amateur to PGA levels.
- Affordable greens fees with off-season and p.m. tee-time discounts.
- PGA and LPGA Tour events and championships open to the public.

<http://www.golfguideusa.com/index.asp?http&&www.golfguideusa.com/tucson/list.asp>

MONEY: BANK ACCOUNTS & EMPLOYMENT ON CAMPUS

If you rent, you will need to write checks to pay your rent and utility bills. You will be able to do many other transactions with your debit card and on-line. You may open a checking account at any Tucson bank. You can easily open a checking account by depositing money in a bank. You do not need a social security number to open a bank account. Use your passport and local address. Banks require proof of a **local address** on each account. Sometimes you can open an account without proof of a local address, but if you do not supply proof within a few days, the account will automatically close.

Ask the bank for the routing number to your account so that your family can transfer money directly to your account.

You may get a check guarantee card from the bank if you deposit a large amount of money or after one year with a good credit record. In most cases, if you don't already have a credit card; it will take a year to establish your credit in the USA. Money you do not need for monthly expenses can be placed in a savings account, which will earn interest.

DATES When you write the date in English, write the month first: August 5, 2012 or 8/5/12.



AMOUNTS Write the amount in numbers and in words. In English use a comma to mark thousands: \$4,567.042 (four thousand five hundred and sixty seven dollars and forty two cents).

CHECK REGISTER Be sure to note each check amount when you write your check so that you can subtract it from your balance. Do not overdraw your account. The overdrawn fees add up very quickly if your account is overdrawn.

Overdrafts or overdrawing your Account Bank Accounts Banking systems are different in the USA from some countries. Here, you can continue writing checks whether you have money in your account or not. If you **overdraw** your account, there are heavy fees - \$25.00 for each check or withdrawal that goes over the amount of money in your account. In some countries, this cannot happen because the account will not allow you to take more money than you have.

Employment on Campus As an F-1 visa holder, you can work only on campus and no more than 20 hours a week; the easiest places to get a job are in the Student Union and the library. You may pick up applications at the information counter in both locations. If you are offered a job on campus, your employer must complete a letter of employment.

1. Print a sample letter of employment from the CESL web page at <http://www.cesl.arizona.edu/docs/SSNEmployerSampleLetter.pdf>
2. Ask your potential employer to complete the letter on department letter head. Bring the signed letter to the CESL Advisor in C101.
3. The CESL Advisor will give you a letter to apply for your social security number. The Social Security office is located at 3500 N. Campbell Avenue. Take your passport, I-94, I-20 and the two letters. You can take bus #15 from the UA Visitor Center on the UA Mall.

Student Eligibility to Work on Campus New CESL students must be attending classes at the time of hire in order to be employed in a student position. Student employees must continue to be enrolled for the

appropriate number of units in order to be eligible for continuation of employment in a student position. To continue in a student position in the summer, the student must be enrolled in CESL's summer session.

IRS Income Tax: If you work and earn money in the United States, you **MUST** file an income tax return before April 15 every year. Use form 1040 NR. Non-resident aliens are required to file an additional statement (Form 8843), which explains the visa-holder's claim to non-resident status for tax purposes. Income tax returns should be mailed to the Internal Revenue Service, Philadelphia, PA 19255. Ask the CESL Student Advisor to help you download the forms from the IRS web page.

Note: US tax laws change frequently. Check the IRS website for the most up-to-date information. <http://www.irs.ustreas.gov> There is also tax information on the University's International Services webpage. http://internationalstudents.arizona.edu/immigration_tax_main.shtml

SOME FACTS ABOUT TUCSON

1. Tucson is the oldest continually inhabited settlement in the United States.
2. The Sonoran Desert is the only place in the world where saguaro cacti grow.
3. Tucson is known as the "Astronomy Capital of the World".
4. Kitt Peak National Observatory has the largest collection of astronomical telescopes including the largest solar telescope.
5. Only 40 minutes from the UA, Mt. Lemmon is the southern-most ski area in the continental United States.
6. Tucson was founded in 1776, the year the Declaration of Independence was signed.
7. 350 days of sunshine per year!
8. 20 cm of rainfall per year.

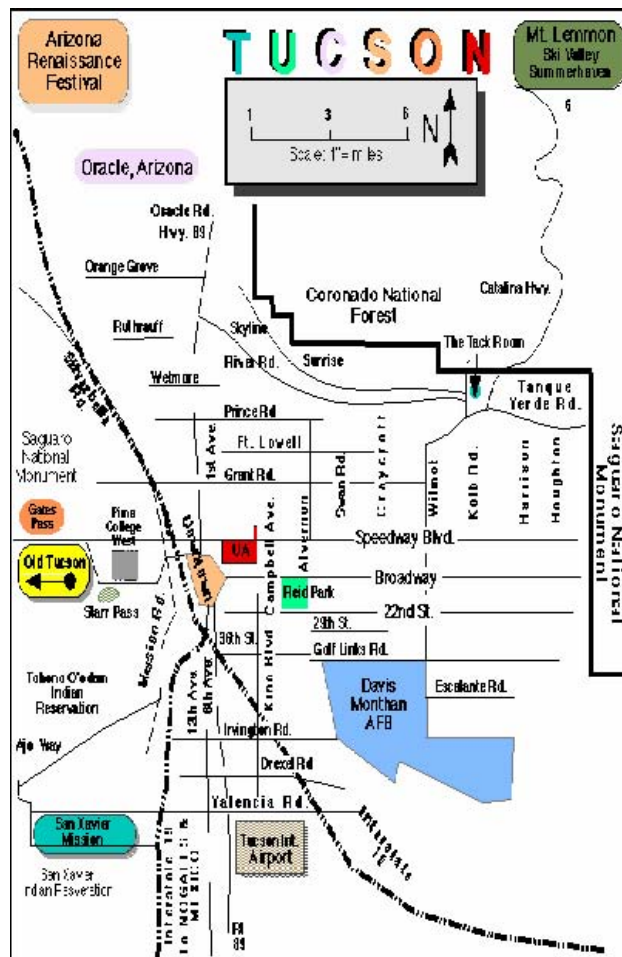
Geography: High desert valley (alt. 731 m.)
Surrounded by mountains 1000-2800 meters altitude

Temperature: Summer highs 30-40 C;
summer lows 18-25 C; winter highs 18-30 C;
winter lows 0-15 C

Area: 162 square miles

Population: Tucson & Pima Country
1,000,000 !

Elevation: 2,584 feet



WHAT TO WEAR Casual clothing is acceptable most everywhere. The lifestyle in Tucson is informal and casual.

ALCOHOL You must be 21 years old to buy or drink alcohol in public in Arizona and in most states of the USA. You must show picture-ID with a birth date, such as a driver's license, in public bars, restaurants, or

markets to prove that you are over 21. If you do not have a driver's license and you do not want to carry your passport, you may get a photo ID with your birth date from the Department of Motor Vehicles. See the information below under Driver's License.

Never drive if you have been drinking. Before you leave home, plan for a "designated driver" who does not drink and who will drive the others home. If you have been drinking and you do not have a designated driver, ask the bartender to call a taxi to take you home. This ride is free.

University Policy on Alcohol: The University of Arizona recognizes that the use of alcoholic beverages by those of legal age is a matter of personal choice. The University requires that those who choose to drink on University property abide by state laws and University regulations, and expects that such individuals will conduct themselves responsibly, mindful of the rights of others.

POST OFFICES There is a full-service post office in the Student Union, and at Euclid and University. Never send cash through the mail. You may send either a personal check or a US money order. You may also buy cashier's checks at your bank.



LIVING IN A CAMPUS RESIDENCE HALL



If CESL students live on-campus in a University of Arizona Residence Hall, they must follow all the rules and regulations of the Residence Hall and the University of Arizona. When a resident checks into the hall, he or she is given a Residence Hall handbook. Violation of the rules may result in the immediate removal from the residence hall. If you have any questions about the rules, bring the book to the CESL Assistant Director for Communication for clarification. Some important rules to remember are:

Alcohol If you are under 21, you cannot drink in the Residence Hall. If you are over 21, you can consume alcohol in your own room; however the consumption of alcoholic beverages in public areas of the residence halls is strictly prohibited.

Guests You must accompany your guests at all times in the Residence Hall. They should not be walking around the halls alone.

Smoking You may not smoke inside the Residence Halls. You must smoke outside in specially designated areas.

Drugs Use, possession, distribution or sale of illegal drugs or narcotics is strictly prohibited.



Kitchens All halls have one kitchen for all the hall residents. You may use the kitchen to cook. Be sure to clean up after yourself and do not use others' food.

Residents Assistant (RA) Each wing or hallway of the dorm has an assigned RA, who is a UA student living and working in the hall. The RA's job is to help residents. If you have any question, such as, "Where do I empty the trash?" ask your RA. If you have any problems, with your roommate or otherwise, go to your RA first. To be comfortable and happy in your living situation, you must ask questions if you are unsure of something, and you must talk to someone. The RA is there to help you.

Computers For information about computing in the halls go to <http://www.rescomp.arizona.edu/> Your computer must be registered to connect to the Internet in the Residence Hall. You cannot do this the same way UA students do it. Bring your IP or hardware address to the Assistant Director of Student Services.

Telephone You will share one telephone line for local calls with your roommate. One of you will need to buy a telephone. Local calls are free and your room already has a line. The best idea is to buy pre-paid phone cards for long distance calls.

Roommates The best way to solve problems is to talk.

HOME STAY

Home stays are arranged by OVECS. You should call Amy Dorgan, their representative, immediately if you are not satisfied with your accommodation. Do not wait until things get worse! If you want help or advice about what to do, see the CESL Assistant Director for Communication and Student Services. She will help you talk to the right person.

Some Advice to help with Your Home Stay Please remember there are no "typical families. Your host family may be a father, a mother, and children, but it may be a single parent with children, or a couple without children, or even a single person. The family may be middle or upper-middle class, and their home may be a house or an apartment. Some families host only one student at a time; other families host two or most students from different countries.

1. Talk to your family. Tell them when you are happy and when you like something; and please tell them if you have a problem. Be willing to share in conversation and activities with your family. At first conversation may be challenging and people will seem unfamiliar. This should improve soon.
2. As you may have noticed, in the U.S. it is important to smile and say please and thank you a lot. Women and men are treated the same, so be equally polite to both your host mother and father.
3. The food will seem different. It is important to keep a good attitude when trying new food. It is okay to dislike some food, but try it first, especially if the meal was prepared for you. Remember it is polite to compliment the cook and say thank you after eating a meal.
4. Although some meals may be eaten together as a family, often you will prepare your own meals. Some families are very busy and the children may eat at different times from the adults, especially for breakfast. Your family will show you where the food is, and you will prepare your own meal. However, if your family has prepared a meal for you, please be appreciative and sit with the family.
5. Your family will give you a key. Please do not lose it, and please telephone the family if you are going to return home very late at night.
6. In most families you will be responsible for your own laundry. If you have questions about how to use the washing machine or dryer, please ask!
7. Electricity is expensive and many families are concerned about excessive use of electrical appliances. It is thoughtful to turn off lights when you leave the room and to limit long showers.
8. The family will not provide long distance telephone service for you. Please use a telephone card.
9. The family is not responsible for your transportation although many will help you if necessary. If you need help, ask well in advance of the event. When you first arrive, your family will show you how to use the bus and the best way to go and come to the house everyday.
10. You are not expected to do household chores. However, it is thoughtful if you have time to offer to help if someone is working while you are available.
11. If you are invited, try to be involved with family activities; it is a unique opportunity to experience life in the United States and learn about customs and culture.



APARTMENT LIVING

If you live in an apartment, read the section about Safety at Home of this Handbook. When you move into an apartment, you will need to connect utilities and services. Many will ask you for a social security number. Remember you cannot get a social security number unless you are working in the United States. Because you cannot get SS #, it may, unfortunately, mean that you must give a larger deposit to secure the service.



Utilities Water and trash are often included in the rent. Gas and electricity are usually not included in the rent; you will have to pay the bill each month. Before you move into an apartment or a house, you must call the utility company to turn on the gas and/or the electricity. There is an installation fee for turning on the gas and electricity.

TUCSON ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY	520-623-7711
SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION	520-889-1888
TUCSON WATER DEPARTMENT	520-791-3242

Telephone Many students now have cell phones. You may not need to have phone service to your apartment. Investigate this carefully before you decide. It is sometimes difficult to get a cell phone without the SS#; you may have to give a larger deposit.

OWNING AND DRIVING A CAR

DRIVER'S LICENSE: If you drive a car in Arizona, you must have a valid driver's license. You may apply for an Arizona driver's license at the Department of Motor Vehicles, 3565 S. Broadmont. You must take your passport, I-94, your copy of the I-20 and your CatCard. Your license will be valid only for the dates on your I-20.

Driver's License Manuel. You can link to a copy of the Arizona Driver's License Manual on the Student Services page on the CESL web site.

For DMV locations and hours in Tucson check the web at <http://www.azdot.gov/mvd/OfficeHourssql/scripts/readofficehours.asp?COUNTY=Pima>



ARIZONA STATE ID CARD If you need a photo- ID to show that you are 21, and you don't drive a car, you may go to any driver's license office and ask for a limited ID card. You must show your passport, I-20, I-94 and your CatCard.

AUTOMOBILE REGISTRATION If you buy a car or motorcycle, you must register it with the State of Arizona. For information about registration, contact the Department of Motor Vehicles, 3565 S. Broadmont, or on the Internet.

PARKING ON CAMPUS If you park a car on campus, you must register your car with Parking and Transportation Office, and display your parking permit at all times.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE If you own an automobile, Arizona law requires that you have car insurance. You must carry proof of liability insurance in your car at all times. For a list of auto insurance companies, see the Yellow Pages in the telephone directory. Compare costs before you buy. There is a big difference in the rates charged by different insurance companies. If you have no driving record in the United States, your insurance will cost more.

CAR RENTAL: There are many car rental agencies in Tucson. Check the Yellow Pages for a complete list. In order to rent a car, you must have a valid driver's license and a credit card. You must also purchase insurance. **Only the designated drivers can drive the car.**

SOME RULES OF THE ROAD may be different from those in your country or from other states in the US. The penalties may also be different. Pay special attention to the following safety suggestions for driving, and always drive carefully.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE There are severe penalties for drunk driving or Driving Under the Influence - DUI. If a policeman stops you and notices you have been drinking alcohol, you may go to jail. At the beginning of the evening choose a "designated driver" who will not drink alcohol. If you do not have a designated driver, ask the bar tender to call you a taxi.

ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT Drivers and front seat passengers must wear seat belts at all times. If you don't, you may receive a ticket from the police.

YOUNG CHILDREN MUST RIDE IN A CHILD SAFETY SEAT Arizona law requires that all children sit in an approved child safety seat or wear a child safety belt while riding in any vehicle.

STOP FOR SCHOOL BUSES You must stop if you are approaching a yellow school bus from in front or behind when the bus is loading or unloading passengers. School buses have a STOP sign to remind you of this.

OBEY THE 15-MILE-AN-HOUR SPEED LIMIT IN A SCHOOL ZONE These are expensive tickets.
IF YOU SEE A FLASHING RED LIGHT BEHIND YOU If a policeman flashes his red light at you, you must stop. Pull over to the right side of the street in a safe place. At night, when it is very dark, continue cautiously to a well-lighted area where there are other people, before you stop.

SIREN AND FLASHING LIGHTS When you hear an ambulance behind you, you must pull over immediately to the right side of the road.

DO NOT PARK IN HANDICAPPED parking spaces. These tickets are also very expensive.

AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS If you have an accident, you must be sure to do three things:

1. You must get certain information from the other driver. The form below tells you exactly what information you need. Make sure you have all of this information before you leave the accident. This will protect you later.
2. Call the police if you are involved in an accident where someone is injured or there is more than \$500 of property damage. You should also call the police if the other driver refuses to give you the necessary information, or if they leave the accident site without stopping.
3. Even if the police do not come to the site of the accident, you should report the accident to the police and get a police report number. You will need the report number for your insurance.
4. Notify your insurance company immediately.

If you are in an accident you must get the following information about the other car and driver - especially if the accident was not your fault!

- Driver's Name: Driver's License Number:
- Address: Home Phone:
- Year/Make of Car: Car License Number:

- Driver's Insurance Company: Policy Number:
- Agent's Name: Phone Number:
- Names and Addresses of Other Witnesses:

STORES IN TUCSON AND SHOPPING

SUPERMARKETS OR GROCERY STORES sell fresh, frozen and canned food, including fish, poultry, meat, dairy products, staples such as flour, sugar, salt and spices as well as toiletries (shampoo and toothpaste) and paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, sanitary napkins, paper plates and paper cups). Most supermarkets also have a bakery and a pharmacy inside the store. Many supermarkets offer other services, such as a bank, post office and video store inside the supermarket. Grocery stores are self-service, which means that you take a cart or basket, select the items you wish and take them to the cashier for payment. Supermarkets in Tucson are Frys, Safeway, and Albertson's. All three stores use a membership card. It is free. The first time you shop at one of these stores, ask the cashier for a card; always carry the store's card with you. It gives you the discounted advertised prices. The nearest large grocery stores to CESL are Safeway at Campbell and Broadway and Fry's at Grant and 1st Ave. You can take the bus to either center.



CONVENIENCE STORES, such as Circle K and Seven Eleven, also sell food and necessities. They are small and the service is fast. You usually pay more for items in a convenience store than in a supermarket.

FOODS FROM YOUR COUNTRY You will need to go to the specialty stores to find special foods from your country. Some of these stores are Caravan (Middle East, Iranian, etc.), Kimpo Oriental Market (Korean), and 17th Street Fruit Market (Oriental). New stores open every few months. Check with the Student Advisor or friends from your country for the specialty food markets nearest you and the best prices.

RESTAURANTS There are dozens of restaurants and fast food shops near CESL on University Blvd, Park Ave, 6th Street and Speedway. You can find food from almost any part of the world within walking distance. Check the Wildcat for coupons to save money. Many times you can find a two-for-one offer or some free food. Tucson also has hundreds of restaurants with cuisines from all over the world.

TIPPING You should tip the wait person who brings your food in a restaurant 15-20% of your total food check. Tipping is not necessary where you pick up your food in a deli, cafeteria or fast-food restaurant. Do not tip gas station attendants, persons who carry packages in stores, or restroom attendants in stores. However, do tip the beautician who cuts, shampoos and styles your hair; the barber; a valet parking attendant who parks your car; the bellboy in the hotel who carries your bags; the porter at the airport or train station; and a taxi driver.



DRUGSTORES sell a large selection of cosmetics, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, periodicals, household medicines, greeting cards, photographic film, alcohol and other items. You can fill your doctor's prescriptions for medication at a drugstore or at the Student Health Service on campus. You can buy many immediate necessities at the University Drug on the corner of Park and University across the street from CESL.

DEPARTMENT STORES sell a large variety of things: shoes, clothing, appliance, furniture, dishes, pots and pans, linen, towels and toys. In Tucson, most department stores are located in the Malls: Penny's, Sears, Montgomery Wards, Dillard's, Robinsons May and Macy's.

DISCOUNT STORES Other large stores, such as Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Super K-Mart, and Target, are less expensive and are usually not located in the Mall. You can buy most everything in these stores.

MALLS are large shopping centers that include a large number and variety of department stores and small specialty shops. There are four malls in Tucson: Park Mall on Broadway & Wilmot, El Con Mall at Broadway and Dodge, Tucson Mall at Oracle & Limberlost and finally, Foothills Mall at Ina and La Cholla and La Encatada at Campbell and Skyline. You can go to all four malls on the bus. When you shop in the mall, always look for the SALE racks. All stores have sale racks, but the more expensive stores have really good sale racks in the back of the store!



PRICES in stores are fixed. You cannot bargain. However, you can bargain when you buy directly from a private individual or when you buy large, expensive items such as cars or houses and some large electronic items, such as video cameras, TV, etc.

YARD SALES & SWAP MEETS Many people sell their own items. People have yard sales when they move to a new house or apartment or when they clean out their closets. You can buy many used household items and clothing at yard sales. Things are very cheap and you can always bargain. Look for signs on street corners and special sections in the Classified Ads of the Tucson daily papers. A SWAP MEET is a large, commercialized yard sale. Merchants as well as individual vendors sell all kinds of items at the swap meet. You can always bargain at the swap meet and at yard sales.

SECOND HAND OR THRIFT STORES sell used goods: clothing and household items. You can furnish an apartment very cheaply from thrift stores. Expensive clothes are bargains in a second-hand shop. Buffalo Exchange, which has a nice selection of second-hand clothes for the university student, is near the University, in front of the Plaza Hotel. On 4th Avenue, south of 6th Street, there are a variety of second-hand, vintage and thrift stores. Plan a Saturday walk there to browse through many craft and gift shops as well as used and vintage clothing.

SALES TAX Nearly every item you buy in the United States will have a sales tax added to its price. In Tucson, that tax is 7 percent. If a can of shaving cream costs one dollar, the sales tax on it will be seven cents. A \$500 dollar stereo will cost you \$535.00 with the sales tax. This tax is added almost everywhere in the United States, but varies from place to place. In some cities certain goods are not taxed. In Tucson you do not pay sales tax on unprepared food bought in grocery stores, but you do pay tax on meals in restaurants. Sales taxes go to the city, county and state governments.

THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU (BBB) Throughout the United States the Better Business Bureau collects complaints from customers about businesses. If you are not satisfied with a business, you can fill out a complaint. You can also call the Better Business Bureau first to ask if there are any complaints about a business you want to do business with. This is useful if you are dealing with a business that you know nothing about. Look in the phone book for the local office.



WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Most food products are sold by weight. Most recipes use measurements of cups, tablespoons, and teaspoons. You can buy measuring cups and spoons at supermarkets and discount or department stores. Common abbreviations are listed below.

1 T or 1 tbsp = 1 tablespoon = 3 teaspoons
1 t. or 1 tsp. = 1 teaspoon
1 c. or 1 cu = 1 cup = 16 tablespoons = 8 ounces
1 lb. = 1 pound = 16 ounces
oz. = ounce
pt = pint = 2 cups = 16 oz
qt = quart = 4 cups = 32 oz
gal = gallon = 4 quarts

We do not use the metric system in the US except in scientific laboratories. You will probably need to translate non-metric to metric.

1 tsp = 5 cubic centimeters = 5 milliliters
1 tbsp = 15 cc
1 oz = 30 cc
1 pt = 500 cc = ½ liter
1 qt = 1000 cc = 1 liter
1 gal = 3.785 liters
foot = 12 inches = 0.3048 meters
1 yard = 3 feet = 0.9144 meters
1 meter = 39.37 inches = 3.28 feet = 1.09 yards
1 mile = 1.6 kilometers
1 British gallon = 1.2 U.S. gallon
1 liter = 1.057 liquid quarts = 10 deciliters
1 deciliter (dcl) = 6 Tbsp + 2 tsp = 3.38 U.S. fluid oz
1 lb = 16 ozs = 453.59 grams
1 gram = .035 ozs
1 kilogram = 2.2046 lbs
450 grams = 2 1/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
450 grams = 4 cups white flour
450 grams = 4 ½ cups confectioner's sugar
450 grams = 2 1/4 granulated or white sugar
225 grams = 1 cup rice

THERMOMETERS

Most thermometers use the Fahrenheit scale to measure body, cooking and air temperatures; thermometers in scientific laboratories use the Centigrade scale. Normal body temperature is 37 degrees C or 98.6 degrees F.

$C = \frac{5}{9} [F - 32]$ To convert degrees F to degrees C, subtract 32 from the F measure, multiply the result by 5, and divide by 9.

$F = \frac{9}{5} C + 32$ To convert degrees C to degrees F, multiply the C measure by 9, divide by 5, and add 32 to the result.

CLOTHING SIZE CONVERSION CHART

WOMEN'S SIZES

Junior - USA 7 9 11 13 15

England 9 11 13 15 17

Continent 34 36 38 40 42

Misses - USA & England 36 38 40 42 44

Continent 36 38 40 42 44

Ladies - USA & England 36 38 40 42 44

Continent 44 46 48 50 52

Shoes - USA 5 6 7 8 9

Metric 35 36 38 39 40

MEN'S SIZES

Coats & Pajamas

USA & England 36 38 40 42 44

Continent 46 48 50 52 54

Shirts -USA & England 14 14 ½ 15 15 ½ 16

Continent 36 37 38 39 40

Shoes -USA 6 7 8 9 10

Metric 39 40 41 42 43

Children's clothing is sized according to the child's age from infancy through approximately six years. Infant's clothes will be sized according to months of age, from newborn (NB) through 18 months. It is always wise to consider the child's height and weight when buying clothing. It is not uncommon for infants and toddlers to wear much larger sizes than what their age indicates. It is a good idea to ask a salesperson for assistance until you are familiar with children's clothing sizes.

ADULT clothing sizes vary somewhat from one manufacturer to another. Always try on clothing before you buy it. Most stores will take back unworn clothing if you get home and find it is the wrong size, the wrong color or if you decide you don't like it. You must save your sales receipt so that you can return any merchandise.