## **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:

 AT&T

 T-Mobile

 Sprint

 Verizon Wireless

 Walmart

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.

## **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 400 North Carrollton Ave. 504-488-2129

Walgreens 2418 South Carrollton Ave. 504-861-5033

Winn Dixie 401 North Carrolton Ave. 504-482-6771

CVS 3700 South Carrolton Ave. 504-488-1110

##  **SPECIAL PHONE NUMBERS**

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

**Ext. 7490** Xavier’s Campus Police

**520-7490** Xavier’s Campus Police (from off campus)

**1.800, 1.877, and 1.888 numbers**: Telephone numbers that start with either of these four number 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 Long Distance within the US:

 1 + Area Code + Number

Dialing Long Distance outside of the US:

 011 + Country Code + City Code + Number

## **ACCESSING THE INTERNET**

E-MAIL: As a XULA student or staff member, you will receive your own computer account. This will enable you to have access to the World Wide Web and to e-mail (electronic mail). Students receive an e-mail account after paying their fees. Faculty and Staff receive an e-mail account after the appropriate personnel action forms have been completed by their departments. You can check your e-mail at several locations on campus, including the Computer Labs in Norman C. Francis Bldg. Room 205, the Library 1st Floor, and Xavier South Room 402A. If you own a personal computer with a modem or Ethernet card, you can access Xavier’s server from your own home. For more information see the University Information technology center website: <http://www2.xula.edu/itc/index.html>. The Information Technology Center (ITC) Help desk is available to assist you and can be reached by calling extensions **7446** or **7449**, or see our online support which addresses most common issues. You may also contact the Help desk via email at helpdesk@xula.edu.