Welcome to Penn State!

We are glad that you are joining us! Your journey as a college student begins now. As a Penn State student, you will grow and develop as an individual by learning about yourself, your area of academic interest, and the world. Take advantage of each opportunity that comes your way. Don’t be afraid to try new things or consider new ideas; it is through these new experiences that you will truly develop into a well-rounded and educated person.

Your transition to Penn State and your success while you’re here is one of our most important goals. During your time on campus for New Student Orientation, you will be introduced to students, faculty, and staff who are available to help you succeed as a Penn State student. Even though your visit during New Student Orientation is short, take advantage of your time here. Meet new people. Find ways to get engaged with the campus community. Listen to the messages that are being delivered throughout the next two days. We want you to learn how to be good citizens to both Penn State and State College by providing you with information that allows you to make smart, responsible decisions.

After your New Student Orientation is complete, the Office for Student Orientation and Transition Programs is available to assist you. We are planning welcome activities for your return to campus, which will provide additional opportunities for you to connect with members of the Class of 2019. Watch your mail for the Preface magazine, which will include a complete schedule of Welcome Week events.

Enjoy your New Student Orientation! Please let us know if we can assist you in any way. And, have fun!

Daniel W. Murphy
Director, Student Orientation & Transition Programs

The Orientation Team (OTeam)

The OTeam is a group of students and staff here to help you with your transition to Penn State. Feel free to ask questions and get to know them while you’re on campus. The OTeam members are excited to share their Penn State stories with you!

The host of my NSO Program is __________________________________________ email: ____________________________________________@psu.edu

My Orientation Leader (OL) is __________________________________________ email: ____________________________________________@psu.edu

If you have questions after NSO, you can also email orientation@psu.edu.

/PennStateSOTP  @PennStateSOTP  @PennStateSOTP

Join the conversation! #PSU2019

This NSO Guide lists support services and resources available to you at Penn State. Some of these will be directly discussed in an NSO session; others are listed for your convenience. Find a complete listing of all of theses webpages here: orientation.psu.edu/up/resources.
New Student Orientation (NSO) is designed to help you prepare for life at University Park. While you’re here, you’ll get to explore campus, stay overnight in one of our residence halls, enjoy a meal in our dining commons, connect with other new students, and learn about what it means to be a member of the Penn State community.

Housing & Dining at NSO
The card that you received at check-in will provide you access to your assigned residence hall until 11:30pm on Day 1. It’s pre-loaded with $27.00 to cover your meals during NSO. We are unable to replace or reload the card, so keep it with you at all times.

You received a key which will provide access to your assigned residence hall room. Please return your residence hall key (keep the card; you’ll need it for lunch) to the Pollock Commons Desk by 7:45am on Day 2. Your residence hall room has bed linens & towels for you (and your roommate). Should you need a blanket during your overnight stay, visit the Pollock Commons Desk to get one (It’s open 24/7).

The Penn State Student Code of Conduct
The Penn State Student Code of Conduct reinforces the values of the Penn State community by promoting a safe living and learning environment and by articulating the behaviors expected from all members of the University community. The Code of Conduct applies to you now, as NSO marks the start of your journey as a Penn State student. While you’re here for NSO, you should abide by all University policies, especially those regarding alcohol and drugs. If you choose to violate any University policies, you may begin your academic career with a disciplinary record, or be sent home from NSO without an opportunity to register for your courses.

The Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)
As you transition to your first year at Penn State, you will take on the responsibility for your educational records. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that gives you the right to say who can and cannot access your educational records. In most cases, your educational records cannot be shared without your written consent. For example, your grades are accessible to you on eLion. If your parents/family members want to view your grades, access and pay your tuition bills, or obtain verification of enrollment, you must grant them access to eLion for that specific purpose. They’ll need a Friends of Penn State Account and you can grant this access directly through the eLion system in the “Parent/Other Access” section. Talk with your family members about what will best meet your needs.

First-Year Top 10 List
Your NSO program is designed with one goal in mind—helping you transition successfully into, and through, your first year at Penn State. By the end of your first year, you should:

1. **Understand and meet academic expectations**; engage in active learning and use effective time management to balance academic work with extra-curricular activities.
2. **Learn about the value of higher education** to both society and to individuals; appreciate the value of the general education curriculum and the worth of lifelong learning and scholarship.
3. **Be familiar with student services & academic resources on campus**; actively use those resources and interact with staff.
4. **Engage with faculty** in and outside of the classroom.
5. **Interact effectively with peers** in social settings, and through educationally purposeful student activities.
6. **Refine short-term and long-term academic goals**; learn about career management; establish more specific career goals.
7. **Achieve a higher competency** in writing, note-taking, active reading, critical thinking and quantitative reasoning to be able to master college-level work.
8. **Expand knowledge of human diversity and cultural competence**; effectively interact with others.
9. **Engage in activities leading to improved personal health and fitness**; learn about making responsible decisions in a college environment.
10. **Be a positive and contributing member of the Penn State community**; engage in community service activities; develop an understanding of sustainability and how to incorporate sustainable behaviors in daily activities.

edge.psu.edu/firstyear.shtml | The Pennsylvania State University First-Year Experience Committee, April 2005
Penn State Reads

Penn State Reads is a program for all first-year students at University Park designed to provide a shared experience with you and your classmates. Throughout the year, you will have an opportunity to attend featured lectures, participate in class conversations, attend programming in Residence Halls, and engage with other new students in conversations about the book.

*The Boom: How Fracking Ignited the American Energy Revolution and Changed the World*, by Russell Gold, is the 2015-16 Penn State Reads selection. *The Boom* was selected because it specifically addresses fracking, an issue that is relevant to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The book is a balanced account of the history and personalities that have made fracking the force that it is today. The discussion of fracking leads to a consideration of the broader implications for the country’s energy and environmental policies. Russell Gold is a senior investigative journalist for The Wall Street Journal. He won the Gerald Loeb Award for Distinguished Business and Financial Journalism and was a finalist for the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on the Deepwater Horizon Spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Gold plans to visit University Park in October.

Pick up your free copy of *The Boom*. Read it before classes begin. Add your thoughts and reactions to the Penn State Reads conversation.

Life at University Park

**Adult Learner Program**—Provides advocacy, programming, and resources for non-traditional students. [studentaffairs.psu.edu/adults](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/adults)

**Campus Maps**—For a printable campus map visit: [geog.psu.edu/print-campus-maps](http://geog.psu.edu/print-campus-maps).

**Career Services**—Offers programs and services that support and facilitate career development for all students, including career counseling and resume review. [studentaffairs.psu.edu/career](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/career)

**CATA**—The Centre Area Transportation Authority provides bus routes for the Penn State community. The Community Service routes provide service to the greater State College Area. The Campus Service routes (LOOP & LINK) are fare-free and provide campus and cross-campus shuttle service. Check out the CATA app to track bus locations from your mobile device. [catabus.com](http://catabus.com)

**Food Services**—Provides convenient dining locations across campus. Meal plans are available to all students and are required for those living on-campus. [foodservices.psu.edu](http://foodservices.psu.edu)

**HUB-Robeson Center**—Features several eateries, Wi-Fi access, study areas, student clubs and activities, the Penn State Bookstore, art galleries, and many student services. [studentaffairs.psu.edu/hub/hrcenter.shtml](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/hub/hrcenter.shtml)

**id+ Card**—Your id+ card provides you with access to your residence hall, campus meal plan, Lion Cash+, University Libraries, athletic events, and other resources. You are required by University policy to carry your id+ card with you at all times. [www.idcard.psu.edu](http://www.idcard.psu.edu)

**LionCash+**—An online prepaid spending account accessed by your id+ card. [www.idcard.psu.edu/IDCard/LionCash](http://www.idcard.psu.edu/IDCard/LionCash)

**Newspaper Readership Program**—Provides access to the Daily Collegian, the Centre Daily Times, USA TODAY, and the New York Times at no charge with your id+ card. [news papers.psu.edu](http://news papers.psu.edu)

**Off-Campus Living**—Provides programs, resources, and support services for students living off-campus, including the Off-Campus Student Union. [studentaffairs.psu.edu/offcampus](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/offcampus)

**Penn State Bookstore**—A great source for textbooks, school supplies, and Penn State gifts. [psu.bncollege.com](http://psu.bncollege.com)

**Penn State Mobile**—Provides essential PSU information anytime, anywhere on your mobile device. [m.psu.edu](http://m.psu.edu)

**Residence Life**—Provides safe, comfortable, and secure on-campus living-learning environments that are conducive to students’ academic and personal growth. [studentaffairs.psu.edu/reslife](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/reslife)

**Student Legal Services**—Provides free legal counsel, advice, and referral services to students. [studentaffairs.psu.edu/legalservices](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/legalservices)

**Sustainability Institute**—Penn State’s portal to energy and environmental sustainability offers programs and suggestions for living green. [sustainability.psu.edu](http://sustainability.psu.edu)
**Smart & Safe at State**

**Affirmative Action** — Supports and enhances the University's commitment to diversity; providing advice and leadership to colleges, departments, faculty, and staff in their efforts to recruit and retain a diverse workforce and ensure an environment free from discrimination and harassment. [psu.edu/dept/aaoffice](http://psu.edu/dept/aaoffice)

**Center for Women Students** — Provides advocacy, support, and resources to women students and the men who support them. [studentaffairs.psu.edu/womenscenter](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/womenscenter)

**Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)** — Offers counseling, crisis intervention, and psychiatric evaluations; helps students with concerns such as anxiety, homesickness, eating disorders, and stress. [studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling)

**Office of Student Conduct** — Promotes a safe environment by holding students accountable to the standards described in the Code of Conduct; outlines and implements the procedures and practices of the University discipline process. [studentaffairs.psu.edu/conduct](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/conduct)

**SHARE/Title IX** — Provides assistance in obtaining information and identifying resources for anyone who becomes aware of or experiences discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, and related inappropriate conduct. [title-ix.psu.edu](http://title-ix.psu.edu)

**Student & Family Services** — Leads response efforts related to campus, student, and family emergencies, including coordinating support efforts to students who need personal and academic accommodations due to unforeseen personal or family crises and/or tragedies. [studentaffairs.psu.edu/familyservices](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/familyservices)

**University Health Services (UHS)** — Specializes in outpatient care for students, including primary care, women's health services, pharmacy, and more. [studentaffairs.psu.edu/health](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/health)

**University Police** — Offers 24-hour protection and educational programs about safety, Safe Walk service, and other services for the Penn State community. [police.psu.edu](http://police.psu.edu)

**University Policy (AD-85) on Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, & Related Inappropriate Conduct** — Prohibits discrimination, harassment in all forms, sexual misconduct, relationship violence, and retaliation related to reports of such conduct. [guru.psu.edu/policies/AD85.html](http://guru.psu.edu/policies/AD85.html)

### What is Title IX?

Title IX is a portion of the Educational Amendments of 1972 that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any program or activity including, but not limited to the following:

- Educational programs or activities, e.g., student services, academic counseling, discipline, classroom assignment, grading, athletics, recreation, and study abroad
- Admission and recruitment, e.g., financial aid, housing
- Medical services, including psychological counseling

Violations of Title IX may include, but are not limited to,

- Sexual Harassment (unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature)
- Sexual Misconduct (rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual exploitation, and other forms of non-consensual sexual activity)
- Stalking (repeatedly following, harassing, threatening or intimidating including by telephone, mail, electronic communication, or social media)
- Dating Violence (including emotional, verbal, and economic abuse without the presence of physical abuse)
- Domestic Violence (including emotional, verbal, and economic abuse without the presence of physical abuse)
- Retaliation (adverse employment, academic, or other actions against anyone reporting or participating in an investigation of Title IX allegations)

Concerns about conduct by a student or student group that may violate this policy may be reported to:

Danny Shaha, Senior Director
Office of Student Conduct and Deputy Title IX Coordinator
120 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802
Phone: (814) 863-0342
Email: jds49@psu.edu

Concerns about conduct by an employee or third-party that may violate this policy should be reported to the Affirmative Action Office/Title IX Coordinator at:

Dr. Kenneth Lehrman III
Vice Provost for Affirmative Action and Title IX Coordinator
328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802
Phone: (814) 863-0471
Email: kfl2@psu.edu

Concerns about conduct by a student or student group may also be reported to the Title IX Coordinator in addition to or in lieu of contacting the Deputy Title IX Coordinator.
Today I learned what We Are...Penn State means. This is what I contribute to the Penn State community:

_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________

Building Your Lion Legacy

Campus Recreation—Provides opportunities to participate in recreation, sports, and fitness activities with an emphasis on fair play and healthy living. athletics.psu.edu/rec/

Center for Spiritual and Ethical Development—Provides a venue and programs for the ethical, spiritual, and moral development of the University community. studentaffairs.psu.edu/spiritual

Clubs & Organizations—More than 900 student clubs and organizations. studentaffairs.psu.edu/hub/studentorgs/orgdirectory

Engaged Scholarship—Out-of-classroom academic experiences that complement classroom learning. Allows you to practice what you learn in the classroom in a laboratory, the world of work, and/or in your community. engagedscholarship.psu.edu

Fraternity & Sorority Life—One of the largest Greek communities in North America, which consists of a diverse group of men and women with membership in more than 80 fraternities and sororities. studentaffairs.psu.edu/hub/greeks

Paul Robeson Cultural Center (PRCC)—Offers cultural enrichment, educational development, and social advancement for all students, as well as a space for study areas, student clubs, and activities. studentaffairs.psu.edu/cultural

Student Activities—Promotes involvement opportunities, student organization support, service learning, and leadership development. studentaffairs.psu.edu/hub/studentactivities

Tickets/Events—Offers listings of events from musical theatre to athletics, concerts to art shows, and more. events.psu.edu

Undergraduate Research—Opportunities to work with faculty mentors in the laboratory, studio, and field. undergradresearch.psu.edu

Tonight, I learned about the benefits of getting involved at Penn State. Here is how I plan to get involved:

_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
The Business of Being a Student

Bursar—Responsible for maintaining student tuition and billing accounts. bursar.psu.edu

Free Application for Federal Student Aid—Required to be completed every year for student aid consideration. fafsa.ed.gov

MoneyCounts—Webinar and workshop based financial literacy series to assist students in managing their money more efficiently. libraries.psu.edu/psul/researchguides/business/financialliteracy.html#moneycounts

Penn State Tuition—Information about student tuition, fees, and cost calculators. tuition.psu.edu

Project Cahir—Penn State Students United Against Poverty. Helps students struggling to meet their everyday needs by providing resources and tangible support. sites.psu.edu/projectcahir

Registrar—Maintains student academic records, including course registration, transcripts, and degree audits. registrar.psu.edu

Student Aid—Administers all major types of federal, state, and University financial aid, and coordinates the on-campus Work Study program. studentaid.psu.edu

Student Financial Education Center—Offers in-person, peer-to-peer financial education about budgeting, student loans, and credit. libraries.psu.edu/psul/business/sfec.html

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance—Provides free tax preparation services to low income, special needs, and senior citizen taxpayers. aese.psu.edu/extension/income-tax/vita

Educational Planning & Preparation

Each house below represents one of University Park’s academic colleges and the Division of Undergraduate Studies.

- We apply math and physical sciences to understand or manage environmental, energy, and materials processes.
- We apply upper-level math and physical science principles to solving technical and societal problems.
- We develop knowledge in the mathematical, physical, and life sciences as well as skills in scientific research.
- We apply scientific and business principals to the production of food/fiber and management of environmental resources.
- We apply life sciences, business, and socio-psychological principals to improving health and well-being.
- We develop qualified nurse leaders who improve the health of families, individuals, and communities through evidence-based practice.
- We focus on learning processes and challenges, and we develop knowledge and skills in a content area so we can teach or counsel others.
- We focus on the humanities, social sciences, and languages and build critical-thinking, complex-reasoning, communication, and writing skills.
- We focus on the exploration of academic opportunities at Penn State.
- We gather, analyze, and process information for decision making in the business world.
- We work in teams to see how information technology and people interact to solve real-life problems.
- We focus on mass media’s functions, responsibilities, changes, and impact on society.
The next few pages will assist you in the process of navigating Penn State’s scholarly opportunities. This will provide you with an overview of the academic structure of the University and guide you toward informed academic choices during your time at Penn State.

**Academic Planning**

Penn State grants degrees through its academic colleges. You are enrolled in an academic college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at Penn State’s University Park campus.

**Course Sequencing**

*MATH 140 + CHEM 110 = Science Focus*

*MATH 140 (Calculus with Analytic Geometry I) and CHEM 110 (Chemical Principles I) are foundation courses for higher-level science and math. Majors that require these courses have a strong focus on applying scientific principles using higher-level math and other science disciplines.*

*MATH 110 + World Language = Business Emphasis*

*Majors that require MATH 110 (Techniques of Calculus I) tend to focus on analytical problem solving, often in a business setting. These programs also emphasize intercultural understanding.*

*World Language = Intercultural/Breadth of Knowledge Emphasis*

*Majors that require world language proficiency tend to have either an intercultural focus or a liberal arts foundation indicative of breadth of knowledge.*

**Course Placement**

Your placements identify the sequence of courses you should take in English, mathematics, and chemistry to maximize your academic success in the foundation courses in each area. Penn State requires you to demonstrate readiness prior to taking English composition, mathematics, and chemistry in an effort to increase your success in critical courses and to facilitate timely progress for graduation.

*English*

All majors require ENGL 015 (Rhetoric and Composition), ESL 015 (Composition for American Academic Communication II), ENGL 030 (Honors Rhetoric and Composition), or ENGL/CAS 137H (Rhetoric and Civil Life I).

You will be placed in the English composition program based on your demonstrated writing skill as measured by the SAT-Writing exam.

*Mathematics & Chemistry*

Only some majors require MATH 110/MATH 140 or CHEM 110. See the Degree Programs Bulletin to see if the major you are targeting requires any of these courses. [bulletins.psu.edu](https://bulletins.psu.edu)

Your placement in mathematics and chemistry courses are determined by the ALEKS Math Assessment you took prior to attending NSO. You will not be permitted to take a course that is above your demonstrated readiness level. If you want to place into a higher-level course, you may use the ALEKS learning modules to improve your skills and retake the assessment. Once you begin a learning module, you have six weeks of access to the learning modules. You can access the ALEKS learning modules in eLion. [dus.psu.edu/aleks/improvescore.html](https://dus.psu.edu/aleks/improvescore.html)

*World Languages*

Only some majors require course work in a world language. Placement in world language courses is based on your prior course work:

- If you took 0–1 years of language: Start with LANG 001
- If you took 2–3 years of language: Start with LANG 002
- If you took 4+ years of language: Start with LANG 003

Completion of LANG 003 satisfies the world language requirement for most majors. If your major requires a world language, talk with your academic adviser about when to take the world language courses and whether to continue the language you studied in high school or start a new one. [handbook.psu.edu/content/scheduling-world-language-courses](https://handbook.psu.edu/content/scheduling-world-language-courses)
Entrance-to-Major Requirements

There are more than 160 majors offered at the University Park campus. Most students will declare a major in their second year. All Penn State majors have entrance requirements. Minimum entrance requirements and procedures are explained below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Majors</th>
<th>Entrance Requirements</th>
<th>Timing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most Majors</td>
<td>CGPA* of 2.00 or higher and completion of at least 29.1 credits (3rd semester standing)</td>
<td>Any time after requirements are met (ideally before the start of the fifth term)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majors with Academic Controls</td>
<td>Additional conditions such as CGPA* higher than 2.00, completion of specific courses, grade of C or higher in specific courses, successful audition, or portfolio review**</td>
<td>Any time after requirements are met (ideally before the start of the fifth term)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Majors with Administrative Enrollment Controls</td>
<td>Additional time-sensitive conditions such as CGPA* of 3.00 or higher, completion of specific courses, grade of C or higher in specific courses, completion of requirements within a designated credit window***</td>
<td>Within the designated credit window</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*CGPA=Cumulative Grade Point Average. Please see page 9 for more information.

**See advising.psu.edu/entrance-major-requirements-and-procedures for more information.

***See advising.psu.edu/administrative-enrollment-controls for specific entrance requirements for students matriculating to Penn State in Summer 2015, Fall 2015, or Spring 2016.

Majors Under Administrative Enrollment Controls

A few majors have more applicants than can be accommodated because of space, faculty, or other resource limitations and are under administrative enrollment control, which means that they have very specific and time sensitive entrance criteria. Take a look at this list and if the major you are considering is found below, talk to your academic adviser. Students who meet all established entrance criteria are guaranteed entry.

Smeal College of Business
Accounting, Corporate Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Finance, Management, Management Information Systems, Marketing, Risk Management, and Supply Chain & Information Systems

College of Communications
Advertising/Public Relations

College of Earth & Mineral Sciences
Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering

College of Engineering
Aerospace Engineering, Architectural Engineering, Bioengineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Nuclear Engineering

To be guaranteed entrance to these majors, students must be enrolled in the college offering the major or in the Division of Undergraduate Studies and, within a designated time frame, complete the required courses and have the minimum CGPA required for the intended major. Other requirements may also apply. Students are strongly encouraged to work closely with an academic adviser to discuss their goals and to review the specific entrance criteria for intended majors.

General Education

General Education lays the foundation for your university education, helping you to broaden your knowledge and skills beyond your major and to develop skills in communication, problem solving, collaboration, and the integration and evaluation of information. General Education is meant to help you become an informed citizen, who has a basic understanding of diverse values, traditions, and ways of understanding the world.

General Education courses are an integral part of the overall educational experience at Penn State. These courses should be selected carefully and in consideration of your goals, interests, and areas for growth.

For more information about General Education, visit:
- “What is General Education?”: bulletins.psu.edu/undergrad/generaleducation/generalEd2
- Undergraduate Advising Handbook: handbook.psu.edu/content/general-education
Academic Integrity

“Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest, and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at Penn State, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle.” (Faculty Senate policy 49-20)

Acts which violate the University’s Code of Conduct are considered acts of academic dishonesty. These include, but are not limited to:

- copying
- plagiarism
- fabrication of information or citations
- facilitation of acts of academic dishonesty by others
- unauthorized use of technology
- unauthorized possession of examinations
- submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor
- tampering with the academic work of other students
- unauthorized group work

Unfortunately, many students commit accidental violations of academic integrity simply because they don’t know that what they are doing is wrong. Academic dishonesty not only damages your personal reputation, but also the reputation of the entire University.

The University takes violations of academic integrity seriously. When an alleged act of academic dishonesty is believed to have occurred, the process begins with a conversation between the faculty member and the student and follows the procedures outlined by the Academic Administrative Policy and Procedure G-9 (psu.edu/oue/aappm/G-9-academic-integrity.html). Consequences for acts of academic dishonesty could include academic and disciplinary sanctions.

For more information about upholding academic integrity, visit:

- Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and Copyright: tutorials.istudy.psu.edu/academicintegrity
- Plagiarism Tutorial for Students: tlt.its.psu.edu/plagiarism/student-tutorial
- Academic Integrity in Advising @ PSU: handbook.psu.edu/content/academic-integrity

Academic Goals

Your transition to Penn State will impact your academic life; it is important to identify your academic goals so that you are able to make decisions and seek appropriate resources early. One common academic goal is often related to Grade Point Average (GPA).

There are two types of GPAs: Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA), and Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA). In order to make the Dean’s List, you must obtain an SGPA that is at least 3.50. The minimum CGPA required for graduation is a 2.00.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Dishonesty</td>
<td>XF</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are minimum GPAs that are offered as a suggestion for your academic planning. To be competitive for:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position/School</th>
<th>Minimum GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internships</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical School</td>
<td>3.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law School</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, visit:

- Medical School/Health Professions: science.psu.edu/premed
- Law School: dus.psu.edu/prelaw

One **academic goal** for my first year is: _______________________________________________________

My **strategies to reach this goal** are: _______________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Dishonesty</td>
<td>XF</td>
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Getting Connected: Technology @ Penn State

Access Account — The key to all of the technology resources at Penn State. Your Access Account is made up of a user ID—a combination of letters and numbers (i.e. abc5123) that make up your email address—and a password. You will need your Access Account for course registration during NSO and as a student at Penn State.

ANGEL — Penn State’s online course management system; access your syllabi and lessons, view your grades, and more. cms.psu.edu

Box — Access your files from anywhere, collaborate on documents by sharing them with others and editing them simultaneously, sync with multiple devices, and more. Students receive 50 GB of storage at no additional cost. box.psu.edu

eLion — Access the information and services needed to initiate and complete academic programs, review financial aid awards, view transactions on your student account, view/pay your tuition bill, and schedule courses for the upcoming semester. elion.psu.edu

ITS Downloads — Download up-to-date versions of Symantec anti-virus software for both Windows and Mac operating systems at no additional cost. Penn State requires students to have some form of anti-virus software on any computer connected to the University network. downloads.its.psu.edu

IT Service Desk — Provides technology support 24/7 by phone at 814-865-HELP (4357) or online. itservicedesk.psu.edu

lynda.com — Offers thousands of video tutorials including technical skills such as computer coding, creative techniques to help you with your in-class presentations, and tips for creating an eye-catching resume. Free with your Penn State Access Account. lynda.psu.edu

ResCom — Provides IT support to all students living on campus. ResCom service desks are in select Commons areas. rescom.psu.edu

software.psu.edu — Download Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and PowerPoint) for no additional cost from Software at Penn State. You can also purchase Adobe Creative Cloud subscriptions (Photoshop, InDesign, Premiere, and more) and other software for your courses at discounted rates. software.psu.edu

Tech Tutors — Provides free tutoring on the software that you will use on a regular basis to complete your coursework and fulfill your responsibilities as a student. techtutors.psu.edu

University Libraries — Many locations across campus that provide study rooms and access to online and print resources. The LionSearch feature allows you to simultaneously search through over six million books and 634 electronic databases, while focused research guides will help you have a more precise approach. libraries.psu.edu

Webmail — Allows you to view, compose, and manage your @psu.edu email in any web-browser. webmail.psu.edu

Wireless — Instructions for connecting to Penn State’s wireless network. wireless.psu.edu/using.html

My Access Account ID/PSU email: ______________________@psu.edu

Please keep your Access Account password private and secure. Never share your password with anyone, including your parents/family members. Penn State faculty or staff will never ask for your password.

You can access the Storify used in the Getting Connected session here: storify.com/ITatPennState/
Important Academic Resources

**Academic Advisers**—You will receive academic advising from professional and/or faculty advisers during your time at Penn State. You will find your assigned adviser’s contact information on eLion. Academic advising is student-initiated. Your adviser will help you make educational plans that suit your interests, strengths, and goals. dus.psu.edu/advisers/advising_centers.html

**Academic Colleges**—Explore Penn State’s colleges, resources, and information. psu.edu/academics/colleges

**Academic Advising Portal**—Your gateway to academic information, advising tools, and other online resources that can help you work with advisers to manage your academic progress, learn about educational opportunities outside the classroom, and find the guidance/support you need to be successful. advising.psu.edu

**Concurrent Majors/Double Majors**—Allows you to earn degrees in more than one Penn State major. handbook.psu.edu/content/concurrent-majors-program

**Education Abroad**—Opportunities for study abroad are coordinated through the University Office of Global Programs. If you’re interested in study abroad opportunities, ask your academic adviser or visit the University Office of Global Programs. global.psu.edu

**Major Quest**—An online tool that allows you to explore available majors at Penn State by interest. dus.psu.edu/students/majorquest

**Minors**—Academic programs that supplement a major. Typically require a minimum of 18 credits of coursework in a single area or across several disciplines. dus.psu.edu/students/minors.html

**Penn State Learning**—Offers many free resources on campus to help you succeed (e.g., tools to optimize your learning strategies; tutoring in math, writing, or language; drop-in Guided Study Groups for many first-year courses; strategies to improve note taking, time management, and test taking). You don’t need to be failing to seek help. pennstatelearning.psu.edu

**Recommended Academic Plan**—Provides a sample of how course work for a major can be completed within four years. Remember, these are a guide in selecting courses each semester. dus.psu.edu/students/sem_plans.html

**Undergraduate Advising Handbook**—Provides advising information regarding University-wide academic policies and procedures. handbook.psu.edu

**University Bulletin**—The official source for Penn State’s academic information, including course descriptions, major, and minor requirements. bulletins.psu.edu

Notes:

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New Student Arrival Checklist

Talk to Your Family
☐ Agree on how you will share information about your academic progress with your family.
☐ Discuss your mutual expectations for staying in touch. How often will you call? How often will you visit?
☐ Talk to your family about personal safety and decisions regarding alcohol and drugs.
☐ Talk about how you will finance your education. Brush up on how to manage a bank account. Discuss credit cards.

Organize Your Healthcare
☐ Submit your health history information online. studentaffairs.psu.edu/health/myUHS
   You will receive a letter with instructions.
☐ Copy and pack your health insurance and prescription cards.
☐ Make arrangements for your current and maintenance prescription medications.
☐ Reach out to Counseling and Psychological Services to arrange for ongoing counseling or psychiatric services. studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling

Complete Online Modules
☐ PSU SAFE (Student Alcohol Feedback and Education): edge.psu.edu/firstyear
☐ PSU AWARE (Sexual Assault Awareness): edge.psu.edu/firstyear
☐ Know the Code Quiz: edge.psu.edu/id/ktc
☐ PSU ANGEL/Course Management System: orientation.psu.edu/up/homework

Pay Your Tuition Bill
☐ Tuition bills are available on eLion. A bill is generated once you schedule classes and an email is sent to your Penn State email account when the bill is ready.
   ☐ Summer Session II: Bill due dates will vary
   ☐ Fall Semester due August 7, 2015
   ☐ Spring Semester due December 4, 2015
☐ Your family members will access the information you share through their Friends of Penn State Account. Provide access to Tuition/Bills, Hope/Lifetime Tax Credit, Academic Verification, Grades, etc. through the “Parent/Other Access” section of eLion.
☐ Find additional information about tuition rates and begin planning for future semesters. tuition.psu.edu

Prepare for Move-In
☐ View your room assignments and roommate information (mid-June for summer session, late July for fall semester). eliving.psu.edu.
☐ Introduce yourself to your roommate. studentaffairs.psu.edu/reslife/roommates/tips.shtml
☐ Find out what to pack. arrival.psu.edu/WelcomeWeek/UP/What-to-Pack.cfm
☐ Find out what to leave at home. arrival.psu.edu/WelcomeWeek/UP/What-to-Leave-Behind.cfm
☐ Register your computer or laptop if you are living on campus (at least three days before arrival). rescom.psu.edu
☐ Review move-in procedures; print out parking information. arrival.psu.edu/WelcomeWeek/UP/Maps-and-Directions.cfm
☐ Brush up on your laundry skills!
Prepare for Your First Semester

☐ Add your cell phone number to the PSUAlert system in order to receive text and/or voice updates. psualert.psu.edu

☐ Explore purchasing or renting textbooks (can be ordered in advance, bundled, and picked up) through the Penn State Bookstore. psu.bncollege.com

☐ Read Preface magazine and explore the Welcome Week schedule. Be sure to bring this to campus with you.

☐ Read your SBook.

☐ Finish The Boom by Russell Gold. Discuss with your family in preparation for your return to campus.

Participate in Welcome Week

☐ Attend required events including your College Dean’s Meeting and President’s New Student Convocation.

☐ Locate your classroom buildings and walk your class schedule.

☐ Discover opportunities and make new friends at the Involvement Fair.

☐ Visit welcomeweek.psu.edu.

Get the Semester Started

☐ Review your class schedule and use the drop/add period to make adjustments if necessary.

☐ Schedule an appointment with your academic adviser to continue making plans to meet your academic goals.

☐ Visit your instructor’s office hours.

☐ Attend Penn State Reads events throughout the academic year, including the keynote lecture, movie screenings & cultural events.

Other things I thought of during NSO

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2015-2016 Academic Calendar

Summer Session II 2015
New Student Arrival Day1 ................................................................. June 28
Summer Welcome ............................................................................. June 28–July 4
Classes Begin .................................................................................... July 1
Drop Periodd ................................................................. July 1–July 6
Add Periodd ..................................................................... July 1–July 7 at 8:00am
Independence Day (observed)—No Classes .................................... July 3
Fall Semester Tuition Bill Arrives (to student’s Penn State email account) .......... Mid–July
Late Drop Endsd ........................................................................ August 4
Fall Semester Tuition Due ............................................................... August 7
Withdrawal Deadline .................................................................... August 12
Classes End ................................................................................... August 13
Study Day ....................................................................................... August 14
Final Exams .................................................................................... August 15
Residence Halls close at Noon ...............................................................

Fall Semester 2015
Fall Semester Tuition Due ............................................................... August 7
New Student Arrival Days1 ............................................................. August 21–22
Welcome Week ................................................................................. August 21–29
Classes Begin .................................................................................... August 24
Drop Periodd ................................................................................... August 24–September 2
Add Periodd .................................................................................. August 24–September 3 at 8:00am
Labor Day—No Classes ................................................................. September 7
Final Exam Conflict Filing Period ..................................................... September 28–October 18
Parents & Families Weekend ............................................................. October 16–18
Spring Semester Tuition Bill Arrives (to student’s Penn State email account) .......... Mid–November
Late Drop Endsd ........................................................................ November 13
Residence Halls close at 10:00am ..............................................................
Thanksgiving Holiday—No Classes .................................................. November 22–28
Residence Halls reopen at 3:00pm ....................................................... November 29
Spring Tuition Due ........................................................................... December 4
Withdrawal Deadline ....................................................................... December 11
Classes End ..................................................................................... December 11
Study Days ...................................................................................... December 12–13
Final Exams ..................................................................................... December 14–18
Residence Halls close at 4:00pm ...............................................................

Spring Semester 2016
New Student Arrival Day1 ................................................................. January 9
Winter Welcome ................................................................................. January 9–16
Residence Halls open at 8:00am for returning students... January 9
Classes Begin .................................................................................... January 11
Drop Periodd ................................................................................... January 11–January 20
Add Periodd .................................................................................. January 11–January 21 at 8:00am
Martin Luther King Day—No Classes ............................................... January 18
Final Exam Conflict Filing Period ..................................................... February 15–March 6
Residence Halls close at Noon ............................................................. March 5
Spring Break—No Classes ............................................................... March 6–12
Residence Halls reopen at 10:00am ..................................................... March 13
Late Drop Endsd ........................................................................ April 8
Withdrawal Deadline ......................................................................... April 29
Classes End ..................................................................................... April 29
Study Days ...................................................................................... April 30–May 1
Final Exams ..................................................................................... May 2–6
Residence Halls close at 4:00pm ...............................................................

1 New international students will arrive several days prior to this date. 2 These dates apply to full semester courses.
Annual Security Report

Annually, Penn State publishes a report entitled “Policies, Safety, & U.” The report contains crime statistics from the previous three years that were reported to local police agencies, or to campus security authorities that occurred at the following locations: 1) on-campus, 2) in certain off-campus buildings, owned, or controlled by Penn State, 3) public property within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. The complete report can be found online: <www.clery.psu.edu/clery/security-reports/upload/UP14-3.pdf>

Crime Statistics: Clery Data Reported to University Police

The following annual security report provides crime statistics for selected crimes that have been reported to local police agencies or to campus security authorities. The statistics reported here generally reflect the number of criminal incidents reported to the various authorities. The statistics reported for the sub-categories on liquor laws, drug laws, and weapons offenses represented the number of people arrested or referred to campus judicial authorities for respective violations, not the number of offenses documented. This report complies with 20 U.S. Code Section 1092 (f).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFENSES</th>
<th>On-Campus Property</th>
<th>Public Property</th>
<th>Non-Campus</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Residence Hall</td>
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<td>Residence Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Murder/Non-negligent Manslaughter</td>
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<td>Negligent Manslaughter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sex Offenses - Forcible*</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Sex Offenses - Non-forcible</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
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<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Arson</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Residence Hall</td>
<td>Total On-Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Dating Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stalking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weapons</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>805</td>
<td>102</td>
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<th>REFERRALS</th>
<th>On-Campus Property</th>
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<td>Weapons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
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<td>292</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>450</td>
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<tr>
<th>HATE CRIMES</th>
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<th>Non-Campus</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Murder/Non-negligent Manslaughter</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negligent Manslaughter</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Offenses - Forcible</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1(Re)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Offenses - Non-forcible</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple Assault</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2(Re,Ra)</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intimidation</td>
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<td>3(2Ra,1Re)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
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<td>3(2Ra,1Re,S)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td>3(2Ra,1Re,S)</td>
<td>3(2Ra,1Re,S)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Hate Crime Key: (D) Disability (E) Ethnicity (Ra) Race (Re) Religion (S) Sexual Orientation (G) Gender (N) National Origin (Gi) Gender Identity