



PennState



NSO Guide

#PSU2021 #PSUNSO



Welcome to Penn State!

We are glad that you are joining us! As a Penn State student, you will have the opportunity to learn 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 make the most of your Penn State education.

Your transition to Penn State and your success while you're here is one of our most important goals. At New Student Orientation, you will be introduced to students, faculty, and staff who are available to help you succeed as a Penn State student. Take advantage of the time you're here for New Student Orientation. 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 engaged citizens within the Penn State and State College communities by providing you with information that allows you to make good, responsible choices.

After your New Student Orientation is complete, 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 2021. 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!

Dan Murphy
Director, Student Orientation & Transition Programs

A message about NSO

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 \$30.50 to cover your meals during NSO. We are unable to replace or reload the card, so keep it with you at all times. This card will provide you with access to the building you have been assigned to stay in for NSO.



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 and 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).

This NSO Guide is designed to be a workbook for you to use throughout your NSO.

There are many resources, including supplemental information, available on our website: orientation.psu.edu/up/resources.

Student Orientation and Transition Programs

301 Bank of America Career Services Center | University Park, PA 16802

814-865-4178 | orientation@psu.edu | orientation.psu.edu/up

The Penn State Student Code of Conduct

The Penn State Student Code of Conduct reinforces the Penn State Values 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 via LionPATH. If your parents/family members want to view your grades, access and pay your tuition bills, or obtain verification of enrollment, you must delegate them access for that specific purpose. Talk with your family members about what will best meet your needs.

LionPATH

LionPATH is Penn State's student information system, which provides students with access to their academic, registration, and financial records. In LionPATH, you can enroll in classes, view financial aid awards, view tuition bills, and check your grades.

Delegated Access & Authorized Payers

With the delegated access function in LionPATH, you can grant your parents/family members the ability to view a selection of your student data. The authorized payer function allows you to grant access to the Student Account Statement (bill). These are two separate steps.

In order to grant your parent/guardian the ability to view your LionPATH student information, you will need to log in to LionPATH to initiate the delegated access process. To set up delegated access, you will need your parent/family members personal email address. Once you grant access, your parent/family member will receive an email with further instructions on how to view your student data within LionPATH. Delegation is available through the following navigation: Self Service > Student Delegation > Guardian Options.

You may provide delegated access in LionPATH for the following areas:

- Financial aid
- Grades
- Holds
- Class schedule
- To-do list

You can grant access to authorized payers through your Student Center to enable them to view and pay the Student Account Statement (bill), enroll in the Installment Payment Plan, and access IRS 1098-T. After you grant access, a user ID, temporary password, and login link will be sent to the authorized payer. Authorized payer access is available following these steps: Self Service > Campus Finance > Manage My Account/Make a Payment > Authorized Payer > Add New.

Penn State Reads

Penn State Reads is a program for all first-year students at University Park designed to provide a shared reading 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.

It's What I Do: A Photographer's Life of Love and War, by Lynsey Addario is the 2017-18 Penn State Reads book. The book tells the story of Addario's life, from the first time she held a camera, to her extensive work as a photojournalist covering events in the Middle East after the September 11 attacks on the United States. Her book explores issues of gender, sexuality, politics, religion, and the challenges of conveying current events to an international audience. Addario also shares her struggles to be taken seriously as a female photojournalist in a war zone while simultaneously hoping for a family of her own. Addario has been recognized with a MacArthur Genius Grant and she has won a Pulitzer Prize for her work. Addario will be visiting campus October 16–17, 2017.

Pick up your free copy of *It's What I Do*. Read it before classes begin. Add your thoughts and reactions to the Penn State Reads conversation.

Smart & Safe at State

Consent Any sexual contact that occurs without consent violates Penn State’s policy. Consent must be informed, freely given, and mutual. If coercion, intimidation, threats, or physical force are used, there is no consent. If a person is mentally or physically incapacitated due to alcohol or drug consumption, or being asleep, or unconscious, consent can not be given. Silence does not necessarily constitute consent.

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.

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

- Gender-based Harassment (behavior consisting of physical or verbal conduct based on gender, sexual orientation, gender-stereotyping, perceived gender, or gender identity)
- 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)

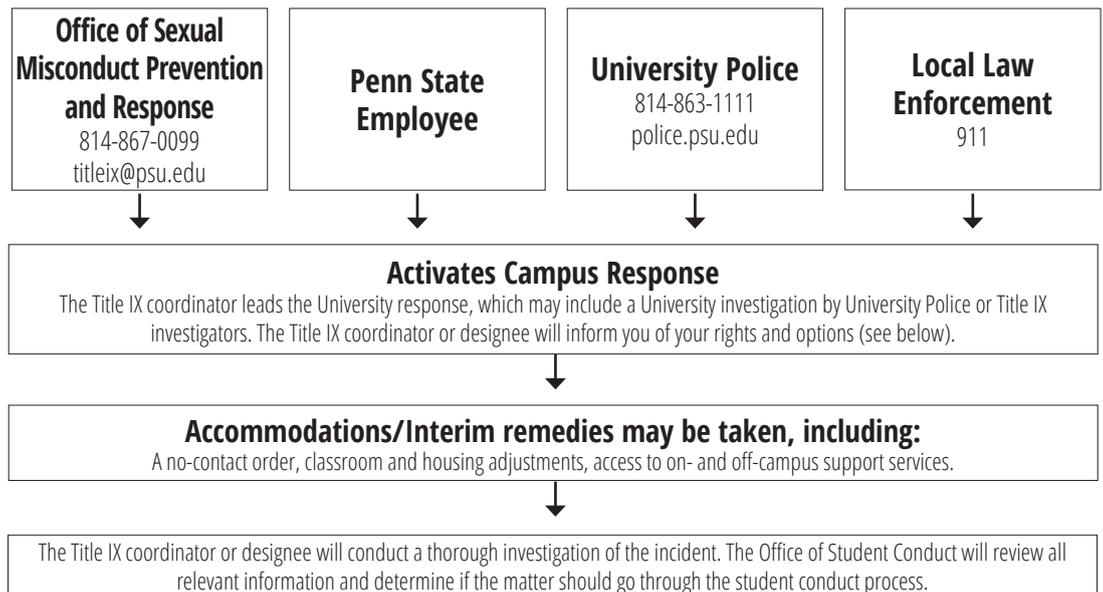
What are my options?

Penn State offers these confidential and non-confidential reporting options if you or a friend are a victim of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking.

Confidential Options

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) 814-863-0395 studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling
Center for Women Students 814-863-2027 studentaffairs.psu.edu/womenscenter
Centre County Women’s Resource Center 814-234-5050 ccwr.org
Want to learn more about University resources? Visit titleix.psu.edu

Reporting Options (Non-confidential)



Student survivors, witnesses, and bystanders who report, in good faith, any incident of sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking, will NOT be charged with an alcohol or drug violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

What are my rights?

You always have the right to:

1. Choose to report to the University.
2. Choose to report to law enforcement.
3. Choose to be connected with a counselor in CAPS or the Center for Women Students. These are trained Penn State employees who will support you.
4. Choose to participate in the Title IX and student conduct investigation, or not. You may decide to no longer participate at any time.
5. Request specific remedies including: adjustments to your class schedule, room change requests, adjustments to your work schedule, transportation assistance, support for reporting to local law enforcement.
6. Visit titleix.psu.edu for more information and resources.

To access the University’s Policy on discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, and related inappropriate conduct, please visit guru.psu.edu/policies/AD85.html.

Concerns about conduct that may violate this policy should be reported to Penn State’s Title IX Coordinator:

Paul Apicella, JD | 222 Boucke Building, University Park, Pa 16802 | Phone: (814) 867-0099 | Email: pua26@psu.edu

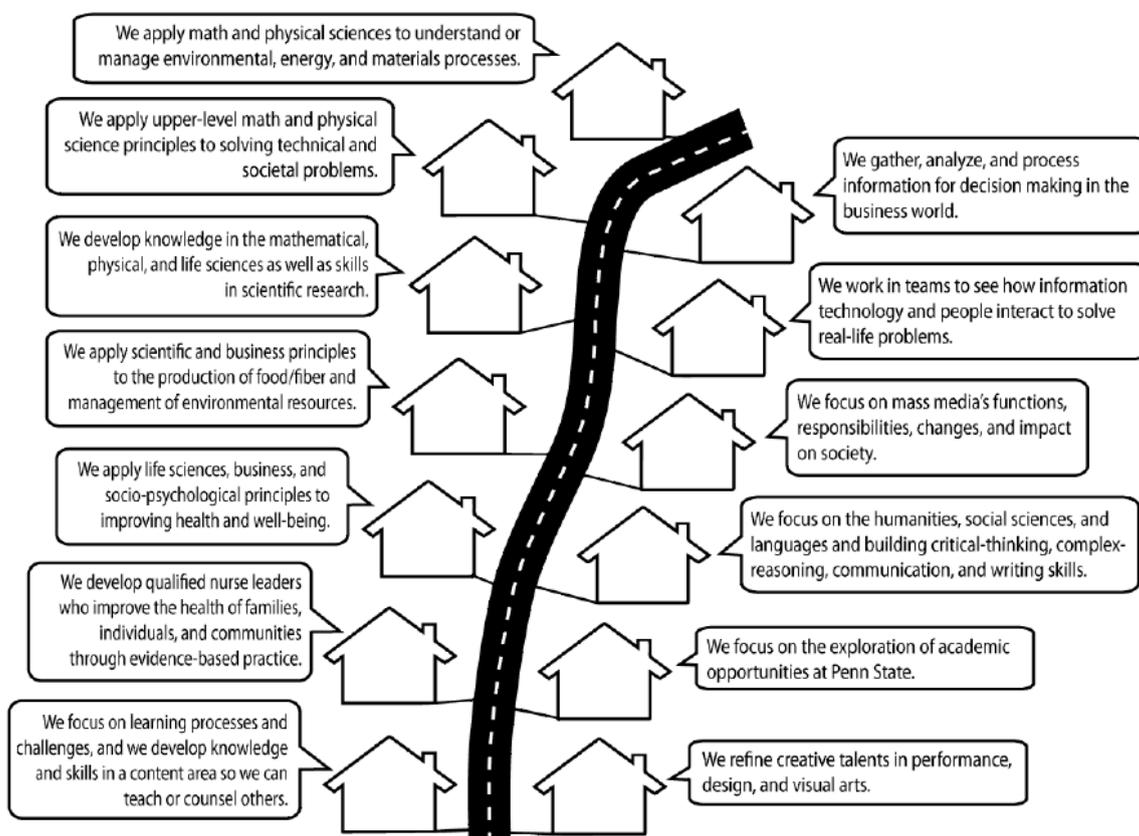
We Are...Penn State

Today, I learned about the importance of respecting and appreciating difference. My Orientation Leader shared the origins of “We Are Penn State” and we all shared what each of us will contribute to the Penn State community. Here is my **Penn State story in 10 words**: _____

Building Your Lion Legacy

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

Educational Planning & Preparation



My Top Three Colleges: 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____

Setting 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 **academic goal** for my first year is: _____

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

Course Placements

All students admitted to Penn State have demonstrated the ability to succeed academically. A Penn State education is meant to help you become an independent learner. Therefore, you need to develop new study skills, refine time management strategies, and actively use learning resources in order to be successful at the collegiate level. It's important for you to begin in the courses that match your readiness and are most likely to lead to success.

English Composition

All majors require ENGL 15 (Rhetoric and Composition), ESL 15 (Composition for American Academic Communication II), ENGL 30 (Honors Rhetoric and Composition), or ENGL/CAS 137H (Rhetoric and Civil Life I).

Your initial English composition placement is based on your SAT-Evidence-Based-Reading exam score, and may be adjusted after conversation with an academic adviser. Most students will take ENGL 15. Students with strong writing preparation may choose an honors composition course. Students whose SAT-READ scores suggest gaps may need some extra support to be successful in ENGL 15.

SAT-W Score	Placement
None	Consult with an adviser
200-419*	Schedule ENGL 4 before scheduling ENGL 15
420-519*	Schedule ENGL 15 or ENGL 4
520-679*	Schedule ENGL 15
680-800*	Schedule ENGL 15 or honors composition (e.g. ENGL 30)

*Students with scores that near placement cutoffs should consult with an academic adviser before selecting a course.

Quantification (GQ)

The ALEKS Math Assessment evaluates your readiness to take college-level quantification courses. Most science/engineering programs require MATH 140, while some liberal arts/professional programs (particularly business-focused programs) require MATH 110.

The chart below will help you understand your placement and determine your readiness level. You will not be permitted to take a course that is above your demonstrated readiness level.

Decisions about appropriate quantification (GQ) courses should be discussed with your adviser.

Required GQ Course for your Intended Major	Your ALEKS Score					
	0-13	14-29	30-45	46-60	61-75	76-100
Any Quantification (GQ)	Choose any appropriate GQ course for your intended major and for which you have met the prerequisite.					
STAT 200	MATH 3* →	MATH 4 →	STAT 200			
MATH 22	MATH 3* →	MATH 4 →	MATH 21 →	MATH 22		
MATH 26	MATH 3* →	MATH 4 →	MATH 21 →	MATH 26		
MATH 110	MATH 3* →	MATH 4 →	MATH 21 →	MATH 22 →	MATH 110	
MATH 140	MATH 3* →	MATH 4 →	MATH 21 →	MATH 22 & MATH 26 →	MATH 26 OR MATH 40* OR MATH 41 →	MATH 140

*Course not offered at all Penn State campuses.

You may use the ALEKS learning modules to improve your skills and retake the assessment if you wish to place into a higher-level course. You have access to ALEKS until the end of the drop/add period of your first semester (excluding summer). You can access the ALEKS learning modules in LionPATH. See advising.psu.edu/aleks/improvescore.html.

Chemistry

Many science, engineering, and health-focused programs require CHEM 110. CHEM 110 is a rigorous course involving significant mathematical manipulation and algebra proficiency. If you have no previous chemistry studies, begin with CHEM 101. If you have gaps in math and/or chemistry preparation, you need additional preparation before taking CHEM 110. Additional evaluation may be done during the beginning of the semester.

ALEKS Score	No high school chemistry course	Chemistry in 9th or 10th grade or chemistry more than two (2) years ago	Chemistry in 11th or 12th grade, Honors chemistry, or AP chemistry
60 or less	CHEM 101	MATH 22, then CHEM 110 + CHEM 108*	MATH 22, then CHEM 110
61 or higher	CHEM 101	CHEM 110	CHEM 110

**Any students who feel their chemistry preparation may be weak should consider also scheduling CHEM 108.*

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

Completion of LANG 3 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

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:

Majors	Entrance Requirements	Timing
Most Majors	Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 2.00 or higher and completion of at least 29.1 credits (3rd semester standing)	Any time after requirements are met (ideally before the start of the fifth term)
Majors with Academic Controls	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 <i>See advising.psu.edu/entrance-major-requirements for more detailed information for your intended major.</i>	Any time after requirements are met (ideally before the start of the fifth term)
Majors with Administrative Enrollment Controls	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 <i>See advising.psu.edu/administrative-enrollment-controls for specific entrance requirements for students matriculating to Penn State in summer 2017, fall 2017, or spring 2018.</i>	Within the designated credit window

Academic Consultation

It's time to talk about your academic direction. Let's start by reflecting on the college in which you are enrolled, your academic goals, and your academic interests:

- I feel I am starting in the college that best fits my goals and interests.
- I think I should discuss a possible change in my college of enrollment.

New Student Arrival Checklist

Complete Your Pre-NSO Homework

Some of the items on your Pre-NSO Homework list don't become available until you attend NSO. Please be sure to return to that online list (orientation.psu.edu/reservation) to complete the remaining items, such as:

- 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
- Submit your immunization verification form.
- Submit your health insurance information to LionPATH.
- Add your cell phone number to the PSUAlert system in order to receive text and/or voice updates. psualert.psu.edu
- Download the "Penn State Life" App.
- Find additional information about tuition rates and begin planning for future semesters. tuition.psu.edu

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

- 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

Pay Your Tuition Bill

- Tuition bills are available through LionPATH. You will receive notification via your Penn State email account when your tuition bill is available to view and pay through the Student Center in LionPATH.
 - Summer Session II: Bill due dates will vary.
 - Fall Semester bills are generated beginning August 1, 2017. Bills are due three (3) weeks after they are issued.
- Set up your parents/family members as Authorized Payers to access Higher One to view and/or pay your tuition bills.

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/arrival-schedule-up
- Brush up on your laundry skills!

Prepare for Your First Semester

- 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 *It's What I Do* by Lynsey Addario. Discuss with your family in preparation for your return to campus.

Participate in Welcome Week

- Attend required events including President's New Student Convocation and your College Dean's Meeting.
- Locate your classroom buildings and walk your class schedule.
- Discover opportunities and make new friends at the Involvement Fair on August 23.
- 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 year, including the keynote lecture, movie screenings, and cultural events.

Other things I thought of during NSO

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This publication is available in alternative media upon request.

The University is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in the state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, genetic information, or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University's educational mission, and will not be tolerated. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to Dr. Kenneth Lehman III, Vice Provost for Affirmative Action, Affirmative Action Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901; Email: kfl2@psu.edu; Tel: 814-863-0471 UGE 17-103 MPC143263

