

THE LION'S ROAR



The monthly newsletter for Penn State Berks

IMPORTANT DATES

Aug. 16 - Sept. 7 Intent to Graduate Activation Period*

Aug. 20 First-Year Residential Student Move-In**

Aug. 22

- Upperclassmen Residential Student Move-in**
- Course Registration Deadline

Aug. 23 Classes Begin

Aug. 28 Regular Drop Deadline (11:59pm ET)

Aug. 29 Regular Add Deadline (11:59pm ET)

Aug. 30

- Fall 2021 Bill Due
- Installment Payment Plan (IPP) enrollment deadline***

*Intent to Graduate is ONLY for students planning to graduate at the end of Fall 2021

**For more information about residential student arrival, visit [this webpage](#). For information about your room assignment and meal plan election, visit [eLiving](#).

***If you enroll in the **Installment Payment Plan** (IPP) by the first payment (8/30), your second, third, and fourth installments are due on the 22nd of the three subsequent months. Read more [here](#).

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- **Important Dates** (p. 1)
- **Support for Students** (p. 1)
- **COVID Resources** (p. 2)
- **Learning Resources** (p. 2)
- **Navigating Finances: Bursar** (p. 3)
 - Paying Tuition
- **Navigating Finances: Financial Aid** (p. 4)
 - Satisfactory Academic Progress
 - Verification
- **Academic Advising** (p. 5)
 - Walk-in Advising
 - Course Enrollment
 - Exploring Berks Majors
- **Connecting on Campus** (p. 6)
 - Welcome Weekend
 - Welcome Week
 - Social Media Accounts to Follow

Support for Students

Penn State offers a wide range of support to students in need. If you are concerned about yourself or someone else, please reach out today!

Care Report Form

- **WHEN:** Concerns regarding academics, physical or mental health/safety, or finances.

Sexual Misconduct

- **WHEN:** Concerns regarding sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking.

Bias Reporting

- **WHEN:** Concerns regarding bias, intolerance, discrimination, harassment, and/or incivility.



COVID RESOURCES

👉 Penn State Berks COVID Resource

👉 KeepLearning.psu.edu: Offers student support for remote learning, resources for academic advising and tutoring, and contact information.

👉 VirusInfo.psu.edu: Penn State's primary website. Features links to latest PSU news and answers to frequently asked questions. The site's resources page contains links to

- dedicated resources for students and employees
- information on COVID testing, contact tracing, and monitoring for the campus community
- classroom and office guidance
- policies on masking and social distancing.



We offer FREE TUTORING!

Get started EARLY!!

For help with Math, Science, or Study Skills make an appointment with our Learning Center Tutors [here](#) 👉

For help with a paper, speech, resume, or other written material make an appointment with our Writing Center Tutors [here](#) 👉

Thun Library Fall 2021 Hours

Monday - Thursday : 9am – 10pm

Friday: 9am – 5pm

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: 2pm - 8pm

To reserve a study room, search for textbook course reserves, and review equipment to borrow, visit [this webpage](#) 👉

Tips for Academic Success:

- 👉 • Understanding the Syllabus
- 👉 • Effective Communication (with professors)

Important Penn State Systems:

- 👉 • Canvas
- 👉 • Office365 (including Outlook email)
- 👉 • LionPATH
- 👉 • Starfish
- 👉 • Information Technology
- 👉 • Berks Campus Calendar

Starting on the Right Foot



NAVIGATING FINANCES: BURSAR



What is the Bursar?

- The Office of the Bursar is responsible for maintaining student accounts pertaining to tuition billing, acceptance fees, charges, payments, posting of Financial Aid, and refunds (when applicable).

Which payment forms are accepted by the Bursar?

- This office accepts student payments in a variety of forms including via E-check & credit card through LionPATH, cash, check, or money order/certified check.

When are Fall 2021 bills due?

- Billing begins in August for the Fall semester with a due date of 8/30/21. Due dates can be found [here](#).👉
- If you have scheduled your classes prior to July 31, 2021, your statement can be viewed in LionPATH now.
 - If you have not scheduled your classes yet, please contact your academic adviser to do so. Once your classes are scheduled, your statement will be available to view in LionPATH during the first week of September with a due date of 9/22/21.
 - Note, if you register for classes on or after 8/30/21, you may be charged a \$250 late registration fee.

Is there a payment plan?

- Students may enroll in the Installment Payment Plan (IPP), allowing payments in increments over 4 months. More information about the IPP can be found [here](#).👉
- Note, if you do not have a statement (due to scheduling courses after July 31) but would like to enroll into the IPP, you will need to wait until your statement is available during the first week of September to enroll into the plan.
 - When enrolling in the IPP in September, half of the balance due is required at the time of enrollment. Please note that there is a \$45 enrollment fee.

Learn more about the Bursar here: <https://www.bursar.psu.edu>👉

Contact Bursar

Phone: 610-396-6040

No answer? Leave a message with your name, phone number, 9-digit PSU ID number, and reason for calling

Email: bkbursar@psu.edu

Office: 125 Franco Building

NAVIGATING FINANCES: FINANCIAL AID

What is the Financial Aid Office?

The Financial Aid Office is responsible for the awarding and disbursement of financial aid.

This is the office students contact if they have been selected for **verification**, have questions about the **FAFSA**, and/or want to know their **aid amount and type** (e.g., loans, scholarships, grants).

Important note: Penn State cannot meet the full financial need of all students. Students and their families/supporters have the primary responsibility of paying tuition and other costs. **Education loans** comprise the largest percentage of all available student aid.

Learn more about Financial Aid here:

- Berks: <https://berks.psu.edu/financial-aid>
- University: <https://studentaid.psu.edu/>



What is SAP?

Satisfactory Academic Progress is reviewed yearly and determines a student's Federal financial aid eligibility.

SAP: Two Key Factors

- Cumulative GPA of a 2.00 or higher
- Completion rate of 67% or higher. This means passing 67% of the TOTAL credits (not courses) you have ever attempted at Penn State.

Learn more [here](#)

Contact Financial Aid

Phone: 610-396-6070

No answer? Leave a message with your name, phone number, 9-digit PSU ID number, and reason for calling

Email: BerksFinAid@psu.edu

Office: 14 Perkins Student Center



What is Verification?

Verification is a federal regulation that requires colleges and universities to verify the information provided by students and parents on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

- If you completed the 2021-2022 FAFSA, you may see verification requests in LionPATH in your HOLDS or TO-DO List. Complete all requests as soon as possible!
- The requests will be for the "2022" aid year in LionPATH. For questions about verification, learn more [here](#)

ACADEMIC ADVISING: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW NOW!

WALK-IN ADVISING

- Students can meet with an academic adviser virtually or in-person between August 23 - 27 from 8:00am – 4:00pm.
 - **Virtual drop-in** link: Join this Zoom link <https://psu.zoom.us/j/96636141453>
 - **In-person drop-in:** Come to the office and sign in for a walk-in appointment. You will have the option to meet with an adviser virtually or in-person.
- Reasons to meet with an adviser during the first week of classes
 - Verify that your course schedule satisfies your major's and/or minor's requirements
 - Add courses
 - Remove courses

The Academic Advising Office is located in 160 Franco Building. The phone number is 610-396-6280.



EXPLORING BERKS MAJORS

LIONSIDE CHATS

- LionSide Chats are an opportunity to develop a sense of connection and community for our local Berks County community at large.
- Review the "Majorly Prepared" series archive to learn about many of the majors offered at Penn State Berks!
 - <https://sites.psu.edu/lionsidechats/?s=majorly+prepared>

ACADEMICS WEBPAGE

- At Penn State Berks, students can enroll in one of our 21 baccalaureate degrees, one of our 4 associate degree programs, or complete the first two years of more than 275+ baccalaureate degree programs offered by Penn State.
- Learn about program options and requirements here
 - <https://berks.psu.edu/academics>

Fall 2021 Course Load

- A student's academic course load will impact their degree progression and financial aid eligibility.
 - To be considered a full-time student, you must enroll (and maintain for the duration of the semester) at least 12 credits.
 - To be considered a part-time student, you must enroll (and maintain for the duration of the semester) between 6 and 11 credits.
 - Learn more [here](#)
- **TIP:** Review your Fall 2021 course schedule in LionPATH within the first two days of the semester. If you are not enrolled in the minimum number of credits needed (based on your preferred part-time or full-time status) meet with an academic adviser before the first Friday of the semester to adjust your schedule!



NEW STUDENTS: GET CONNECTED ON CAMPUS

Welcome Weekend 2021

DATES: August 21st & 22nd

Learn more and see the full schedule:

<https://berks.psu.edu/welcome-weekend> ➡

[Register for Welcome Weekend here](#) ➡

Penn State Berks offers a variety of programs, events, and activities designed to welcome new students to our campus community. These events are created and facilitated by student leaders (i.e., Orientation Leaders) with the goal of helping each student transition to Berks--whether that transition is from high school, from another institution, or returning to formal education after some time away. The weekend is an exciting way to begin your journey at Berks, make new friends, and acclimate to the campus.



First Week of Fall 2021

DATES: August 23 through 27, 2021

Read the "This Week at Berks" email (in you Penn State email) for more details!

The Office of Campus Life in collaboration with Campus Activities Board, presents a week-long schedule of activities and programs to help students connect with the campus community.

- **First Year Convocation on Monday, August 23 at 12:15pm**
 - **WHAT IS IT?** An official introduction to academic and student life at Penn State Berks for all new students (i.e., first-year, transfer, and adult learners).
- **Club Rush on Wednesday, August 25 at 12:15pm**
 - **WHAT IS IT?** Involvement fair where all students can learn more about and begin connecting with the various clubs and organizations at Penn State Berks.
- **Arts and Lecture Series on Friday, August 27 at 6pm**
 - **WHAT IS IT?** Year long series which brings popular figures and world-renowned researchers to campus.
- **Penn State Berks Community Weekend on August 28 and August 29**
 - **WHAT IS IT?** Offers additional opportunities to make connections through activities facilitated by our student leaders
- **AND MORE**, like events hosted by a Penn State Berks favorite, Crazy Bob

Stay informed of campus activities, follow us on social media!

INSTAGRAM:

[@berkscampuslife](#), [@berkswelcomeleaders](#), [@psubk_cab](#)

FACEBOOK:

Official Penn State Berks Class of 2025
Penn State Berks Student Life

