



VOL.38 | DECEMBER 2024

THE LION'S ROAR

The monthly newsletter for Penn State Berks

What's Inside?

Page 1: Important Dates | Mobile id+ Updates

Page 2: Residential Student Considerations | Winter Break Campus Hours | Inclement Weather Policy

Page 3: End of Semester Assessments | Withdrawal | Deferred Grades

Page 4: End of Semester Wellness

Page 5: Winter Break Essentials including FAFSA, Internship, and Scholarship information

Page 6: ICYMI including Fall 2024 Aid, Spring 2025 Course Enrollment, Tutoring Resources, and Reporting Concerns

Page 7: Campus Resource List

Important Dates

Dec. 1 - 31:

- 2025-26 On-campus Housing Request Continues¹
- Spring 2025 Course Registration Continues²

Dec. 13:

- Last day of classes
- Withdrawal Deadline at 5p.m.³

Dec. 16 - Dec. 20: Final Exam Week

Dec. 21:

- Fall Commencement (Graduation) at 10a.m.⁴
- Residence Halls Close at 12p.m. (for residential students)

Dec. 23 - Jan. 10: Winter Break (No Classes)

Dec. 24 - Jan. 1: Berks Campus is CLOSED

LOOKING AHEAD

Jan. 2 - 27: Intent to Graduate Activation Period⁵

Jan. 10: Leave of Absence Deadline

Jan. 12:

- Residence Halls reopen at 11a.m. (for residential students)
- Spring Course Registration Deadline

Jan. 13: Spring Classes Begin

1 Learn more about the **on-campus housing request process** [here](#).
2 Course registration dates vary by student. Dates are based on the total number of credits earned. **View the [Registration Timetable](#) for more information.**

3 Withdrawal will impact degree progress and may have financial implications. **Read more about [Withdrawal](#) on page 3.**

4 **Fall 2024 graduates**, learn more about the Berks campus graduation ceremony held at Santander Arena. Learn more [here](#).

5. **Spring 2024 graduates**, learn more about submitting your *intent to graduate* [here](#).

Mobile id+ Here to Stay

To simplify user experiences and enhance the security of University resources, Penn State IT has announced the **mobile id+ card** as Penn State's primary credential. The mobile id+ card provides a single digital identity that allows students, faculty, and staff to use their personal mobile devices to access campus buildings, securely make purchases with a meal plan or LionCash, and more.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- Physical Penn State ID cards will be deactivated on February 17, 2025.
 - If you **currently use mobile id+**: your physical id+ card will be deactivated on Feb. 17.
 - If you **only have the physical id+ card**: you have the option to keep the physical card or activate the mobile id+ card.
 - To activate the mobile id+ card after Feb. 17, call the id+ Office at 814-865-7590.

I NEED MORE INFO!

- Visit <https://idcard.psu.edu/mobile-id-card> to learn more.
- For questions, email the id+ Office at idcard@psu.edu



PennState

Get your mobile id+ card in 5 minutes!

Visit idcard.psu.edu/mobile to learn more.

1. Download the Transact eAccounts app.
2. Log into your Penn State account.
3. Activate your mobile id+ card.



Apple Wallet



Google Wallet



Samsung Wallet





WINTER AT BERKS

Residential Student Considerations

WINTER BREAK HOUSING

- Housing is not available over the winter break. Students are encouraged to reach out to the Director of Student Affairs and the Associate Director of Student Affairs if they need assistance.

SPRING 2025 HOUSING

- If students have a bursar balance due for Fall 2024 and are not scheduled for the Spring 2025 semester, they will not be allowed to return to the residence halls in January.



MANAGING YOUR STUDENT MEAL PLAN

- How do I check my meal plan balance?**
 - Students can check their meal plan balance online at idcard.psu.edu/manage-accounts.
 - Available balances are also displayed at campus dining registers and on receipts. It is important to understand that the registers display a combined meal plan and LionCash account balance.
- What happens to my leftover meal plan funds?**
 - Dining dollars from fall semester will transfer to spring semester.
 - Any unused dining dollars for the academic year expire at the end of spring semester.
 - Students can manage their Campus Meal Plan through eLiving until the last day of the semester.
- Can I change my meal plan?**
 - Students can change their meal plan level at any time in eLiving, until the last day of the semester.
 - If a student is running low on funds, the meal plan can be supplemented with LionCash and still receive the deeper Campus Meal Plan discount.

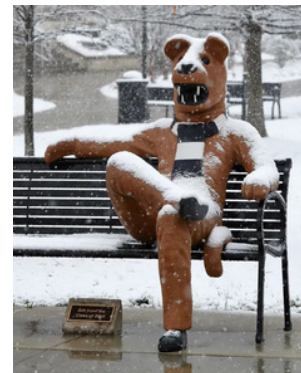
Winter Break Campus Hours

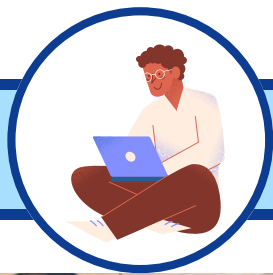
- ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER**
 - Tuesday, Dec. 24 - Wednesday, Jan. 1: CLOSED
- BEAVER ATHLETIC & WELLNESS CENTER**
 - Sunday, Dec. 15: Open from 3p.m. - 8p.m.
 - Monday, Dec. 16 - Wednesday, Dec. 18: Open from 7:30a.m. - 11p.m.
 - Thursday, Dec. 19: Open from 10a.m. - 11p.m.
 - Friday, Dec. 20 - Sunday, Jan. 5: CLOSED
- HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICES**
 - Creekside:**
 - Last day of operation is Friday, Dec. 20.
 - Open from 11a.m. - 8p.m.
 - Cyber Cafe:**
 - Last day of operation is Thursday, Dec. 19.
 - Open from 8:30a.m. - 4p.m.
 - Tully's:**
 - Last day of operation is Friday, Dec. 20.
 - Open from 7:30a.m. - 8p.m.
 - Saturday, Dec. 21 - Sunday, Jan. 12: No food service available on campus.
- RESIDENCE HALLS**
 - Saturday, Dec. 21 at 12p.m.: CLOSE
 - Sunday, Jan. 12 at 11a.m.: RE-OPEN
- THUN LIBRARY**
 - Sunday, Dec. 22 - Wednesday, Jan 1: CLOSED

Snow Days, in College?!

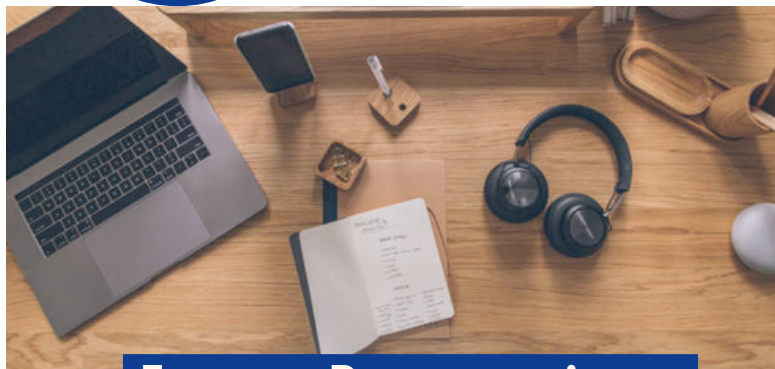
In the event of significant ice or snow accumulation, the Chancellor might take any of the the actions listed below. Weather emergencies and resulting delays, cancellations and closures are communicated via the [PSU Alerts system](#). This information is also listed at the top of the College's website and typically communicated through the College's official social media platforms.

- Delay classes, aligning with the schedule outlined [here](#).
- Cancel classes for the morning, afternoon, and/or evening.
- Close the campus, advising faculty, staff, and students not to come in and announce a reopening time.
- Review the full policy and procedures [here](#).





ACADEMIC PLANNING



Exams, Presentations, Papers, oh my!

Professors typically end a course by assessing a student's overall learning. This can be done through final papers, projects, presentations, or exams.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- **How many?** Will you have an assessment in all courses?
- **When?** When are assessments held and/or due?
- **Where?** Are assessments to be completed online or in-person?
- **What to study?** Are assessments cumulative (i.e., from the start of the course)?
- **What's the impact?** Are assessment grades weighted?

FINDING YOUR FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

- On your LionPATH Dashboard, scroll to "Final Exam Schedule" which will list of all your exams scheduled during Finals Week.
 - Click "More" in the right corner of the "Final Exam Schedule" section to see a comprehensive list.
- Confirm LionPATH information by checking your course syllabi and Canvas!

Final Exam Schedule

[MORE](#)

CAS 232N 001 Horror Film and Identity

12/17/2024 6:00PM-7:50PM

Gaige Tech-Bus Innov Bldg 121

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students with three (3) or more exams in one day can speak with their professors about moving one exam to another day.

Clear the Slate on Fall 2024

As the semester is ending, some students may realize that their performance will not meet the minimum academic expectations of the university. If you are worried about your ability to pass the majority of your courses, it will be especially important to discuss your options with your professors and with your academic advisor. At this point in the semester, faculty and/or advisors may recommend a **WITHDRAWAL**.

???



WHAT IS A WITHDRAWAL?

- Student action used to eliminate **ALL courses** from their **currently enrolled** course roster. This action will also cancel courses already scheduled for future semesters. Learn more [here](#).

• WHEN IS THE DEADLINE?



- Friday, December 13, 2024, at 5 p.m.

Pro Tip: Do NOT wait until the deadline, just in case you run into any issues and/or need support.

• WHAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED/DONE **BEFORE**?



- Speak with your **professor(s)**. **DISCUSS** whether earning a passing grade is possible.
- Speak with an **academic advisor**. **ASK** about impacts to your major, upcoming semester, and graduation timeline.
- Speak with **Financial Aid**. **ASK** about impacts to financial aid now or in the future including potential loss of federal (e.g., loans), state (e.g., grants), and Penn State funding (e.g. scholarships).
- **International students in F-1 status**, speak with your international student adviser to determine if your compliance with F-1 enrollment requirements will be impacted.

• WHAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED/DONE **AFTER**?



- Meet with an academic advisor to discuss re-enrollment for the next semester.
- Adjust next semester's course schedule as needed.

Special Case: Deferred Grades

If a student is prevented from completing a course within the prescribed amount of time, it is possible to have the grade for that course deferred. This allows students to complete the course at a later date. **Approval for a deferred grade must be given by the instructor of the course and is typically approved only when extreme and well-documented circumstances inhibit student progress.**

- **Timeline:** Approval needs to be granted **prior to** the beginning of the final exam period of the semester in which the course is taken.
- Learn more about Deferred Grades at <https://www.registrar.psu.edu/grades/deferred-grades.cfm>



END OF SEMESTER WELLNESS

Not so Happy for the Holidays

Written by M.N., Communication Arts & Sciences Major

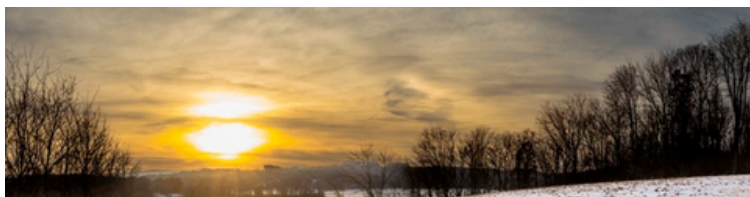
Are you feeling a little gloomier than you did a few months ago during Brat summer? As we continue through the holiday season, you might actually be feeling more down than you usually do! And that's ok and normal. It's your body's reaction to change, so here are a few suggestions from a fellow student!

1. **Spend as much time in the daylight as possible.** Our bodies love the sun, that ball of fire that will destroy us in 4 billion years. The sun actually plays a crucial role in supplying us with Vitamin D and helps our circadian rhythm (the clock inside us that tells us if its day or night)! It also helps with serotonin production, also known as the happy chemical! So, go outside and get "high" on the literal light beaming down at you.
2. **Make sure you're eating healthy.** If you aren't getting those vitamins from the sun, get them from food! Before winter break, some vegetables will probably be served in Tully's! Though you might need to look very hard or settle for a salad!
3. **Move your body.** Visit the gym to walk, jog, bike, lift weights, do yoga, dance, stare at the ab machine, play sports, do any physical activity to get those endorphins flowing. Bonus points if you bring a friend!
4. **Come talk to our lovely counselors, Colleen Tillger, Autumn Fritz, or Brandon Ballantyne.** Before winter break, schedule a sesh or attend an upcoming event. Our campus counselors can offer an ear that listens and strategies that help manage various experiences. I promise it doesn't hurt, especially during these times of change. Request an appointment by emailing amr40@psu.edu and crt5292@psu.edu!

- a. Join our campus counselors on **Dec. 4 at 5p.m.** for *When It Sucks to Go Home* and **Dec. 11 at 6p.m.** for *Craft & Chat*. Events are hosted in the Ivy Lounge (in the Residence Halls) and open to all students.

We are currently living in a period of change both seasonally and politically, so feeling alone and unheard is very common. Please take the time to take care of yourself because you matter. It's true!

-The Goblin in the Counseling Corner



De-Stress at Thun Library



Visit Thun Library between Dec 9 – 20 for the annual De-Stress Fest. Features include: De-Stress Station (arts & crafts), Study Spaces, Sensory Room, Wellness Collection, and Research Assistance.

The following special events are happening with snack drops throughout the event.

- **Monday, Dec 9:** Therapy Dogs from 7p.m. – 8p.m.
- **Tuesday, Dec 10:** Donuts & Coffee starting at 10a.m.
- **Wednesday, Dec 11:** Soft pretzels from the Philly Pretzel Factory starting at 12:15p.m.
- **Thursday, Dec 12:** Hot Cocoa starting at 6p.m.
- **Friday, Dec 13:** Screen Printing in the Makers Space from 10a.m. – 2p.m.
- **Sunday, Dec 15:** Coffee & Cookies starting at 2p.m.

Library hours of operation can be found here: <https://libraries.psu.edu/monthly-hours/berks>

Wellness Resources

- **24/7 Penn State Crisis Line** can be used in consultation for those at PSU to support someone who is experiencing a crisis or for yourself. You can reach the Crisis Line by:
 - Call 1-877-229-6400 or Text "LIONS" to 741741
- **Life Hack Kits** are free step-by-step wellness packages designed to help navigate and demystify the perplexing parts of being human.
 - Learn more at <https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/wellness-services/life-hacks>
- **WellTrack Boost** is a tool designed to help understand the activities associated with changes in mood and motivation, as well as to identify patterns in daily activities and how they are associated with changes in emotional states.
 - Get FREE PSU access at <https://psu.welltrack.com/>



WINTER BREAK ESSENTIALS

Internship Search Prime Time

Written by Lauren Ziegler, Writing and Digital Media Major

Winter break is an ideal time to focus on your career development and apply for internships. With classes on *paws* (get it?), you will have some extra time to think about your future. In today's competitive job market, personal branding is key. It allows you to market your professional identity, highlight your unique skills and values, and differentiate yourself from other candidates.

To build your personal brand, start by reflecting on your strengths, experiences, and goals. Then, craft a clear and concise personal brand statement tailored to your target audience. Be sure to integrate this statement across all your professional platforms, including your resume and LinkedIn profile, which helps to effectively communicate your values. By embracing your individuality and presenting yourself confidently, you will attract more opportunities and expand your network.

The **Penn State Berks Career Services Office** offers several resources to help you secure an internship:

- **Internship Search:** Use [Nittany Lion Careers](#), the PSU job and internship portal, to find and apply for opportunities. Career Services also hosts virtual networking events and career fairs to connect you with employers.
- **Application Assistance:** Get resume reviews, cover letter workshops, and mock interviews to ensure your application materials are polished and professional.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Meet industry professionals and learn about internship opportunities firsthand.

Make the most of winter break by taking advantage of these resources and setting yourself up for success. Visit the [PSU Berks Career Services website](#) or schedule an appointment before winter break!

Scholarship Season Begins!

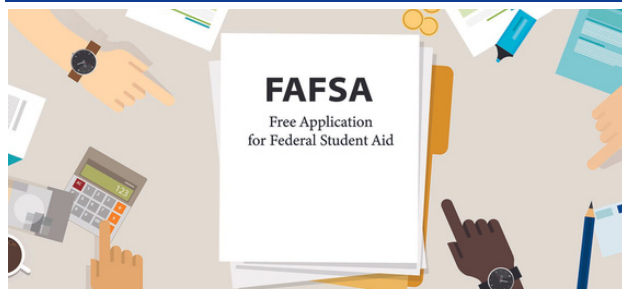
FACT: Winter Break is the best time to search for and apply for 2024-25 scholarships as many open in December and January.

TIP: Dedicate time during winter break to seeking out scholarships! Set a goal to *apply for* at least double your cost to attend college!

WHERE TO START:

- [Click here for outside scholarships](#) recommended by PSU.
- Check to see if your home county has a *community foundation*.
- Check with an employer for yourself (current or previous) or your guardian(s).

It's Time: FAFSA is Open



December 1 is the public release date for the FAFSA form. If you are returning to college for the 2025-2026 academic year, prepare for FAFSA completion by gathering:

- **Federal Student Aid account log in info.** *Remember*, there are separate logins required for student & contributor.
- **2023 Federal Tax Information (FTI)** including 2023 W2s, 1099s, Schedule C, 1, 2, 3, etc. *Remember*, consent for FTI transfer from IRS is now **REQUIRED** for all.
- **Asset and Investment Information.** Visit <https://studentaid.gov/2425/help/current-net-worth> for more info.

PRO TIPS:

- Access the FAFSA Application at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- Complete your FAFSA during winter break--it should take less than 10 minutes to complete!
- If possible, complete your FAFSA the same day you start it! You can save your progress and come back to the application later. However, your progress may delete after 45 days if not submitted. Check in with your contributor to make sure they complete their section in a timely manner to avoid issues.

Your Berks Fin Aid Counselor

- **Name:** Johnée Border, M.S.
- **Title:** Assistant Director of Financial Aid
- **Pronouns:** We/us/ours | He/him | 他 | Tā | Xe
- **Need support?**
 - **Email**, BerksFinAid@psu.edu
 - Daily **drop-in** hours hosted from 11:30am – 1pm but **appointments** are recommended. Book with Johnee [here](#)
 - **Call**, 610-396-6070 *No answer? Leave a message with your name, phone number, 9-digit PSU ID number, and reason for calling!*
- **Fun Fact:** I play the bass and trombone; who wants to start a ska band?





ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

MANAGING AID

FOR THE CURRENT AID YEAR (2024-25)

- **2024-25 Paper FAFSA:** If you filed a paper FAFSA but none of your financial aid has been processed, reach out to Financial Aid for support.
- **Holds & To Do List:** Unresolved Financial Aid To Do List Items may prevent aid from disbursing on time (or at all) to a student's bill. This can lead to a *Bursar Account Delinquent Hold*.
 - An unresolved Bursar Account Delinquent Hold will prevent the student from registering for courses in future semesters.
- **Accepting Loans:** Loans must be accepted before the end of the fall semester in order to process and pay any remaining Fall balance. **Note:** If you previously declined loans and would like to accept them, reach out to Financial Aid for support.
- **Fall 2024 Graduates:** Complete exit counseling [Exit Counseling](#), [Federal Student Aid](#) for loan repayment options and information. **Note:** The purpose of exit counseling is to ensure you understand your student loan obligations and are prepared for repayment.

SPRING COURSE ENROLLMENT

1. **REVIEW Current Course Progress.** Assess your current performance to determine if you might need to repeat a course in the next semester.
2. **ADDRESS Holds & To-Do List Items.** Unaddressed Holds and/or To Do List Items can impact your ability to schedule courses. Make sure to clear any outstanding items **before** your course enrollment date.
3. **MEET With Your Assigned Academic Advisor.** This person can help you determine the best plan to remain on track towards graduation. Be honest with them about your current performance for the most accurate planning. Find your assigned advisor on your LionPATH dashboard/home base in "My Advisors"



Need Help? Review the LionPATH Help Guides [here](#)



TUTORING RESOURCES



LEARNING CENTER (161 FRANCO)

- Tutoring in math, chemistry, biology, and more.
- Support with study skills, time management, test anxiety, and more.
- Schedule an appointment at <https://berks.mywconline.com/>

Open for Peer Tutoring by Appointment:

Monday–Thursday 9a.m.–7p.m. | Friday 9a.m.–1p.m.

Walk-In Hours Dr. Ryan Hassler, Faculty Math Tutor:

Mondays Noon to 3p.m. | Tuesday & Thursday 1:30 – 3p.m.

WRITING CENTER (141 FRANCO)

- Support with written material such as papers, speeches, resumes, and more!
- Available in-person or via Zoom
- Schedule an appointment at <https://berks.mywconline.com/>

Open for Peer Tutoring: Monday–Friday 10a.m. – 6:30p.m.

MATH PEERS & PROFS (222 LUERSEN)

- Tutoring sessions available for Math 4, 21, 22, 26, 34, 41, and Stat 100 with Math faculty and teaching assistants.
- Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:15 - 1:15p.m.
- **No appointment is necessary!**

EXPRESSING CARE & CONCERN

Student Care and Advocacy is a university-wide resource for students experiencing challenges in their college careers. At Penn State Berks, student concerns are reported to and managed by the Care Team.

- **What does the Care Team at Berks do?** The Care Team assists students who encounter challenges or concerns in achieving success at Penn State by coordinating efforts with campus partners.
- **What do CARE Services include?** Basic Needs, Food and Housing Insecurity, Health and Wellness Issues, Crisis and Support, Navigating Campus Resources
- **How are concerns reported?** To express concern for a student experiencing distress of an academic, health, safety, or financial nature, use the form found [here](#).
- **Learn more** at <https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/studentcare>



CAMPUS RESOURCE LIST

Mental Health and Wellness

- **24/7 Penn State Crisis Line** can be used in consultation for those at PSU to support someone who is experiencing a crisis or for yourself. You can reach the Crisis Line by:
 - Call 1-877-229-6400 or Text "LIONS" to 741741
- **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention** offers resources and tips on how to support a friend -- or get help yourself.
 - Check it out at <https://seizetheawkward.org/>
- **Berks County Crisis Line** can be used by residents of Berks County to assist children, adolescents and adults experiencing varying levels of crisis.
 - Call the line at 610-379-2007
- **Counseling Services** are available to all Penn State Berks students for FREE.
 - Learn more at <https://berks.psu.edu/counseling-services>
- **Life Hack Kits** are free step-by-step wellness packages designed to help navigate and demystify the perplexing parts of being human.
 - Learn more at <https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/wellness-services/life-hacks>
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** is free and confidential support for any person in distress, providing prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.
 - Call the line by dialing 988 or calling 800-273-8255
- **Online Mental Health Screenings** are free and anonymous for several areas of mental health, including depression, anxiety, academic distress, eating concerns, frustration level, family stress, and alcohol use.
 - Begin a screening at <https://tinyurl.com/CAPSScreening>
- **Red Folder** at Penn State is a guide to help faculty, staff, student leaders, and others who interact with students to recognize, respond effectively to, and refer Penn State students in distress.
 - Review resources specific to Penn State Berks at <https://redfolder.psu.edu/campus-resources/>
- **Safe Berks Campus Advocate** provides support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence as well as offers Prevention and Awareness Programming.
 - **24/7 Hotline:** 844-789-SAFE
 - **Text:** SAFE BERKS to 20121
- **WellTrack Boost** is a tool designed to help understand the activities associated with changes in mood and motivation, as well as to identify patterns in daily activities and how they are associated with changes in emotional states.
 - Get FREE PSU access at <https://psu.welltrack.com/>

Penn State
Berks



The Nittany Corner food pantry was funded and established by the Penn State Berks class of 2017. Pantry items are FREE to Penn State Berks students! Visit the pantry in the Thun Library's Cohen Lounge but will move to Perkins in December. Check your email for updates.

General Student Resources

- **ACADEMIC ADVISING** [160 FRANCO]
 - Questions about **course scheduling, degree progress, changing your major, or advising policies** contact your assigned academic adviser (listed in LionPATH). You can also reach out to Academic Advising for support.
 - **Email:** bkadvisingcenter@psu.edu
 - **Phone:** 610-396-6280
- **BIAS INCIDENT REPORT FORM**
 - To report concerns regarding bias, intolerance, discrimination, harassment, and/or incivility, use the form found [here](#)
- **BURSAR**
 - Questions about your **bill** or **payment options**, contact the Bursar's Office at University Park
 - **Contact:** <https://www.bursar.psu.edu/contact-us>
- **CARE REPORT FORM**
 - To express concern for a student experiencing distress of an academic, health, safety, or financial nature, use the form found [here](#)
- **FINANCIAL AID**
 - Questions about your **aid, holds, or to do list items**, contact the Financial Aid Office
 - **Email:** BerkFinAid@psu.edu
 - **Phone:** 610-396-6070
- **HOUSING & FOOD SERVICES** [106 PERKINS]
 - Questions about ID Cards or Residence Hall and Housing Contracts email HousingBK@psu.edu
 - Questions about meal plans and food services, including reporting food allergies, email absfoodservicebk@psu.edu
- **THUN LIBRARY**
 - Looking for a **place to study, access course materials, a lounge with vending machines, or support with technology**, visit Thun Library.
 - Webpage: <https://libraries.psu.edu/berks>
 - Access their full calendar [here](#).
 - Course Reserves (free access to textbooks for your classes) can be used in the library in 2 hours intervals. [Check here](#)
- **TUTORING**
 - Need help with **Math or Science**, schedule a tutoring session with a Learning Center Tutor (in 161 Franco) [here](#).
 - Need help with a **paper, speech, resume, or other written material**, schedule an appointment with a Writing Center Tutor (in 146 Franco) [here](#).
 - Need help with math, attend the "**Peers and Profs**" help sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:15-1:15p.m. in Luerssen 222. No appointment necessary!
 - **Courses Supported:** Math 4, 21, 22, 26, 41, & 110
- **VETERAN BENEFITS**
 - Questions about **VA certifications**, contact the Registrar's Office
 - **Email:** BKVeterans@psu.edu
 - **Phone:** 610-396-6085