

THE LION'S ROAR



The monthly newsletter for Penn State Berks

CAMPUS FEATURE: MEET THE DIVISION HEADS



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What is a Division Head?

- At Penn State Berks, academic departments (i.e., different majors and programs) fall within one of three divisions. Each division is led by a Division Head.
- The Division Heads are Berks faculty that teach, conduct research, provide leadership for the Berks campus, oversee the faculty in their disciplines, and help resolve student concerns related to relevant academic programs/majors.
- Students can reach out to the Division Heads at any time to find out more about the division, learn about related research opportunities, or express any academic concerns about their program, major, or courses.

Which programs belong to each division?

- **Science Division**, led by Dr. Bandyopadhyay houses majors and programs such as Biology, Biochemistry, Kinesiology, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Ag Sciences, and Occupational Therapy.
 - See a full list of Science faculty [here](#) ➡
- **Engineering, Business and Computing (EBC) Division**, led by Dr. Janelle Larson houses majors and programs in the areas of Business, Accounting, Engineering, Information Technology, and Hospitality Management.
 - See a full list of EBC faculty [here](#) ➡
- **Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) Division**, led by Dr. Holly Ryan houses majors and programs such as Psychology, Writing and Digital Media, Education, Communications Arts and Sciences, Criminal Justice, and Global Studies.
 - See a full list of HASS faculty [here](#) ➡

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Important Dates

- **Feb 20 – March 20** Starfish Mid-semester Progress Reporting period*
- **March 4 - 11:** Residence Halls are closed.**
- **March 6 - 10:** Spring Break. No Classes
- **March 15:** Academic Advising Meetings
- **March 17:** Link UP registration deadline
- **March 22:** Installment Plan Payment #3 Due***

LOOKING AHEAD

- **April 1:** Link UP (see page 2 for more information)
- **April 7:** Late Drop deadline
- **May 1:** FAFSA deadline for 2023-2024 academic year

*Learn more about the Starfish reporting process on page 3.

**All residential students (unless approved for and have accepted a Break Contract) must vacate the residence halls (belongings can remain) by 12pm on March 4. Residence Halls will re-open at 11am on March 11.

***If you enrolled in the installment plan before the first payment (1/22), this date (3/22) is your third installment. Read more on the IPP, [here](#) ➡

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ACADEMIC AND CAMPUS CHANGES

FUTURE COURSE ENROLLMENT

SUMMER 2023 COURSES



Summer Sessions:

Summer I: May 15 - June 26
Summer II: June 28 - August 11

- Schedule summer classes at any Penn State campus!
- Stay on track towards degree completion by speaking with your academic adviser **before** enrolling!
- **IMPORTANT!**
 - Most summer courses are accelerated, covering about 15 weeks of content in 6 to 7 weeks.
 - You can expect the pace of the course to be quick, with some classes meeting more frequently or for longer periods of time.
 - On-campus housing is not available for those taking summer courses at the Berks campus.
 - Contact Financial Aid to determine if you might be eligible for aid.
 - **See page 4** for information on the Summer Success Scholarship!
 - If you decide to take classes at a non-Penn State location over the summer, make sure the credits will transfer back to Penn State! Use the [Transfer Credit Tool](#) to confirm.

FALL 2023 COURSES



Advising Meetings

March 15

12:15pm - 1:15pm



- Advising Meetings are designed to help students learn more about majors, opportunities (scholarships, travel, etc.), and course scheduling information. Locations vary by major. See the full list [here](#) or scan the QR code above
- **SCHEDULING CLASSES:** Check your LionPATH Student "Home Base" (i.e., your dashboard) for an Enrollment Appointment date and to review the schedule of courses. Remember, enrollment dates vary by student.
 - Priority Registration begins March 15
 - Regular Registration begins March 22
- **IMPORTANT!**
 - Sophomores should have their change of major and change of campus (if applicable), completed prior to scheduling Fall classes!
 - Any Holds for the Spring 2023 semester should be resolved prior to assigned enrollment date to prevent issues when scheduling courses.

CHANGE OF CAMPUS

THINKING OF A CAMPUS CHANGE

There are various reasons why a student might decide to transition to a different Penn State campus. Typically, if a student applies for a major that is not offered at the student's current location, the student will be required to select an approved location during the entrance to major process. To learn more about the Change of Campus process, click [here](#).

FINANCIAL AID & CAMPUS CHANGE

If you are thinking about completing your degree at another Penn State campus and would like to discuss how your aid might be impacted, schedule a meeting with Financial Aid to discuss! **See page 4** for contact info!

LINK UP

April 1

Penn State University Park
10am - 4:30pm



Interested in exploring a change of campus?

Plan to attend LinkUP on April 1!

You will learn more about:

- academic and financial planning
- the change-of-campus process
- campus resources and services

While at University Park, you will:

- take a tour of campus
- connect with staff and current students
- learn more about your academic college
- receive important information about your campus change
- enjoy a free lunch, and more



Register by March 17.

Transportation to UP campus is NOT provided.



Access the registration link at <https://changeofcampus.psu.edu/linkup>



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STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

College is what you make of it. To maximize success, it is important to fully engage with the many opportunities and supports offered by the university. Review the sections below and consider ways you might want to engage now or in the future.

SHARE YOUR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Up to \$500, University Libraries Undergraduate Research Award at Berks!

- Are you working on a major research project this semester? Plan to present your findings? Apply for the University Libraries Undergraduate Research Award at Berks for a chance to win up to \$500!
- Learn more: <https://guides.libraries.psu.edu/Berks/UndergradResearch>
- Apply: <https://psu.libwizard.com/f/URABerks2023>
- Questions? Contact Alex Chisholm at aec67@psu.edu
- APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31

Events at Thun Library*

- March 22: Designing & Creating a Poster
 - From 12:15-1:15pm in Thun 137
 - This workshop is designed for students at all stages of the poster creation process. Participants can expect to learn about best practices for creating visually appealing and effective posters, along with having the opportunity to put those best practices to use.
- April 5: Presenting Research
 - From 12:15-1:15pm in Thun 137
 - This workshop is designed for anyone who wants to improve how they present and discuss their research with an audience. Participants will leave with an elevator pitch to share their research quickly and effectively with anyone they meet.

*More information can be found at [Thun News](#)

Interested in conducting undergraduate research at Berks in future semesters?

Explore <https://berks.psu.edu/research> to learn about opportunities.

STARFISH: PROGRESS REPORTING



Here to help you succeed!

What is Starfish??

Starfish is an online system that connects you to the people and services that can help YOU navigate YOUR education. Starfish does this by facilitating communication between your advisor, instructors, and support services.

Check Your PSU Email

During weeks 3-4 and 7-8 of each semester, instructors are prompted to comment on student progress in their class(es) utilizing Starfish. Pay special attention to this time period for important feedback, which will come from:

notices@starfishsolutions.com

TIP: Do NOT delete this email. It is NOT spam.



Get Started NOW!



Upload a picture, set your preferences, and explore! sites.psu.edu/starfishinfo



Don't Make Assumptions!

If you do NOT receive notices from instructors, do not assume that this means that you are in the clear! Instructors have the option of notifying students of their progress in their class--not all instructors complete Starfish reports.

TIP: Make an appointment with your instructor(s) to discuss your progress.

I RECEIVED A STARFISH FLAG. WHAT DO I DO?

- **Reach out to your instructor** to discuss your status in the course and determine strategies to improve.
- **Schedule tutoring sessions** as necessary. See page 6 for tutoring information.
- **Meet with your academic adviser** to determine a plan of action should you fail or need to drop the course.
- **Explore new ways of learning.** This may include
 - Reading the material more often.
 - Completing practice problems.
 - Making a practice test.
 - Creating a study group.
 - Speaking the material aloud.
 - Switching up note-taking habits (e.g., using pen and paper versus computer).

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FINANCIAL AID UPDATES & REMINDERS

FAFSA FAST FACTS 2023-2024

- The 2023-24 FAFSA application **opened on Oct. 1**.
- The FAFSA must be **completed annually**.
- In order to access the FAFSA application, you'll need your **FSA ID and password**.
- To complete the 2023-24 FAFSA, you'll need **2021 tax documents**.
- Completing the FAFSA early can lead to **improved odds** of securing more FREE aid (i.e., grants and scholarships).
- After you've completed the FAFSA, monitor LionPATH for **Holds or To Do List Items** which may prevent aid from disbursing.
- Click the FAFSA icon to access the 2023-24 application.



VERIFICATION

If you have already completed the 2023-24 FAFSA, you may see verification requests in LionPATH. The requests will be for the aid year of 2024. Upload required documents to the Office of Student Aid as soon as possible to begin the review process. Doing so will prevent any aid issues in the Fall 2023 semester.

For questions about verification, learn more [here](#).

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SUMMER SUCCESS SCHOLARSHIP

- Penn State's Summer Success Scholarship **helps students who have fallen behind in their degree program** and would benefit from taking a summer course at Penn State to get caught up but have financial challenges to doing so.
- **The scholarship is available to students at all Penn State campuses.**
- Students who receive the scholarship will receive \$2,000 toward their summer tuition. Eligibility requirements apply.
- Apply and learn more [here](#).
 - **Deadline to apply:** Friday, April 21, 2023

PENN STATE SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

- <https://studentaid.psu.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/applications>
- <https://studentaid.psu.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/academic-colleges>
- <https://studentaid.psu.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/athletics-ROTC-fellowship-libraries-and-more>
- <http://equity.psu.edu/scholarships>

OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS SEARCH

- Tips and resource links from Penn State: <https://studentaid.psu.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/outside-of-penn-state>
- Berks County high school graduates: <https://bccf.org/scholarships-grants/>
 - **Not from Berks County?** Check to see if your home county has a community foundation that offers scholarships!

Contact Financial Aid



for questions about your aid, holds, or to do list items

014 Perkins Student Center

Email: BerksFinAid@psu.edu

Phone: 610-396-6070



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PROGRAM FEATURE: SPANISH

THE SPANISH PROGRAM AT PENN STATE BERKS



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact Dr. Maria Fellie, current program chair, at mcf46@psu.edu
- Visit our webpages for more details on courses:
 - <https://berks.psu.edu/spanish>
 - [-minor](https://berks.psu.edu/certificate-spanish-healthcare)
 - [ate-spanish-healthcare](https://berks.psu.edu/certificate-spanish-healthcare)

Berks is one of only 2 Penn State campuses that offer the Minor in Spanish, and the only one offering the Certificate in Spanish for Healthcare. Add a **Spanish Minor** and/or **Certificate in Spanish for Healthcare** to ANY major!

These programs are especially helpful to future professionals in the fields of healthcare, social services, business, education, biological sciences, law enforcement, hospitality, and many more!

Berks has a wide range of community engagement opportunities involving Latino organizations that allow you to speak Spanish and experience a rich variety of cultures firsthand.

ASSOCIATED OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS:

- Sigma Delta Pi, our chapter of the Spanish National Honor Society
- Latinos United for Change (LUC) Club
- Volunteer opportunities through the Office of Community Engagement

FACTS: MINOR & CERTIFICATE

- The Spanish Minor requires six 3-credit courses. The Certificate requires four 3-credit courses.
- The 4-course Certificate may be completed as part of or independent from the Spanish Minor—all Certificate courses will count towards the Minor!
- You do not need to be enrolled in a major or as a full-time student to complete the Certificate.
- This Certificate is available to working professionals.

Courses in either program may be started after completing Spanish 3 (or equivalent by credit transfer or exam).





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A BERKS BITE: SAVORY BREAKFAST COOKIES



INGREDIENTS

- 4 oz breakfast sausage
- ½ onion, finely minced
- ¾ cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- 1 tablespoon Parmesan cheese
- 1/8 teaspoon dried parsley

INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
- Heat a non-stick skillet over medium heat and cook sausage until crumbly (3-5 minutes).
- Add in the onion and continue cooking. Stir and break up the sausage until it is no longer pink.
- Transfer sausage and onion mixture to a paper towel-lined plate and drain.
- Meanwhile, combine flour, baking powder, salt, pepper, Parmesan cheese, and parsley in a large bowl; whisking until well combined.
 - Whisk in eggs.
 - Add 3/4 cup Cheddar cheese.
 - Spoon in sausage and onion mixture.
 - Mix to form a thick batter.
- Make 'cookies' by scooping out about a 1/4 cup of the mixture and dropping onto the prepared baking sheet.
 - Sprinkle each 'cookie' with Cheddar cheese and slightly flatten with your fingers.
- Bake in the preheated oven until firm (about 10 minutes). If cookie is still a little soft, cook for an additional 2 minutes.
- Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly before serving.

Adapted from [Allrecipes.com](https://www.allrecipes.com)

STUDENT RESOURCE LIST

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

BURSAR [125 FRANCO]

- Questions about your **bill** or **payment options**, contact the Bursar's Office

- Email: bkbursar@psu.edu
- Phone: 610-396-6040

COUNSELING SERVICES [008 PERKINS]

- For free & confidential short-term counseling, schedule a session.

- Follow the steps outlined here <https://berks.psu.edu/how-students-can-access-our-programs-and-services>

- In crisis situations

- Call the 24/7 Penn State Crisis Line at 1-877-229-6400
- Text the 24/7 Crisis Text Line: Text "LIONS" to 741741

FINANCIAL AID [014 PERKINS]

- Questions about your **aid, holds, or to do list items**, contact the Financial Aid Office

- Email: BerksFinAid@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>
- Hours of Operation are Mondays through Thursdays from 8:30am-10pm, Fridays from 8:30am-5pm, and Sundays from 2pm-8pm. Access the 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 [here](#).
- Need help with a **paper, speech, resume, or other written material**, schedule an appointment with a Writing Center Tutor [here](#).
- Need help with math or physics, attend the **"Peers and Profs"** help sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:15-1:15pm in Luerssen 222. No appointment necessary!

- **Courses Supported:** Math 4, 21, 22, 26, 41, & 110. Physics 250, 251

VETERAN BENEFITS [125 FRANCO]

- Questions about **VA certifications**, contact the Registrar's Office

- Telephone: 610-396-6085
- Email: BKVeterans@psu.edu