

THE LION'S ROAR

The monthly newsletter for Penn State Berks

DID YOU KNOW?

Starfish Mid-semester Progress Reporting

- Most professors will submit progress reports for the students enrolled in their courses.
 - **WHEN:** March 1 - March 10
- Students will receive an email from Starfish that outlines professor feedback.
 - **WHAT:** The email will give insight into how you are performing in the course. **READ** the email and follow up with your professor to discuss your progress.



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:

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



I received a Starfish notification, now what do I do?

Take Action Immediately!

MEET: Discuss the feedback with your Instructor.
REFLECT: Which behaviors contributed to the feedback?
COMMIT: Make improvements to see greater success.

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.

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IMPORTANT DATES

March 1 - 10 Starfish Mid-semester Reporting Period

March 11 University Wellness Day*

March 22 Installment Plan Payment #3 Due**

March 24 Advising Meetings at 12:15 pm***

***Wellness Day:** Check with your instructor(s) to determine whether or not you have class and/or an assignment on this day. For programming opportunities, visit <https://wellnessdays.psu.edu/>

If you enrolled in the **installment plan before the first payment (1/25), this date (3/22) is your third installment. Students may enroll in the Installment Plan until March 22. Enrollment requires payment of 3/4 of the student's current balance and the installment plan fee of \$45.

Read more on this, [here](#)

***Check your email for **Advising Meeting** Zoom information specific to your intended or current major.



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REMOTE LEARNING RESOURCES

REMOTE LEARNING ROOMS

Campus classrooms are available for remote learning and do not require a reservation.

For a complete list, visit

➡ <https://berkstech.psu.edu/remote-learning-rooms/>

THUN LIBRARY RESERVATIONS

Thun Library is open Mon-Fri from 9am-5pm AND until 10pm on Wed!! Reserve a service/space here ➡ by clicking on the "Location" drop-down menu and selecting your desired space.

COUNSELING SERVICES

For FREE and CONFIDENTIAL counseling on-campus, call or email to schedule an initial phone screening appointment at 610-396-6082 or crt5292@psu.edu ➡

In Crisis?

- Call **Berks county crisis hotline**
 - 877-236-4600
- Contact the **24/7 Penn State Crisis Line**
 - Call 877-229-6400
 - Text "LIONS" to 741741



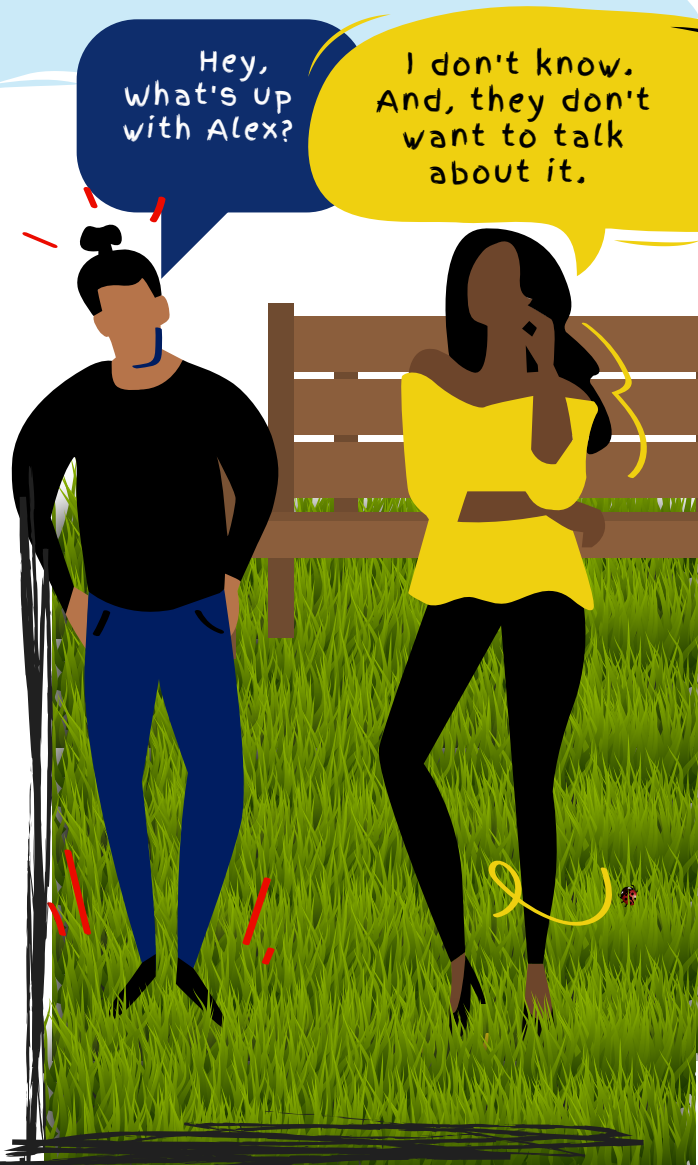
We offer FREE TUTORING!

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 ➡

CAMPUS FEATURE: THE CARE TEAM



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.



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Lion Side Chat Offerings

Majorly Prepared Series

Join Berks faculty, staff, and students as they discuss the 20 bachelor's degree programs and other educational opportunities available at Penn State Berks. These sessions are open to the public and offered throughout the Spring semester.

Upcoming Sessions:

March 1, 9, 15, and 24

TIME: 12:15pm - 1:15pm

TOPICS: Over 5 Majors, Career Paths, and or Service Opportunities covered!

ZOOM: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/97003462963>



See which majors are presenting during each sessions by visiting the [LionSide Chat website](#)

Resourceful Roundtable

Get familiar with the support offered at Berks and bring your questions with you! Staff and faculty panelists will talk about their department(s), what they are currently doing in the pandemic, and answer student questions.

DATES:

- **March 8:** Financial Aid and Finance Office
- **March 12:** Advising, Learning Center, Writing Center, Support Services and Counseling Services

TIME: 12:15pm - 1:15pm

ZOOM: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/97003462963>



Thun Library Offerings

Synchronous & Asynchronous Research Consultations

- Get support on your research projects by scheduling a research consult with a Penn State Berks librarian!
- Request an appointment [here](#)

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

- DEADLINE: March 26, 2021
- Eligible entries include HECBC Undergraduate Research & Creativity Conference and other external conference submissions by Penn State Berks students.
- Learn more about the award and our workshop series [here](#)
 - Designing & Creating a Poster: March 15 @ 12:15pm via Zoom - <https://psu.zoom.us/j/92005069902>





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ACADEMIC ADVISING

Sophomores, it is time to declare your major!
Use LionPATH or contact your adviser
BEFORE you schedule next semester's
courses!



GENERAL ADVISING ASSISTANCE

ATTEND: Coffee & Conversation with Advisors
(You Bring the Coffee; We Bring the
Conversation) on Friday, March 12 @ 12:15 PM
via Zoom: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/6103966282> ➡

Students in DUS (Division of Undergraduate
Studies [i.e. undecided]) who want to schedule a
Zoom or phone appointment with a DUS Adviser
can do so on Starfish.psu.edu ➡

Non-DUS Students should contact their assigned
academic adviser. Find your assigned adviser
listed in LionPATH. *Note, Non-DUS students are
welcome to schedule an appointment with DUS
advisers. Please email or call to schedule.*

For Quick Advising Questions:
Email bkadvisingcenter@psu.edu ➡

To Schedule an Appointment:
Call 610-396-6280



SUMMER COURSE ENROLLMENT

Check your LionPATH Student "Home Base"
(i.e., your dashboard) for an Enrollment
Appointment date and review the schedule
of classes--available mid-March.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING

- Summer registration is available on a first-come, first serve basis.
- Students can schedule classes at any Penn State campus!
- Stay on track towards degree completion by speaking with your academic adviser before enrolling!

Financial Aid

2021-2022 FAFSA

Returners, complete FAFSA for 2021-2022!

- You can file your 21-22 FAFSA by [clicking here](#). ➡
- PA residents, submit BEFORE May 1, 2021 for PHEAA State grant consideration.
- Have your 2019 tax info!

If you already completed the 2021-2022 FAFSA, you may see verification requests.

The requests will be for the aid year of "2022" in LionPATH. For questions about verification, learn more [here](#) ➡



Summer Courses 2021

Contact Financial Aid to
determine if you might be
eligible for aid.

Are you making SAP?

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.

For more information on this policy, [click 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



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A Berks Bite: Broccoli-Cheddar Soup

Ingredients

- 5 tablespoons butter
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup of flour
- 2 cups milk
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 large carrot, cut into matchsticks
- 1 stalk celery, thinly sliced
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley
- 1 1/2 cups broccoli florets
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper



Instructions

- Melt butter in a large saucepan.
- Add the onion, carrots, celery, and parsley and sauté 4 to 5 minutes stirring frequently.
- Add flour and stir constantly for 3 mins.
- Gradually add milk, stirring constantly then stir in the chicken broth.
- Bring to a boil over medium-high heat.
- Reduce the heat and add the broccoli.
- Simmer stirring occasionally for about 20 minutes.
- Reduce heat to low, then stir in the cheese, salt, and pepper.
- Heat through and serve.

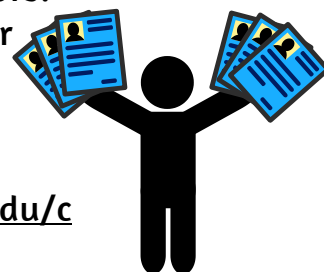
Recipe courtesy of Dr. Paula Plageman



Summer Plans?

Summer is a great time to gain experience for your future endeavors.

Connect with Career Services to explore opportunities!



<https://berks.psu.edu/career-services>

Scholarship Opportunities!

Students returning to Berks for the 2021-2022 Academic year can apply for our Returning Students Scholarship Application at <https://berks.psu.edu/berks-scholarship-application> ➡

Penn State scholarship information:

Academic College Scholarships:

<https://studentaid.psu.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/applications> ➡

Office of Student Aid:

<https://studentaid.psu.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/applications> ➡

Administrative Unit Scholarships:

<https://studentaid.psu.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/athletics-ROTC-fellowship-libraries-and-more> ➡

Outside scholarship opportunities:

Berks County Community Foundation Scholarships due March 15:

<https://bccf.org/apply-for-scholarships-2021/> ➡

Outside Scholarships:

<https://studentaid.psu.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/outside-of-penn-state> ➡