

THE LION'S ROAR

The monthly newsletter for Penn State Berks



DID YOU KNOW?

Late Drop Deadline

The late drop deadline is November 13 at 11:59pm (ET). This is the last date to individually drop one or more courses.

Things to consider when dropping a course

- **Check your syllabus** to see how your final grade is calculated.
- **Speak with your professor:** Is there a way for you to improve your grade in the course with the remaining assignments?
- **Speak with your academic adviser.** Ask if the course is required for your major; if the course is a prerequisite for another course; will dropping the course put you behind in your major?
- **Speak with Financial Aid.** Ask if you will lose and/or have to pay back aid if you drop the course; are there financial implications this semester and/or in the future by dropping this course?
- **Review your account** after the course is dropped—be prepared to pay the fee associated with dropping the course.

Learn more by clicking [here](#)



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Semester Dates

Nov. 20 Final day of in-person instruction*

Nov. 22-28 Thanksgiving Break**

Nov. 30 ALL classes continue remotely

Dec 11 Last day of instruction

Dec 14 -18 Final Exam Week***

*Residential students, take ALL of your course materials home for break! Check with your RA for move-out times.

**NO CLASSES

***Check LionPATH and your course syllabi to determine when your finals take place

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ADVISING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring 2021 Course Enrollment

- **Meet with your Academic Adviser to plan your Spring courses.**
- Check LionPATH to see your course enrollment date.
- Those with Priority Registration typically enroll in courses sooner.
- The sooner you schedule next semester's courses, the more likely you are to get the courses you want/need!
- **IMPORTANT**
 - Some Holds/To-Do items and/or having an unpaid balance, will prevent you from scheduling classes for next semester.
 - Connect with Financial Aid, Bursar, and any other offices as necessary BEFORE your enrollment date so you can ensure all issues are resolved before you schedule.



CAMPUS FEATURE: A REMOTE FIRST YEAR

Name: Eruj Fatima

Major: Hospitality Management

Home: Pakistan

Question: What has been your remote learning experience thus far?

"Transitioning to university is a life changing step and should be experienced physically, however, this pandemic forced us into remote learning. Due to the lockdown I am in Pakistan, which is 9 hours ahead of the US. Taking remote classes is challenging for me but it is the best experience so far. I am highly impressed at how the professors have made this experience so fruitful and interesting for everyone. The efforts that the professors make to keep students engaged through discussions, projects, and assignments is amazing. Never did I think that remote learning could be as fun as it is at Berks. It feels great and satisfying to spend my first semester of remote learning so creatively and the encouragement that I receive from all my professors makes me feel like I am on the top of this world. It has been just over 2 months since I have joined Berks, but I already feel the acceptance in this big family. *One thing that I have learned so far is that there are countless opportunities to showcase your talent here, but you must make the efforts, take the first step and everyone (including your peers) will support you.*"



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FINANCIAL AID NEWS

FAFSA IS OPEN!

REMINDER: FAFSA for 2021-2022 academic year opened **October 1st, 2020!**

- You can file your 2021-2022 FAFSA by [clicking here](#).



- If you are a PA resident, submit BEFORE May 1, 2021 to be considered for the PHEAA State grant.

- Have your **2019 tax info** handy.

Before you start, check out [this article](#) (click here), which offers some great tips and common mistakes to avoid.



CHECK LIONPATH!

Keep your Penn State account in good standing by checking LionPATH for Holds or To-Do List items that might prevent:

- Financial aid from disbursing
- Course registration for next semester
- Access to your official transcript

Connect with your Academic Adviser, Financial Aid, and/or the Bursar's Office for help!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACADEMIC GROWTH

Study Smarter Sessions

This workshop presents research-based evidence that metacognition (awareness of how you learn) can help you successfully meet the demands of college-level courses as well as the flexibility of setting your own schedule. All sessions held via Zoom and times are Eastern Time.

Tuesday, November 10 at 5 p.m.

- https://bit.ly/StudySmarter11-10-20_5PM



Wednesday, November 11 at 10 a.m.

- https://bit.ly/StudySmarter11-11-20_10



Thursday, November 12 at 6 p.m.

- https://bit.ly/StudySmarter11-12-20_6PM



Lion Side Chat

WHAT: We Are...Savvy

Pivoting to Remote

Learning: Faculty Insights and Tips

DATE: Mon, Nov 16

TIME: 12:15pm - 1:15pm

ZOOM:

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



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READY FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING?

Remote learning tips to help YOU succeed.

- What to expect at Berks after Nov. 20
 - Game Room and Beaver Community Center will be CLOSED
 - Remote learning rooms in all building on campus will be AVAILABLE.
 - Thun Library will be open Mon - Fri from 9am - 5pm. Visit the tinyurls below to reserve a space in the library!
 - Computers & seats
www.tinyurl.com/thunseats
 - Scanner
www.tinyurl.com/thunscanner
 - Study rooms
www.tinyurl.com/thunstudy
- For more Remote Learning Info & Resources visit KeepLearning.psu.edu

FREE TUTORING!

Need help with Math, Science or Study Skills?

- Make an appointment with our Learning Center Tutors [here](#)

Need help with a paper, speech, resume, or other written material?

- Make an appointment with our Writing Center Tutors [here](#)



PennState
Berks

Study Group Options

Three Ways to Create Study Groups

Explore, learn, find your fit!

Prides:

<https://canvas.psu.edu>

- Allow students to create and manage their own groups.
- Appropriate for disciplinary study groups that include students from multiple sections or courses.
- Each individual is limited to creating 10 Prides.
- May add a passcode to Prides and distribute that to study group members.

Office 365:

<https://office365.psu.edu>

- O365 provides a full suite of collaboration tools that can be useful in student study groups.
- Includes document sharing (OneDrive).
- Provides space for asynchronous and synchronous discussion (Teams).
- Both Faculty and students can setup Teams.

Zoom:

<https://zoom.psu.edu>

- Allows students to engage in real time via audio or video.
- Allows students to create regularly scheduled times.
- Consider time zones and consider creating by regions.
- Beware of bandwidth issues and other webcam related issues.
- Can add scheduled virtual study groups to the Canvas calendar.
- Can include the Zoom room link so students know where to be and when; scheduling a recurring meeting allows reuse of the link.

Content for this flyer was provided by the Faculty Development Subcommittee: Virtual Study Groups on 9/23/20