

# THE LION'S ROAR



The monthly newsletter for Penn State Berks



## Important Dates

- October 1** 2024-2025 On-campus Housing Request Opens\*
- October 2** Starfish Mid-semester Progress Reporting Begins
- October 4** Priority Course Registration Opens\*\*
- October 11** Regular Course Registration Opens\*\*
- October 18** Campus-wide Advising Meetings\*\*\*
- October 22** Installment Payment Plan (IPP) Payment #3 Due\*\*\*\*
- October 25** Starfish Mid-semester Progress Reporting Ends

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### November 10

- Deadline to Request Fall Break Housing^
- Late Drop Deadline at 11:59pm (for full semester courses)

#### November 20 - 24 Fall Break (No Classes)

\*Learn more about the **on-campus housing request process** [here](#)👉

\*\*Course registration dates vary by student. Dates are based on the total number of credits earned. **View the [Registration Timetable](#)**👉 **for more information**

\*\*\*Advising Meetings are an opportunity for students to learn about updates and requirements specific to their current or intended major.

**Access the full list of meeting locations** [here](#)👉

\*\*\*\*If you enrolled in the Installment Payment Plan (IPP) by the first payment (8/28), your second, third, and fourth installments are due on the 22nd of the three subsequent months. **Read more on the IPP, [here](#)**👉

^Break housing is not included in the residential housing contract. In order to request housing during fall break, **log into [eLiving](#)**👉 **and choose Contracts > Summer/Break Housing Request.**

## FREE PEER TUTORING RESOURCES

**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](#)👉

**Taking a MATH course?**

Attend Peers & Profs on Mondays and Wednesdays during Common Hour (12:15pm-1:15pm) in 222 Luerssen. No appointment necessary!

Peer Tutoring is always FREE!



## What's Inside:

- Important Dates (p.1)
- Did You Know: Preparing for Tutoring Sessions (p.1)
- Peer Tutoring Resources (p.1)
- Preparing for Spring Course Enrollment (p.2)
- LionPATH Holds vs To Do List (p.3)
- Get Involved at Penn State Berks (p.4)
- Personal Safety & Wellness (p.5)
- Campus Food Pantry (p.5)
- A Berks Bite (p.6)
- Semester Progress Reports (p.6)



## PREPARING FOR TUTORING SESSIONS

To get the most out of your tutoring sessions, follow these easy steps:

1. **Make a plan:** Demand for tutoring increases around assessment deadlines. Establish enough time before your exam(s) and assignment(s) for tutoring.
  - 💡 **Pro Tip:** Make an appointment one week ahead of your exam!
2. **Try it out:** Even when you feel completely lost, it is beneficial to attempt your work alone. It can give you a clear idea of where you are struggling.
  - 💡 **Pro Tip:** Bring 2-5 attempted questions/problems to maximize your session. For written work, bring an outline or draft to the session.
3. **Bring course materials:** While tutors are trained to support specific subjects, it could be helpful for them to see the course lecture notes, textbook, study guide, and/or assignment guidelines. The more information they have, the better they can support you!

# THE LION'S ROAR



The monthly newsletter for Penn State Berks

## Preparing for Spring Course Enrollment

Academic Advising Center: Franco 160

Email: [bkadvisingcenter@psu.edu](mailto:bkadvisingcenter@psu.edu) | Phone: 610-396-6280

### LIONPATH ENROLLMENT DATES

#### SHOPPING CART APPOINTMENT

- **What happens on this date?**
  - The first date students can place courses in their shopping cart.
- **What is the Shopping Cart?**
  - Place for students to create and maintain class schedules for the upcoming semester.
  - Think of it like a *wish list*.
    - **IMPORTANT:** Placing a class in the shopping cart **does not** mean the student is enrolled in the course or that a space will be held for a student.
- **How can I add classes to my Shopping Cart?**
  - Use the Schedule Builder tool to explore course offerings and plan the most ideal schedule.
  - Access Schedule Builder by clicking "Find Classes" on your LionPATH dashboard/home base (i.e., the first screen you see after logging in).

#### ENROLLMENT APPOINTMENT

- **What happens on this date?**
  - The first day students are eligible to enroll in courses for the corresponding semester.
- **How is this date determined?**
  - Enrollment dates are calculated based on the total number of credits a student has earned. This means that students who have completed more credits will enroll in courses sooner than those with fewer earned credits.
- **Why does this date matter?**
  - Enrolling on (or close to) your enrollment date ensures you can schedule the courses you want and need. Over time, classes can fill up (due to a high interest/demand) and/or be canceled (due to low interest/demand)

#### WHERE CAN I FIND MY DATES?

- In the "Enrollment Dates" section on your LionPATH dashboard/home base (i.e., the first screen you see after logging in).
- **IMPORTANT:** it is best to use a computer or tablet to view enrollment dates.

### 3 STEPS TO CREATING A SCHEDULE!



#### 1. REVIEW Current Course Progress

- Assess your current performance to determine if you might need to repeat a course in the next semester.

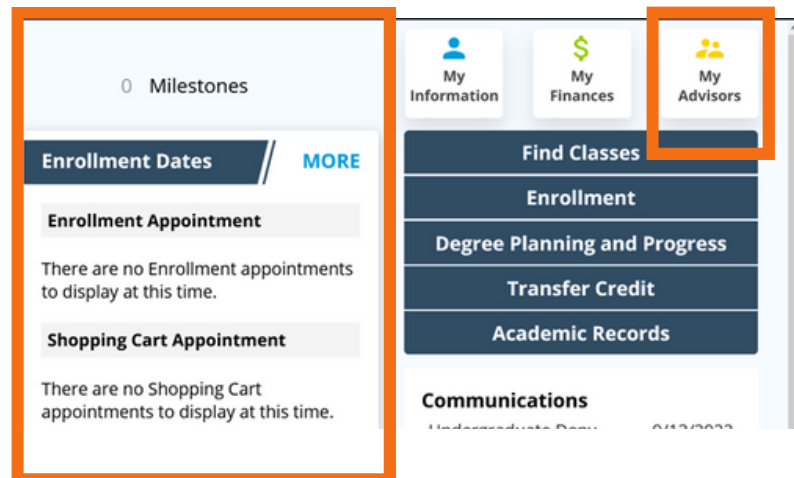
#### 2. ADDRESS Holds & To-Do List Items

- Unaddressed Holds and/or To Do List Items can impact your ability to schedule your courses. Make sure to clear any outstanding items before your course enrollment date.

#### 3. MEET With Your Assigned Academic Adviser

- 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? Attend the *Understanding and Using Lionpath* session on Wed., Oct. 4 from 12:15-1:15 via Zoom <https://psu.zoom.us/j/96999973533>





# THE LION'S ROAR

The monthly newsletter for Penn State Berks

## LIONPATH HOLD VS TO-DO LIST

### What is a Hold?

**Typically, a notification.** Many Holds provide a student with information regarding a change in their academic and/or financial status. Generally, there is no action needed within the Hold itself but students may need to access their To Do List, meet with an academic adviser, and/or meet with Financial Aid to discuss/resolve the Hold. Unresolved Holds can prevent a student from (1) scheduling classes, (2) having aid disburse, (3) obtaining official transcripts, or (4) receiving a diploma.

### Examples:

- Bursar Account Delinquent
- Overaward of Financial Aid
- Federal Transfer Monitoring
- Not Meeting SAP
- Academic Warning/Suspend, Financial Aid on Hold
- MMR Immunization Hold 🗑️
- See a detailed list of financial Holds [here](#) 🗑️

### What is a To Do List Item?

**Typically, a request for action.** The university may require a student to submit additional documentation or complete an online task. Incomplete items may delay the processing of your financial aid. **IMPORTANT:** a student's aid award is not considered finalized until they have completed all necessary items!

### Examples

- Informational (*requires no action*)
  - Penn State has received your FAFSA
  - Your citizenship status is pending
- Actionable (*requires student to complete a task*)
  - Sign Your Sub/Unsub MPN
  - Verify your dependency status
  - Verify parent household
- See a detailed list of financial To Do List Items [here](#) 🗑️

**Questions about your aid, holds, or to do list items?**

**Contact Financial Aid**

Email: [BerksFinAid@psu.edu](mailto:BerksFinAid@psu.edu)

Phone: 610-396-6070\*

014 Perkins Student Center

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

**Questions about your bill?**

**Contact Bursar**

Email: [bkbursar@psu.edu](mailto:bkbursar@psu.edu)

Phone: 610-396-6040\*

125 Franco Building

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

### Veteran's Benefits



The Registrar's Office is the point of contact for all VA certifications.

**Contact the Registrar's Office**

Telephone: 610-396-6085

Email: [BKVeterans@psu.edu](mailto:BKVeterans@psu.edu)



## THE IMPACT OF 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 obtaining their official transcript and from registering for courses in future semesters.
- Late Dropping a course could cause some aid to be returned to its aid source. This will depend on the timing of the late drop. This action could also cause issues with Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and renewal of certain types of aid.

**IMPORTANT:** it is best to use a computer or tablet to view Holds and To Do List Items.



# THE LION'S ROAR



The monthly newsletter for Penn State Berks

## GET INVOLVED AT PENN STATE BERKS

### CAMPUS FEATURE: CAB

#### WHAT IS CAB?

The Campus Activities Board (CAB) is a student-run organization that involves students in creating and planning social events for the Penn State Berks community.



CAB aims to provide a diverse range of programs for students that allow them to develop socially while simultaneously attempting to create a more unified campus.

CAB's mission is to Fight the War on Boredom!

#### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

**JOIN** weekly meetings every MONDAY at 9pm in 003 Perkins Student Center

- Learn about and help create, plan, and/or execute future events!

**FOLLOW** on Instagram @psubk\_CAB

- Learn about upcoming events and opportunities!

**VISIT** CAB leaders during office hours to ask questions or turn in your CAB nickles for prizes!

### NEVER BORED AT BERKS!



When you are curious about the events and activities happening at Penn State Berks, check out these handy resources!

- This Week at Berks (email) is your weekly events and announcements newsletter! It is sent to current Berks students by email (to PSU email addresses only) every Sunday evening and comes from Lilibell Sanchez, Assistant Director Campus Life - Student Leadership.
- Student Events Calendar (webpage) is a comprehensive list of STUDENT events happening at Berks. Provides quick access to the ATHLETIC calendar, the PUBLIC EVENTS calendar, and the FACULTY AND STAFF calendar.
- The EVENTS button on the Penn State Go app features Penn State Berks STUDENT events, PUBLIC events, and ATHLETIC events in one place! Public and Athletic events are open to the campus community and the general public.

### UPCOMING CAMPUS-WIDE EVENTS

- Oct 2 - 6: Banned Books Week
  - Celebrate your freedom to read at the Thun Library during Banned Books Week! Banned books will be on display and available for checkout (thanks to Student Initiated Fee [SIF] funds and support from Student Library Advocacy Club [SLAC]).
  - On Mon., Oct 2nd from 6 - 7pm in Thun 137, create your own Banned Book cover with Adobe Express--[register here](#). Prizes will be given to the best banned book cover.
    - Not able to join us for the event? Directions and contest information can be found here--<https://tinyurl.com/BannedBooksWeekThun>
- Oct 6: Unity Day at 12:15pm on the Perkins Lawn
- Oct 6 - 7: Family & Homecoming Weekend at Berks
- Oct 9: Majors Carnival at 12:15pm on the Perkins Lawn
- Oct 18: Stonewall Uprising film screening in celebration of LGBTQIA+ History Month
  - Enter the student ART COMPETITION by 10/13. Submit LGBTQIA+ inspired art to Colleen Tillger in 008 Perkins Student Center. Winners announced at the film screening!

## CAB OFFICE HOURS

~~~~~

**DORCAS** - MONDAY 4:00 PM-5:00 PM

**BENE** - MONDAY 8:00 PM-9:00 PM

**ERIN** - TUESDAY 3:30PM-4:30 PM

**KIMANI** - WEDNESDAY 7:00PM-8:00 PM

**BEN** - THURSDAY 2:00PM-3:00 PM

~~~~~

@PSUBK\_CAB | PERKINS GAME ROOM

READ A **BANNED BOOK**

ALA.ORG/BOOKS | ALA.ORG/CONY/BOOKS

CREATE YOUR OWN **BANNED BOOK COVER**

# THE LION'S ROAR



The monthly newsletter for Penn State Berks

## PERSONAL SAFETY AND WELLNESS

### SAFE BERKS: CAMPUS ADVOCATE

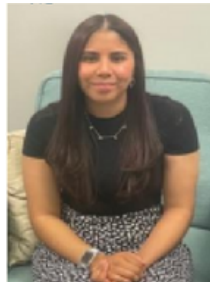
#### Safe Berks Advocate at Penn State Berks

**Name:** Dairicelis Rodriguez-Guzman

**Email:** [Dairicelisr@safeberks.org](mailto:Dairicelisr@safeberks.org)

**Office:** 311 Gaige

**Phone:** 484-769-7606 (call or text)



#### Office Hours:

Mondays 11am-3pm or by appointment

*Please note that Safe Berks Advocates are not employed by Penn State and maintain complete confidentiality.*

#### What is Safe Berks?

- Safe Berks, formerly Berks Women in Crisis, provides a safe haven and ongoing support system for survivors of domestic and sexual violence as well as Prevention and Awareness Programming.
- Safe Berks is located at 255 Chestnut St, Reading, PA.
- Learn more at <https://safeberks.org/>
- Safe Berks 24/7 hotline
  - Call 844-789-7233
  - Text SAFE BERKS to 20121

#### What services are provided to Penn State Berks students?

- Campus advocacy
- Safety planning
- Assistance filing for Protection From Abuse orders (PFA) and Sexual Violence Protection Orders (SVPO)
- Advocacy and accompaniment to court proceedings, law enforcement interviews, and Title IX/Student Conduct meetings
- Referral to Safe Berks services and additional community resources
- All services are free and confidential!



### MENTAL WELLNESS RESOURCES



- **24/7 Penn State Crisis Line** can be used in consultation if you know someone or are with someone who is experiencing a crisis. You can use this resource for yourself as well. The Penn State Crisis Line can be used at all PSU campuses. However, the caller must be in the U.S.
  - Call the line at 1-877-229-6400
  - Text the line by texting "LIONS" to 741741
- **American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's** offer a website for resources and even more tips on how to help a friend.
  - Check it out <https://seizetheawkward.org/>
- **Counseling Services** are available to all Penn State Berks students for FREE.
  - Learn more at <https://berks.psu.edu/counseling-services>
- **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/>

### FOOD PANTRY



The Nittany Corner food pantry was funded and established by the Penn State Berks class of 2017 to address issues of hunger and support students' success while pursuing their education at Penn State Berks. Pantry items are FREE to Penn State Berks students!



Visit the pantry in the Cohen Lounge located in Thun Library



# THE LION'S ROAR



The monthly newsletter for Penn State Berks

## A BERKS BITE: Mac in a Mug



### Ingredients

- ½ cup elbow macaroni
- ¼ cup heavy cream or whole milk
- ½ cup shredded cheddar cheese
- ¼ cup shredded white cheddar cheese
- ½ tablespoon unsalted butter
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

### Instructions

- Place the macaroni in a large mug and then pour in ½ cup water. **IMPORTANT:** allow enough room for the water to simmer.
- Microwave on high for 3 minutes. Remove the mug and stir the macaroni. Return the mug to the microwave and heat for another 2 minutes. Repeat these 2-minute increments, stirring after each, until the macaroni is tender.
- Once the macaroni is cooked, stir in the heavy cream or milk, cheeses and butter. Stir until the mixture is fully combined.
- Season with salt and pepper. Serve immediately.

Recipe adapted from [PureWow](#)

## SEMESTER PROGRESS REPORTS

### College Students Receive Progress Reports?



In the Fall and Spring semesters, instructors are encouraged to provide performance feedback to students. Feedback routinely occurs early in the semester (between weeks 3 and 4) and around the mid-point of the semester (between weeks 7 and 10). Performance feedback is recorded using Starfish.

### ★ 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. Through Starfish, students receive performance progress reports and, for some, have the ability to schedule a meeting with their advisor directly through the platform.

Access the platform at <https://sites.psu.edu/starfishinfo/>



### Check Your PSU Email

During progress reporting periods, pay special attention to your emails for important feedback from your instructors. Email notices will come from: [notices@starfishsolutions.com](mailto:notices@starfishsolutions.com)



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



### Avoid Assumptions

Instructors have the option to notify students of their progress--not all instructors complete Starfish progress reports. Thus, NOT receiving performance feedback says nothing about your current performance.



**TIP: Meet with each instructor to discuss your progress.**

### 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.