A Penn State degree opens the door to a world of possibilities. It’s up to you to choose the degree that best suits your own unique dreams, goals, and aspirations.
College is a time for fresh starts and new friendships. It’s exciting, even a little daunting. You’ll learn a lot about yourself. You might discover that your passion is teaching children in urban schools, or that you want to design sustainable living solutions. Have you ever thought about a career keeping computer networks safe? Or that you’d fall in love with studying cells under a microscope?

This is your story, and where you write it is important. Penn State Berks is an excellent place to chart a course for the rest of your life. It’s a place where almost anything is possible.

“When Dominique Robinson graduated with a B.A. in Applied Psychology, he was thinking about the brother he lost when they were both children as he accepted his diploma. “Everything I have done, I’ve done for my siblings and to make my parents proud,” he says. “Most of all, I did it for my brother, because he didn’t have the chance to do the same things.”

Dominique is the oldest of five siblings, including his younger brother who was killed in an automobile accident. He says the loss of his brother has made him the person he is today—someone who wants to dedicate his life to helping others. That’s exactly what Dominique has done at Penn State Berks as a mentor and student leader.

“When Penn State Berks has helped me discover the person I want to be. I consider this my first home.”

Dominique’s next chapter is the Master of Social Work program at Virginia Commonwealth University. His brother would surely be proud.

Dominique Robinson ’15, Applied Psychology
William Rudart’s journey to Penn State Berks took several twists and turns. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. The entrance exams revealed that he had very high aptitude in language, so he attended the Defense Language Institute in California, where he learned Arabic. From there, he was assigned to the National Security Agency and deployed to Iraq.

After serving in the Marines for ten years, William decided to earn a college degree through the G.I. Bill and return to the NSA as a civilian intelligence analyst.

“Penn State Berks is the best there is for Information Sciences and Technology in the area,” explains William. “I’m learning a lot in my IST classes.”

William has developed relationships with some of the college faculty members and even keeps up with his Arabic language skills speaking with a few of them.

He attends college full-time while juggling the roles of husband and father to two young children. When he’s not in the classroom or spending time with his family, you can find him in the gym. The amateur bodybuilder works out whenever he has free time, a habit that started in the Marines. William is also involved in the Student Veteran’s Organization on campus.

With a major in IST and a minor in Security and Risk Analysis, William will have the skills and experience to achieve whatever he puts his mind to.

Victory Media, the premier entity for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, has named Penn State Berks to the coveted Military Friendly Schools® list. The 2015 Military Friendly Schools® list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace U.S. military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus.
Ali Shewell is passionate about helping others, and she has channeled that passion into working with THON—the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, which raises funds and awareness for pediatric cancer.

“THON is so much bigger than any one person,” explains Ali. “It’s doing something that’s irreplaceable to children battling cancer and their families.”

During the fall semester, Ali can be found “canning”—collecting donations for THON. She has served in several roles and will be co-executive director of the Berks student organization next year.

Ali began her college experience at Berks. She quickly fell in love with the campus and decided to stay all four years. She also credits the relationships she formed with her professors and the opportunities for student involvement with her decision to stay.

During her time at Berks, she has completed several internships, including one at Steve Moyer Subaru as an event planner, coordinating functions with the March of Dimes, the local minor league baseball team, and the local professional ice hockey team.

Ali’s time at Penn State Berks is preparing her for the future. “Every time I turn around, I’m learning something I can apply to the real world. I’ve learned leadership skills and how to work in a team—skills that can apply to any career.”
Keysha Whitaker wanted to help her students create a student publication that mirrored the student media structure across higher education. The result was Berks Beat, a news and lifestyle magazine, published by Penn State Berks students.

According to Whitaker, adviser for Berks Beat, the monthly magazine format creates greater opportunities for students to write longer feature pieces while continuing to build the skills required for hard news writing.

Student editors and staff reporters for the magazine undergo “Candidate School,” a model created at The Daily Collegian, an independent daily paper published by students at Penn State University Park campus. The training includes shadowing staff reporters, passing a course on press law and ethics, news writing, and interviewing with editors before becoming staff reporters.

In the inaugural issue of the monthly publication, editors expressed their desire to publish human-interest stories, which “highlight individuals who are creating a buzz around campus and beyond.”

Berks Beat ultimately plans to create partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and high schools. The magazine also offers business and digital media internship opportunities for students.

Under Whitaker’s leadership, the student editors have formed a professional relationship with REP Commercial Printing (formerly Reading Eagle Press), a division of Reading Eagle Company, which publishes the Reading Eagle, a daily newspaper in Berks County. Berks Beat staff members attended a working lunch with Peter Barbey, the CEO of the Reading Eagle Company, for an intimate discussion about the state of journalism.

“I WANT TO CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS.”
Student veterans host second annual “ROY G. BIV” Memorial Run

The Penn State Berks Student Veteran Organization teamed with the Student Veterans of America–Penn State Berks Chapter to host its second annual “ROY G. BIV” Memorial Run. “ROY G. BIV” stands for the colored starch thrown at the runners, and the term “memorial” was used to recognize fallen soldiers.

The mission of these organizations is to help student veterans achieve their educational goals while providing an environment where they can support and socialize with one another.
Academics

As a student at Penn State Berks, you’ll have access to all the advantages Penn State has to offer. Few schools offer the choices you have at Penn State Berks, including the opportunity to complete the first two years of more than 160 baccalaureate degree programs offered at Penn State.

BACCALAUREATE AND ASSOCIATE DEGREES

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN:
- Accounting
- Applied Psychology
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Biology
- Business
- Childhood and Early Adolescent Education
- Communication Arts and Sciences
- Criminal Justice
- Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Global Studies
- Hospitality Management
- Information Sciences and Technology
- Kinesiology
- Mechanical Engineering
- Organizational Leadership (for adult learners only)
- Professional Writing
- Rehabilitation and Human Services
- Science
- Security and Risk Analysis
- Theatre

ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN:
- Business Administration
- Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Management
- Information Sciences and Technology
- Letters, Arts, and Sciences
- Occupational Therapy

Mentoring Opportunities

Penn State Berks offers students the opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills, gain valuable experience, and help other students through roles such as Peer Health Educators and a variety of mentoring positions that serve first-year students, international students, at-risk students, and multicultural students.

Internships open door to careers

Each baccalaureate degree program includes an internship component. Students complete 200–250 internships each semester, and most internships lead to jobs. Internships have varied from working in such high profile organizations as the Office of the Chief Information Officer at the White House, to Google’s California headquarters, to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. Students also complete internships at local businesses and organizations. For more information, contact Career Services, 610-396-6019.

Education abroad provides international perspective

Have you always dreamed of traveling? You can realize that dream while working toward a degree at Penn State Berks. With more than 300 education abroad programs for students enrolled in any major, there are many opportunities. Programs can be completed in a summer, a semester, or an academic year. Some travel is part of a course curriculum and lasts only one or two weeks. The varied structure of these programs makes international study appealing to a wide range of students.

Community Service

Community service is an integral part of the Penn State experience. Students have a wide variety of opportunities, as unique as their individual interests. Some students enjoy working with children, and they volunteer to tutor inner-city youth through the Penn State Educational Partnership or to revitalize an urban elementary school garden with its students. Others prefer to work with their hands and help build a home for a financially disadvantaged family through Habitat for Humanity. Still others enjoy cooking and serving lunch at Opportunity House, the Reading Homeless Shelter. No matter what interest or skill, there are plenty of opportunities for students to get involved in the greater community.

Childhood and Early Adolescent Education majors wanted to revitalize an elementary school garden where they were student teaching—and they made it happen.

Childhood and Early Adolescent Education students traveled to Germany, where they experienced diversity in the classroom firsthand as they struggled to communicate in a foreign language.

Berks students completed an internship in India with an organization dedicated to empowering marginalized communities.

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO
16.5 TO 1

STUDENTS COMPLETE
200–250 INTERSHIPS PER SEMESTER
Four Years
Each year, more and more students are choosing to complete their degrees at Penn State Berks. With 20 baccalaureate degrees in a broad range of disciplines, and more being added each year, the college offers many options and opportunities. Smaller classes provide individual attention and one-on-one interaction with faculty members. In addition, all degree programs include an internship component, allowing students to gain real-life experience while earning college credits.

2+2 Plan
Students are still able to start here and finish at another Penn State campus. You can begin the first two years of course work for any of Penn State’s more than 160 majors at Penn State Berks, and then complete your studies at another campus that offers your degree program. We call it our 2+2 Plan, and it gives you the freedom to learn at the campus that best suits your needs.

Transfer
Are you considering transferring to Penn State Berks? If so, you are part of a rapidly growing population. Students are able to transfer into any of the college’s degree programs. Eligibility and requirements vary by degree program, so advanced planning is essential for a smooth transition. To discuss your options and develop your plan, contact the Berks Transfer Admissions Counselor. It’s never too early to start.

Research
Berks students have the chance to conduct research with faculty members—an opportunity usually reserved for students at the graduate level. Students have worked on a wide variety of research studies including investigating and writing a book about African American history in Berks County for the NAACP–Reading Branch, creating computer software to help law enforcement identify human remains in other countries, and using lasers to assist with ultracold physics research, just to name a few.

Even though Furong “Sophia” Zhang was born in China, she knew that she wanted to attend Penn State for its international reputation for excellence. When it came time to apply to colleges, she researched the Penn State campuses and found that Berks had the two things that were most important to her: residence halls and a volleyball team. Her decision was made.

During her time at the college, she has been a valuable member of the volleyball team. In addition, she is pursuing a major in Supply Chain Management with a minor in International Business, which helped her land a summer internship with the General Administration of Customs in China.

“Academically, every professor prepares you with what you need to know.”

Sophia has made a lot of close friends during her time at Penn State Berks. Next year, her journey will continue at University Park campus.
Student Life

WITH MORE THAN FIFTY CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS, PENN STATE BERKS HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. Learn to lead in the Student Government Association. Take the first steps toward stardom in a theatrical production. Whatever your interests, you’re likely to find a club or activity to join.

Campus Living

Penn State Berks housing serves more than 800 students. The fully furnished suites in our modern residence halls include amenities such as refrigerator/freezers, microwaves, wireless internet, computer ports, and much more. For more information about campus housing, contact: Housing, 610-396-6353.

Athletics

Penn State Berks is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III. Student-athletes can compete in twelve varsity sports, including baseball, men’s and women’s soccer, softball, men’s and women’s tennis, and women’s volleyball. The college also offers club and intramural sports including bowling, ice hockey, rugby, and many others.

More of a spectator? How about season tickets to Penn State football or basketball games? A short trip to University Park allows you to enjoy some of the best Big Ten Conference sporting events in the country.

All varsity sports compete in the North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) and many teams, including baseball, women’s soccer, and softball, have won NEAC championships and advanced to their respective NCAA tournaments.
When should I apply?
Penn State reviews applications throughout the year, but we strongly encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible in the fall. Students can expect a decision within four to six weeks.

The application is available on the web beginning September 1 at admissions.psu.edu

You may wish to discuss the application process with a member of our professional staff. Your phone calls and visits are always welcome.

For more information, contact Admissions, 610-396-6060.

Transfer Students
Interested in transferring to Penn State to complete your degree? It’s probably easier than you think! Get started at berks.psu.edu/Admissions/trfstudents.htm

For assistance in transferring from another institution into one of our programs, please contact Admissions, 610-396-6060.

Scholarships and Financial Aid
Plenty of scholarship opportunities are available to incoming students. Students are automatically considered for scholarships, both merit-based and need-based, once they apply and are accepted to Berks. There is no separate scholarship application to complete. These scholarships are in addition to any other forms of need-based financial aid for which a student may be eligible.

About 82 percent of Penn State students receive some form of financial aid. Our financial aid staff can help you identify and apply for a variety of grants, loans, work study, campus employment programs, and scholarships to make your college education more affordable. Assistance for military veterans and adult learners is also available. To apply for financial aid, simply complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at fafsa.gov. We recommend that you file by March 1. For more information on student financial aid, contact Financial Aid, 610-396-6070.

How to get more information

Admissions
610-396-6060

Financial Aid
610-396-6070

Academic Advising
610-396-6280

Disability Services
610-396-6410

Veterans Affairs
610-396-6072

Adult Learners
610-396-6225

Born in the Dominican Republic, Diana Rodriguez and her family moved to New York City and then to the Reading area. She knew she wanted to attend Penn State, and after visiting Berks, she fell in love with the campus. The fact that she could commute from home made her decision even easier.

“I’ve become better in interpersonal skills and public speaking by giving tours through Lion Ambassadors and as an Orientation Leader. Also, going into schools and helping teachers with their classrooms has helped me gain experience,” says the Childhood and Early Adolescent Education major.

Diana planned to complete her degree at University Park but decided to remain at Berks because of the personal relationships she formed with her professors and the friends that she made here.

“College is what you make of it. We have more than 50 clubs and a lot of resources at Penn State Berks—students just have to take advantage of them.”

Diana Rodriguez ’17, Childhood and Early Adolescent Education
“I WANTED TO FINISH MY DEGREE HERE.”

As digital manager at Baltimore magazine, Mike Smith has his finger on the pulse of today’s digital media. He knows the importance of staying connected and communicating effectively—all skills he learned in the Communication Arts and Sciences program at Penn State Berks.

Mike originally chose Penn State Berks because it was close to home. He decided to stay for bigger reasons.

“I wanted to finish my degree here because I knew the faculty and the program were great, and the student organizations formed a community that I wanted to be a part of.”

He completed several internships including one in the Marketing and PR department at Penn State Hershey Medical Center, one in the Marketing Department at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and one for PBS Broadcasting in Arlington, Virginia.

MIKE SMITH ’10, Communication Arts and Sciences
Location is everything
Penn State Berks is set on 258 beautifully landscaped acres next to Gring’s Mills Recreation Area near Reading. A short trip to University Park allows you to enjoy some of the best Big Ten Conference sporting events in the country. Major shopping malls, restaurants, movie theatres, recreation facilities, and entertainment options are close by.

Penn State Berks is easily accessible from anywhere in eastern Pennsylvania and neighboring states. Many of our students choose to commute from home, making the college transition more comfortable and more affordable.

CAMPUS SECURITY CRIME STATISTICS—The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act and Pennsylvania Act of 1988 require that crime statistics for Pennsylvania colleges and universities be made available to applicants upon request. Penn State’s combined Annual Security and Annual Fire Safety Report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings owned or controlled by the University, and on public property within or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as those concerning alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault, and other matters. You may obtain this information for the Penn State campus to which you are applying by accessing the website at www.police.psu.edu/clery/ A printed copy of the report may be obtained by writing to University Police & Public Safety, The Pennsylvania State University, Eisenhower Parking Deck, University Park PA 16802-6703 or by calling 814-865-1864. THIS PUBLICATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE MEDIA ON REQUEST. The University is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, genetic information, or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University’s educational mission, and will not be tolerated. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to Dr. Kenneth Lehrman III, Vice Provost for Affirmative Action, Affirmative Action Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901; Email: kfl2@psu.edu; Tel 814-863-0471. Produced by the Penn State Department of Strategic Communications. U.Ed. BK0 16-02.

GETTING HERE IS EASY.

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