



# THE LION'S ROAR

The monthly newsletter for Penn State Berks

## CHANCELLOR WELCOME

Dear Penn State Berks Students,

We Are ... thrilled to welcome you to campus! Thank you for starting or continuing your educational journey at Penn State Berks – we hope your path of learning and self-discovery leads you to realize your dreams.

Our faculty and staff are ready for you: excited about the learning experiences you will share and eager to get to know you. Please visit your professors during office hours or by appointment; they really want to talk with you one-on-one and will remember you afterward.



This will be an enjoyable year for you too. Our Office of Student Affairs has been working hard to make sure you will have a wide variety of ways to get involved this fall, from our many clubs, activities, sports, student government, and the community beyond campus. There's something for everyone at Penn State Berks, and if you can't find a club that fits your interests, you can even start your own!

And if you have any concerns – about your classes or being away from home or anything else – please reach out. Our staff and faculty are here to help and support you so that you are successful.

You belong here, and we will help you find your people, the circle of friends with whom you feel your best. Penn State Berks offers a warm welcome to all members of our community and proudly supports diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

Life on a college campus is a lot of fun, and I plan to be around campus, eating at Tully's, going to sporting and cultural events, and walking around Perkins Plaza. Please feel free to tap my shoulder and say, "Hello."

Thanks for choosing Penn State Berks, and have a wonderful fall semester!

Dr. Radha Pyati  
Chancellor, Penn State Berks

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## Important Dates

### Aug. 14 - Sept. 5:

- Intent to Graduate Activation Period\*

### Aug. 21:

- New Student Convocation at 12:15pm (Perkins Lawn)
- Classes Begin

### August 26

- Regular Drop Deadline at 11:59pm (for full semester courses)

### August 27

- Regular Add Deadline at 11:59pm (for full semester courses)
- Late Drop Begins (for full semester courses)\*\*

### Aug. 28:

- Fall Bill Due
- Installment Payment Plan (IPP) enrollment deadline\*\*\*

### Sept. 4:

- Labor Day Holiday - No Classes

\*Students who intend on graduating in December 2023, should file their intent to graduate in LionPATH. More information [here](#)👉

\*\*The Late Drop period ends on Nov. 10 at 11:59pm. This date applies to full semester courses. Learn more [here](#)👉

\*\*\*If you enroll 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](#)👉

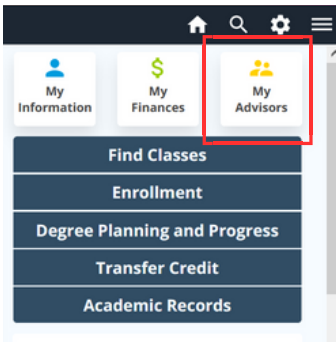
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## ACADEMIC ADVISING

### WHO'S MY ADVISER?



Find your assigned academic adviser in LionPATH. Click "My Advisors" in the upper right corner on your student dashboard.

Schedule an appointment with your Academic Adviser. In LionPATH, click "Starfish" in the Quick Links section on the bottom right of your student dashboard.

### Top 4 Reasons To Meet With An Adviser

1. Create an appropriate **course schedule** to remain on track towards graduation.
2. Develop a deeper understanding of **requirements and/or changes** to your major.
3. Learn about **policies and deadlines** that could benefit you (e.g., grade forgiveness; course repeats, etc.).
4. Explore **opportunities and resources** that could augment your academic experiences.

### FALL 2023 COURSE LOAD

- A student's academic course load will impact their degree progression and financial aid eligibility.
  - To be considered a **full-time student**, you must enroll (and maintain for the duration of the semester) at least 12 credits.
  - To be considered a **part-time student**, you must enroll (and maintain for the duration of the semester) at least 6 but less than 12 credits.
  - Learn more [here](#) 🗨️
- **TIP:** Review your Fall 2023 course schedule in LionPATH within the first two days of the semester. If you are **not** enrolled in the minimum number of credits needed (based on your preferred part-time or full-time status) meet with an academic adviser before the first Friday of the semester to adjust your schedule!

### DROP-IN ADVISING

Academic Advising Center  
160 Franco Building  
610-396-6280

**Want to change your schedule?** Students can DROP classes until Saturday, Aug. 26 (11:59pm) and ADD classes until Sunday, Aug. 27 (11:59pm). Always speak with your assigned academic adviser (and Financial Aid) before making any schedule changes. Schedule changes can potentially impact progress towards degree completion and financial aid eligibility.

**Unable to reach your assigned academic adviser?** Academic Advising is happy to help! Students can meet with an academic adviser virtually or in-person between August 21 - 25 from 8:00am – 4:00pm.

- **Virtual:** Join via Zoom  
<https://psu.zoom.us/j/95866379023> 🗨️
- **In-person:** Come to the office and sign in for a walk-in appointment. You will have the option to meet with an adviser in-person or virtually.

DID YOU KNOW?

### Tuition Surcharge

Tuition is determined by multiple factors some of which include student's residency status, campus location, and credit load.

#### NEW: Undergraduate Student Credit Load Impact

- For students taking up to 12 credits, tuition is charged **per credit**.
- For students taking 12-19 credits tuition is charged at a **flat tuition rate**.
- For students taking above 19 credits tuition is charged at the **flat tuition rate plus the regular per credit hour rate** for each credit above 19.

Read more about the surcharge [here](#) 🗨️ or contact the Bursar's Office via email at [bkbursar@psu.edu](mailto:bkbursar@psu.edu).

If applicable, see your assigned academic adviser to adjust your class scheduled.

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## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

**DID YOU KNOW?**

### Maximum Success

Data suggests that students who utilize academic services have higher success and retention rates when compared to students in the same courses who do **not** utilize those same services. Peer tutoring begins week 2. Engage early to establish habits for semester-long success!

### Free Tutoring

#### LEARNING CENTER &

#### WRITING CENTER PEER 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](#)

#### MATH PEERS & PROFS TUTORING

- **WHAT:** FREE math help sessions hosted by math faculty and math teaching assistants
- **WHEN:** Mondays and Wednesdays during common hour (12:15pm - 1:15pm)
- **WHERE:** 222 Luerssen
- **COURSES SUPPORTED:** Math 4, 21, 22, 26, 34, 35, 41, 110 and Stat 100

*No appointment necessary!*

### Thun Library Services

- The Thun Librarians are here to help with your research! [Schedule a consultation](#) and [learn more](#)
- Located in the Thun Library, Media Commons offers digital and multimedia technology resources to Berks students, faculty, and staff. Learn more about [how to reserve Berks Media Commons equipment and spaces!](#)
- Course reserves are textbooks for students' use in specific courses. Search [here](#) or contact Barb Lessig ([bz11@psu.edu](mailto:bz11@psu.edu)) for assistance.

Learn more about Thun [here](#)

#### HOURS OF OPERATION

Mon - Thurs | 8:30am - 10pm

Fri | 8:30am - 5pm

Sat | Closed

Sun | 2pm - 8pm



## Student Disability Resources (SDR)

Students who had academic accommodations in high school may be eligible to receive academic accommodations at Penn State. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact or visit the Student Disability Resources office **as soon as possible** to discuss accommodations as they may differ from those offered in high school.

Learn more [here](#)

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## CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Fall 2023 Welcome Week

The Office of Campus Life in collaboration with Campus Activities Board (CAB), presents a week-long schedule of activities and programs to help students connect with the campus community.

- **Monday, August 21 | First Year Convocation at 12:15pm**
  - **WHAT IS IT?** An official introduction to academic and student life at Penn State Berks for **all** students new to Berks. *Hosted on Perkins Lawn.*
- **Tuesday, August 22 | Crazy Bob Electronic Giveaway at 8pm**
  - **WHAT IS IT?** Social event designed to get students connected and excited about the school year. Features amazing prizes/giveaways. *Hosted on Perkins Lawn.*
- **Wednesday, August 23**
  - **Club Rush at 12:15pm**
    - **WHAT IS IT?** Involvement fair where **all** students can learn more about and begin connecting with the various clubs and organizations at Penn State Berks. *Hosted on Perkins Lawn.*
  - **The Little Mermaid (2023) at 8pm**
    - **WHAT IS IT?** Outdoor movie night! *Hosted on Perkins Lawn.*
- **August 26 and August 27 | Penn State Berks Community Weekend**
  - **WHAT IS IT?** Offers additional opportunities to make connections through activities facilitated by our student leaders. *Events are hosted on Perkins Lawn.*
  - **Saturday, August 26 at 10am** | Color Run & Tie Dye Event
  - **Sunday, August 27 at 1pm** | Painting in the Afternoon

**AND MORE!** Check out the [Student Events Calendar here](#) to view a full list of campus events and activities.

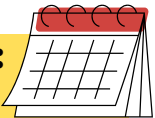


### Office of Community Engagement



- The Office of Community Engagement (OCE) is open to all students, faculty, staff, and community organizations. It is a collaborative effort working together to create partnerships for enhancing student learning & experiences, while filling community needs.
- The OCE connects you with community partners to meet your service learning, academic, and club community engagement goals. The OCE will assist you in getting clearances needed to work in youth programs.
- Popular OCE opportunities include:
  - Operation Smilegram
  - Bilingual Storytelling
  - Nittany Lions Read
  - River Trail and Park Clean Ups
  - Clothing Collection
  - Senior Citizen Ambassadors
- For more information, contact Dr. Donna Chambers at 610-396-6332 or [dmc6004@psu.edu](mailto:dmc6004@psu.edu).

### Upcoming Event: Clearance Fairs



Clearances describes the background check process which may include (1) criminal history report (PA State Police); (2) Child Abuse History Clearance (Department of Human Services); (3) fingerprint based federal criminal history (FBI).

Get one step closer to engaging in service by starting the volunteer clearance process early!  
Attend one of The OCE's Clearance Fairs!

**Friday, August 25**  
12:15pm - 1:30 pm  
Gauge 204

**Thursday, August 31**  
4pm - 5:30 pm  
Thun 137

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## FINANCIAL AID ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WHAT IS VERIFICATION?

Verification is a federal regulation that requires colleges and universities to verify the information provided by students and parents on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

- If you completed the 2023-2024 FAFSA, you may see verification requests in LionPATH in your HOLDS or TO-DO List. Complete all requests as soon as possible!
- The requests will be for the "2024" aid year in LionPATH. For questions about verification, learn more [here](#) 

### Veteran's Benefits

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



Students utilizing VA benefits should ensure they have **priority registration**.

**Contact the Registrar's Office**

Telephone: 610-396-6085

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

### Am I Making Progress? .....

#### What is Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)?

All universities that award federal student aid are required by law to have academic progress standards in place for all federal student aid recipients. The Penn State Federal Student Assistance (Aid) Academic Progress Standard encourages students to work toward an educational objective while completing their program of study within a federally determined time frame. Students who do not meet the student aid academic progress standard are not eligible for most forms of student aid.

#### When is Satisfactory Academic Progress reviewed?

Satisfactory Academic Progress is reviewed every semester and determines a student's Federal financial aid eligibility. SAP is measured during all periods of a student's enrollment at Penn State, including periods in which the student is not receiving financial aid or periods where a student is in a non-degree enrollment status.

#### How is Satisfactory Academic Progress determined?

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.

Learn more [here](#) 

### Contact Financial Aid

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

Phone: 610-396-6070\*

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