



# THE LION'S ROAR

The monthly newsletter for Penn State Berks



## Important Dates

### FEBRUARY 2

- Summer Course Registration Opens<sup>1</sup>

### FEBRUARY 5

- Final Exam Schedule available in LionPATH<sup>2</sup>

### FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20

- Starfish Mid-semester Progress Reporting period<sup>3</sup>

### FEBRUARY 22

- Installment Payment Plan (IPP) payment due<sup>4</sup>

### LOOKING AHEAD

March 4 - 8: Spring Break. No Classes

<sup>1</sup>Summer Session provides students with the opportunity to enroll in courses at any Penn State Campus. Options around the start date, end date, and length of courses exist. Learn more: [Summer Courses | Summer Session \(psu.edu\)](#)

<sup>2</sup>Students are provided with a personalized final exam schedule, viewable in LionPATH. These schedules are available approximately the fifth week of the semester. Learn more: [Final Exams | Penn State Office of the University Registrar \(psu.edu\)](#)

<sup>3</sup>Instructors can raise kudos (for areas of excellence) and flags (for areas of concern) on issues related to your academic progress, which will send messages to your Penn State email. Emails are sent from [notices@starfishsolutions.com](#). View Starfish template messages: [Messages | Starfish Info \(psu.edu\)](#)

<sup>4</sup>If you enroll in the Installment Payment Plan (IPP) by the first payment (1/22), your second, third, and fourth installments are due on the 22nd of the three subsequent months. Learn more: [Payment Options | Office of the Bursar \(psu.edu\)](#)

## WHAT IS THIS?

### STARFISH PROGRESS REPORTING

#### 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.

#### WHAT ARE PROGRESS REPORTING PERIODS?

Starting in week 3 and then again in week 7 of each semester, instructors are prompted to comment on student progress in their class(es) utilizing Starfish. Instructors can raise kudos (for areas of excellence) and flags (for areas of concern) on issues related to your academic progress. Pay special attention to this period for important feedback, which will come from [notices@starfishsolutions.com](#) View Starfish template progress report messages at [Messages | Starfish Info \(psu.edu\)](#)

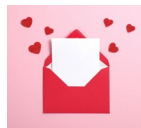
#### DO ALL PROFESSORS COMPLETE REPORTS?

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.

#### I RECEIVED A FLAG, NOW WHAT?

- Discuss the feedback with your instructor.
- Schedule tutoring sessions as necessary
- Meet with your academic adviser to determine a plan of action should you fail or need to drop the course.
- Explore new ways of learning such as:
  - Reading/reviewing the material more often
  - Completing practice problems
  - Making/taking practice tests
  - Joining/creating a study group
  - Speaking the material aloud
  - Switching up note-taking habits (e.g., using pen and paper versus computer).

## What's Inside.....



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# ACADEMIC ADVISING SPOTLIGHT: ACADEMIC INSIGHT

## CHANGE OF MAJOR & CHANGE OF CAMPUS

It may be time for you to change your major, and if applicable, change your campus. This process should be completed prior to scheduling your courses for the Fall semester.

### Are you a fourth-semester student who is eligible to change your major?

- Use the "Update Academics" function in LionPATH to change your major

### Do you need to complete your degree at a campus other than Berks?

- Use the "Update Campus" function in LionPATH to change your campus.

If you have questions about either process, contact your assigned academic adviser or stop by the academic advising center office at 160 Franco between 9:00am-4:00pm from Monday to Friday to meet with an academic adviser.

**IMPORTANT:** If you are thinking about completing your degree at another Penn State campus and would like to discuss how your aid might be impacted, schedule a meeting with Financial Aid to discuss!

## SUMMER COURSE ENROLLMENT

On Feb 2, summer course registration opens and is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Current spring 2024 students can schedule classes at any Penn State campus! Stay on track toward degree completion by speaking with your academic adviser **before** enrolling!

### Summer Sessions:

Summer I: May 13 - June 21

Summer II: June 26 - August 7

Learn more: [Summer Courses | Summer Session \(psu.edu\)](#)

### IMPORTANT!

- Most summer courses are accelerated, covering about 15 weeks of content in 6-7 weeks.
- You can expect the pace of the course to be quick, with some classes meeting more frequently or for longer time periods.
- On-campus housing is not available for those taking summer courses at the Berks campus.
- Contact Financial Aid to determine if you might be eligible for aid.
- If you decide to take classes at a non-Penn State location over the summer, make sure the credits will transfer back to Penn State! Use the [Transfer Credit Tool](#) to confirm.



## MAXIMIZE YOUR SUCCESS THIS SEMESTER: TUTORING SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE!

### Learning Center (161 Franco)

- Professional and peer tutoring in math.
- Peer tutors in chemistry, biology, and more.
- Support with study skills, time management, test anxiety, and more.

### Open for Peer Tutoring by Appointment

Monday–Thursday 9:00am–7:00pm | Friday 9:00am–1pm

### Walk-In Hours Dr. Ryan Hassler, Faculty Math Tutor

Monday Noon to 3:00pm | Friday 10:00am – 1:00pm

### Embedded Classroom Learning Assistants (LAs) Office Hours

- Check with your individual LA.

### Writing Center (141 Franco)

- Peer tutors to help with a paper, speech, resume, or other written material.
- Available in-person or via Zoom

### Open for Peer Tutoring

Monday–Friday 10:00am – 6:30pm

### Math Peers & Profs (222 Luerssen)

- Tutoring sessions available for Math 4, 21, 22, 26, 34, 41, and Stat 100 with Math faculty and teaching assistants.
- Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:15-1:15pm.
- No appointment is necessary!

# RED HEART OR RED FLAG?



Sometimes, relationships can be so confusing it makes it difficult to know whether to stay or leave...

It's important to trust your gut and think about how this person makes **you** feel about yourself. Below are some questions you may want to consider...

1. Is your partner rushing the relationship beyond your comfort level?
2. Are they open and honest about their past?
3. Do they want to spend all their time with you?
4. Do they express gratitude for you and the things you do?
5. Are they accountable and do what they say they will?
6. Do they describe all their exes as crazy?
7. Do they tell you how to dress, spend your money and/or act?
8. Do they check up on you and want to go through your phone?
9. Do most of your friends/family dislike them?
10. Do they have friends of their own?
11. Are they respectful when you express your feelings?
12. Are they easily angered?

As you may have guessed, numbers 1,3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12 are considered red flags. If you're seeing these behaviors in a relationship, you may want to slow down and discuss them with someone you trust. A healthy relationship should make you feel safe, cared for, and respected.

**RESOURCES:** Penn State offers a wide range of support to students in need. Reach out if you are concerned about yourself or someone else!

- [Bias Reporting](https://equity.psu.edu/report-bias) (<https://equity.psu.edu/report-bias>) for concerns regarding bias, intolerance, discrimination, harassment, and/or incivility.
- [Care Report Form](https://tinyurl.com/SCAReportingForm) (<https://tinyurl.com/SCAReportingForm>) for concerns regarding academics, physical or mental health/safety, or finances.
- [Counseling Services](https://berks.psu.edu/student-life/current-students/health-and-wellness-center/counseling-services) (<https://berks.psu.edu/student-life/current-students/health-and-wellness-center/counseling-services>) provides confidential short-term counseling services that are available free of charge to all students at the Berks campus.
- [Safe Berks](https://safeberks.org/) (<https://safeberks.org/>) provides a safe haven and ongoing support system for survivors of domestic and sexual violence as well as Prevention and Awareness Programming. Connect with our Campus Advocate, LaTisha Baker via **email** [LaTishaB@safeberks.org](mailto:LaTishaB@safeberks.org) or by **phone** at 484-651-9745 (call or text)
- [Sexual Misconduct](http://titleix.psu.edu/filing-a-report/) (<http://titleix.psu.edu/filing-a-report/>) for concerns regarding sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking.

Black Student Union  
Presents



THE EXISTENCE OF THE BLACK BODY IS ONE MERELY WORTH STUDYING. TO BE BLACK, MEANS TO CELEBRATE JOY, WISDOM, CULTURE. BRIDGING CULTURAL GAPS AND CREATING SHIFTS IN CLIMATES. BEING BLACK IS AN EXPERIENCE, A JOURNEY, A TRANSFORMATION OF LIFE. I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE ANYTHING ELSE. ... I MEAN WOULD YOU?

Monday, February 5th - Saturday February 10th, 2024

Black Student Union reserves the right to change the schedule of events without notice. Please contact BSU at 484-651-9745 for more information.



# CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## February 5 - 9 | Spirit Week hosted by the Black Student Union (BSU)

- 2/5 Melanin Monday: Wear Shades of Brown
- 2/6 Black Out Tuesday: Wear all Black
- 2/7 Way Back Wednesday: Wear HBCU Gear or pay homage to hip-hop streetwear
- 2/8 Rep Your Roots Thursday: Wear your country and/or the city where you're from
- 2/9 Hi! I'm Barbie: Wear shades of Pink

## February 10 | Boogie Down Skate Party hosted by BSU

at 2275 Lancaster Pike in Shillington, PA 19607 (Skateaway) starting at 10pm, come out for a fun "throwback" themed skating party wearing your favorite 70s, 80s, or 90s looks!

## February 14 | Douglass Day 2024 Transcribe-a-thon hosted by Thun Library and Black Student Union 12pm - 3pm in Thun 137

In 2024, we are going to transcribe the [Frederick Douglass Papers: General Correspondence, 1841 to 1912 in the archives of the Library of Congress](#). This collection includes public letters, intimate family moments, and much more. These letters show us the many versions of Frederick Douglass across so many parts of his long and storied lifetime fighting for Black rights and citizenship. These papers have been digitized and made available through collaborations with the Library of Congress and the ByThePeople platform. Learn more and join virtually at [douglassday.org](http://douglassday.org).

## February 15 | Annual Black Excellence Dinner hosted by BSU and co-sponsored by Student Affairs

Join us at 7pm in Perkins 007 (MPR 1) for an elegant evening that includes music and delicious food.

## February 23 | Being Black at Berks hosted by BSU and co-sponsored by the DEIB Committee

At 5:30pm in Perkins Auditorium, join this annual showcase which highlights the talents, culture, and experiences of our Black student population.



# UNLOCK FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES WITH CAREER SERVICES

The Career Services Office is a full-service resource for students and alumni of Penn State Berks. The office provides online career resources, counseling, and assistance in all facets of career planning and development. Contact Career Services to schedule a one-on-one meeting and start your opportunity search, review your resume, and prepare for interviews.

## MAKING THE MOST OF SPRING BREAK (AND YOUR FUTURE)

If a getaway is not in the cards, make the most of your free time during Spring Break (March 4 - March 8)! Think ahead about the many ways you can use this time to advance your career.

### Meet With a Career Services Counselor

Work to identify internship and employment opportunities, revise your resume, discuss your cover letter, and more!

### Learn a New Skill

- Sharpen your business, technology, and creative skills on your schedule with expert-led instruction from any device, anywhere.
- Gain free access to LinkedIn Learning with your Penn State credentials at <https://linkedinlearning.psu.edu/>

### Speak with or Shadow Professionals in Your Desired Field

- *Speak with a professional: An informational interview is a one-on-one meeting between an information seeker (i.e., student) and an information provider (i.e., industry professional). The seeker gathers in-depth information about career fields, positions of interest, and industry trends.*

- *Shadow a professional: Contact a professional who is working in your desired career field to see if you might be able to spend a day with them at work. Shadowing them for a day could provide valuable insights into the day-to-day expectations of your future profession.*

### Update Your LinkedIn Profile (or Create One)

LinkedIn is a powerful tool for networking and advancing your career. Learn more here [LinkedIn and Social Media | Penn State Student Affairs \(psu.edu\)](#)

### Visit Graduate or Professional Schools

If you plan on continuing your education beyond your time at Penn State Berks, use Spring Break to visit schools of interest. You may be able to schedule a formal tour or stop by for a casual visit.

## UPCOMING CAREER FAIR & NETWORKING EVENTS

**February 21** | Interviewing, Networking & Career Fair Prep from 12:15pm - 1:15pm in Perkins 007 (MPR 1)

**February 27** | Employer Networking Mixer at Berks from 4pm - 6pm in Perkins 107 (MPR 2)

**February 28** | PSU Berks Career and Internship Fair from 11am - 3pm in Gaige Lobby  
85+ Employers representing ALL MAJORS

**March 20** | Resume Writing & Know Your Career Office from 12:15pm - 1:15pm in Perkins 003

**April 8** | Business Etiquette Dinner from 5pm - 6pm in Perkins 007 (MPR 1)  
*Learn more about Business Dining Etiquette, how to dress for success, and more! Space is limited so sign up [HERE](#) as soon as possible!*

**April 24** | Graduate School Workshop from 12:15pm - 1:15pm in Perkins 003

Career Services | 010 Perkins Student Center | 610-396-6368



## LOVE DATA WEEK: PRIVACY WORKSHOP SERIES

Celebrate Love Data Week with Thun Library's Privacy Workshop Series! Join us on Wednesdays from 12:15-1:15pm in Thun or via Zoom (952 7021 8608) to explore privacy and social justice, intimate privacy, intellectual privacy, and AI:

**February 7** | Data Justice: Examining Discriminating Systems and Tech Power

**February 14** | Private Bits: Privacy, Intimacy, and Consent

**February 21** | Hidden Layer: Intellectual Privacy and Generative AI

For more information, visit [guides.libraries.psu.edu/Berks/PrivacySeries](https://guides.libraries.psu.edu/Berks/PrivacySeries)

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

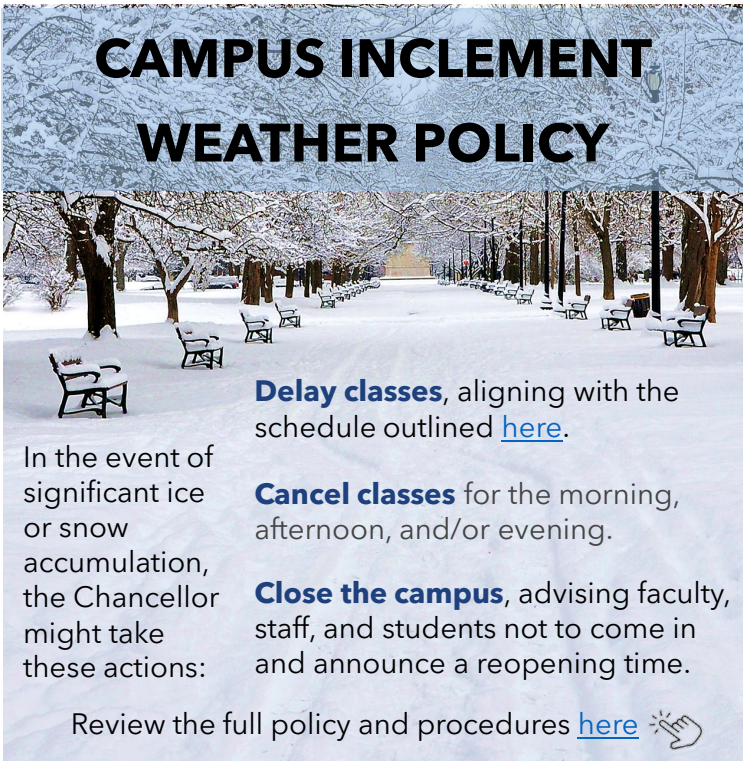
## FINANCIAL AID FOCUS: CRITICAL UPDATES AND INSIGHTS



### FAFSA APPLICATION 2024-2025

- The 2024-2025 FAFSA application has undergone significant changes.
  - For the latest news on FAFSA availability visit <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/december-fafsa>.
  - To learn how to fill out the FAFSA form, visit <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out>
- **IMPORTANT:** Students completing the 2024-2025 FAFSA form should be using the following:
  - Pennsylvania State University (The)
  - SCHOOL TYPE: PUBLIC, PRIMARILY 4-YEAR
  - Federal School Code: 003329

## CAMPUS INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY




**Delay classes**, aligning with the schedule outlined [here](#).

**Cancel classes** for the morning, afternoon, and/or evening.

**Close the campus**, advising faculty, staff, and students not to come in and announce a reopening time.

In the event of significant ice or snow accumulation, the Chancellor might take these actions:

Review the full policy and procedures [here](#) 

### HOLDS AND TO DO LIST ITEMS

- Check for any To Do List items or Holds related to Financial Aid in your LionPATH account. Click on the link to understand if it requires action or offers information only.
- **Note:** Financial Aid To Do list items and Holds won't stop students from scheduling courses. If you cannot schedule classes, another Hold, like an [academic registration hold](#), might be the cause. Review the Hold or To Do List details to determine your next steps. For assistance with Financial Aid-related To Do List items or Holds, contact the Financial Aid office.



## CULTIVATE YOUR POTENTIAL: CAMPUS LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Orientation Leaders (OLs) represent a significant leadership opportunity at Penn State Berks. OLs are often a new student's first introduction to the campus. They assist new students with their transition during Welcome Weekend events!

**Requirements:** Students do NOT need to enroll in a class to be qualified to serve as an OL.

**Spring 2024:** Students must complete the OL application. Students selected as OLs will be expected to participate in an evening training during the Spring semester.

**Fall 2024:** Students must be available the week before Fall classes for training and to assist during Welcome Weekend events. OLs are expected to attend one Welcome Week **and** one Community Weekend event.



*If you have any questions about the process or how you can get involved, contact Lily Sánchez at [LQS5108@psu.edu](mailto:LQS5108@psu.edu) or Dereka Bauscher at [DZB5915@psu.edu](mailto:DZB5915@psu.edu). Scan the QR code or [click here](#) for the 2024 Orientation Leader application beginning Jan 15.*

*This newsletter is made possible by the joint efforts of the Student Success & Retention Committee, DUS Academic Advising Center, and the Office of Admissions & Enrollment Management.*

# CAMPUS RESOURCE LIST

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**24/7 Penn State Crisis Line** can be used in consultation for those at PSU to support someone who is experiencing a crisis or for yourself. You can reach the Crisis Line by:

- Calling 1-877-229-6400
- Texting "LIONS" to 741741

**American Foundation for Suicide Prevention** offers resources and tips on how to support a friend -- or get help yourself.

- Check it out at <https://seizetheawkward.org/>

**Berks County Crisis Line** can be used by residents of Berk County to assist children, adolescents and adults experiencing varying levels of crisis.

- Call the line at 610-379-2007

**Counseling Services** are available to all Penn State Berks students for FREE.

- Learn more at <https://berks.psu.edu/counseling-services>

**Life Hack Kits** are free step-by-step wellness packages designed to help navigate and demystify the perplexing parts of being human.

- Learn more at <https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/wellness-services/life-hacks>

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** is free and confidential support for any person in distress, providing prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.

- Call the line by dialing 988 or calling 800-273-8255

**Online Mental Health Screenings** are free and anonymous for several areas of mental health, including depression, anxiety, academic distress, eating concerns, frustration level, family stress, and alcohol use.

- Begin screening at <https://tinyurl.com/CAPSScreening>

**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/>

**Safe Berks Campus Advocate** provides support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence as well as offers Prevention and Awareness Programming.

- **Campus Contact:** LaTisha Baker
- **Email:** [LaTishaB@safeberks.org](mailto:LaTishaB@safeberks.org)
- **Office:** 311 Gaige
- **Phone:** 484-651-9745 (call or text)

**WellTrack Boost** is a tool designed to help understand the activities associated with changes in mood and motivation, as well as to identify patterns in daily activities and how they are associated with changes in emotional states.

- Get FREE PSU access at <https://psu.welltrack.com/>

**Nittany Corner FOOD PANTRY** [in the Cohen Lounge located in Thun Library]

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!

## GENERAL

**Academic Advising** [160 Franco] - Questions about **course scheduling, degree progress, changing your major, or advising policies** contact your assigned academic adviser (listed in LionPATH). You can also reach out to Academic Advising for support.

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

**BIAS Incident REPORT FORM** - To report concerns regarding bias, intolerance, discrimination, harassment, and/or incivility, use the form found [here](#)

**Bursar** [125 Franco] - Questions about your **bill or payment options**. **Email:** [bkbursar@psu.edu](mailto:bkbursar@psu.edu) | **Phone:** 610-396-6040

**CARE Report Form** - To express concern for a student experiencing distress of an academic, health, safety, or financial nature, use the form found [here](#)

**Financial Aid** [014 Perkins] - Questions about your **aid, holds, or to-do list items**

**Email:** [BerksFinAid@psu.edu](mailto:BerksFinAid@psu.edu) | **Phone:** 610-396-6070

**Housing & Food Services** [106 Perkins]

- Questions about ID Cards or Residence Hall and Housing Contracts email [HousingBK@psu.edu](mailto:HousingBK@psu.edu)
- Questions about meal plans and food services, including reporting food allergies, email [absfoodservicebk@psu.edu](mailto:absfoodservicebk@psu.edu)

**International Student Services** [311A Gaige]

- Questions about international student-related programs and events **email** [nar165@psu.edu](mailto:nar165@psu.edu)
- Questions about maintaining immigration status, internships, employment, enrollment requirements, and visa-related regulations **email** [dcs5845@psu.edu](mailto:dcs5845@psu.edu)
- **Phone:** 610-396-6105

**Thun Library** - A place to study, access course materials, a lounge with vending machines, or support with technology.

- Webpage: <https://libraries.psu.edu/berks>
- Access their full calendar [here](#).
- Course Reserves (free access to textbooks) can be used in the library for 2-hour intervals. [Check here](#)

**Tutoring**

- **Learning Center:** Schedule a **math or science** tutoring session [here](#).
- **Writing Center:** Schedule a tutor for help with a **paper, speech, resume, or other written material** [here](#).
- **Peers and Profs:** Need help with Math 4, 21, 22, 26, 34, 41, & Stat 110, attend help sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:15-1:15 pm in Luerssen 222. No appointment is necessary!

**Veteran Benefits** [125 Franco]

Questions about **VA certifications**, contact the Registrar's Office  
**Email:** [BKVeterans@psu.edu](mailto:BKVeterans@psu.edu) | **Phone:** 610-396-6085 For questions