Penn State Up Close

2015
Why Penn State?

There are literally hundreds of reasons to choose Penn State. The university offers more than 160 baccalaureate majors … more than 1,200 student clubs and organizations … a system of 20 undergraduate campuses across Pennsylvania that enroll first-year students … more than 150 years of tradition. Among the many reasons you might consider Penn State, one stands out: high-quality academics.

Penn State faculty are recognized nationally and internationally for achievements in teaching and research. Academic programs in many areas are also highly ranked, from engineering to education, business to communications, agriculture to French.

So, whatever you choose to study at any Penn State campus, you can depend on the high standards and reputation of Penn State.

"I came for a visit and fell in love with Penn State."

Autumn Griffin knew the importance of making Penn State her own. She’s been involved with the ASHE Theatre Club and the Student Minority Advisory and Recruitment Team (SMART), where she worked with Penn State adviser Gary Abdullah to help bring underrepresented students to Penn State.

PENN STATE has more than 1,200 clubs and organizations across 20 undergraduate campuses.
Class size
At University Park
85% of first-year classes have 50 or fewer students.
Only twelve courses have more than 400 students.

At other Penn State campuses
Classes generally have 20 or fewer students.

Faculty
Penn State is a top producer of Fulbright Scholars among research institutions, with 11 Fulbright Scholars in 2013–14.

The Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) provides educational planning, advising, and referral services for students who wish to explore several majors. DUS advisers will teach you to connect your interests to a Penn State major.

It’s a great asset to have when you’re undecided, like Danielle Williamson, who explored her options before settling on the Biobehavioral Health major.

“I knew I wanted something in the health area, but I wasn’t sure exactly what,” she says. “My advisers knew a little about everything and encouraged me to take courses I wouldn’t normally try.”

One of those “outside the box” courses was an introductory biobehavioral health course, which Danielle cites as a deciding factor in selecting her major. Danielle plans to attend graduate school for occupational therapy after finishing her degree.

Alumni
There are more than 616,000 living Penn State alumni.
One in 117 Americans with a college degree is a Penn State graduate.
The Alumni Association is the largest of its kind, with more than 170,000 members.

Libraries
Penn State’s University Libraries are ranked 8th among research libraries in North America, according to the Association of Research Libraries.

You can make a big school small, but you can’t make a small school big.
Where is Penn State?

There is no short answer, because Penn State is a multicampus university. Wherever you want to be in Pennsylvania, Penn State is probably nearby.

**Penn State campuses offer you:**

— a variety of rural and suburban settings
— several campuses within a short drive of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and other urban areas
— a large campus setting (University Park campus enrollment is 46,184) and smaller campus settings (enrollments vary from about 700 to more than 4,000)
— a choice of living on campus, off campus, or commuting from home.

The 2+2 Plan

As a first-year student, you may choose from among twenty Penn State campuses to start your education. Many students (about 60 percent in a typical year) spend their first two years at one campus, then transition to another campus to finish their degree. We call it the 2+2 plan.

A visit is the best way to learn more about any campus. To make arrangements, contact an admissions officer at the campus that interests you.

"Berks has a family-like atmosphere. It’s very personal; they check in on you."

Kristen Holmes started at Penn State Berks, where she discovered her love of sign language and speech therapy. Now a Communication Sciences and Disorders major at University Park, she hopes to become a speech therapist. Her involvement with the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association and the Penn State Sign Language Organization are steps on that path. Kristen also volunteers with Operation Smile and is a member of the Black Student Union and the Student Minority Advisory and Recruitment Team (SMART).

Kristen said she looked for a school with prestige and a lot of school spirit. She found the perfect combination at **PENN STATE**. "I love the school. I love the atmosphere here."
Special-Mission Campuses

21 The Dickinson School of Law
800-840-1122
717-240-5000
(Carlisle Campus)
814-867-1251
(University Park Campus)

22 Great Valley Graduate Center
610-648-3200

23 College of Medicine
The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
717-531-8755

24 Pennsylvania College of Technology
One College Avenue
Williamsport, PA 17701
570-327-4761, 800-367-9222
tc.pct.edu

World Campus/Distance Education
The Pennsylvania State University
128 Outreach Building
University Park, PA 16802-3601
814-865-5403, 800-252-3592
worldcampus.psu.edu

Recruitment Centers

Philadelphia Community Recruitment Center
1617 JFK Blvd., Suite 425
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-246-3500
Email: philacrc@psu.edu

Pittsburgh Community Recruitment Center
Liberty Center, Suite R14-A
1001 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-263-2900
Email: pgphcrc@psu.edu

Regional Recruiters

New Jersey
973-983-0159
Email: njpsu@psu.edu

New York City
718-862-2965
Email: nyadmissions@psu.edu

Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia Area
814-867-0405
Email: DCMCMDVA-admissions@psu.edu

Private owned housing is available in the communities served by every Penn State campus. Those designated with the following symbols provide residence hall experiences.

Blue house indicates privately owned housing with residence hall experiences.

Green house indicates University-owned residence halls.
### Majors

For the most up-to-date majors information, visit [admissions.psu.edu](http://admissions.psu.edu).

### Baccalaureate (Four-Year) Degree Programs

*Note: Some majors are listed under more than one subject area.*

#### Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Agribusiness Management
- Agricultural and Extension Education
- Agricultural Science
- Animal Science
- Biological Engineering
- BioRenewable Systems

#### Biological (Life) Sciences
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Biological Anthropology
- Biological Engineering
- Biology
- Biomedical Engineering
- Biotechnology
- Food Science
- Forensic Science
- Immunology and Infectious Disease
- Microbiology
- Nutritional Sciences
- Plant Sciences
- Premedical-Medical, Accelerated
- Premedicine
- Science
- Toxicology
- Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences

#### Business
- Accounting
- Agribusiness Management
- Arts Administration
- Business
- Business Economics
- Economics
- Energy and Sustainability Policy
- Energy Business and Finance
- Finance
- Golf Management
- Health Policy and Administration
- Hospitality Management
- Information Systems
- Interdisciplinary Business with Engineering Studies
- International Business
- Labor Studies and Employment Relations
- Management
- Management Information Systems
- Marketing
- Project and Supply Chain Management
- Sports Management

#### Communications
- Advertising/Public Relations
- Communication
- Communication Arts and Sciences
- Communications
- Corporate Communication
- Film-Video
- Journalism
- Media Studies
- Telecommunications
- Writing, Creative
- Writing, Professional

#### Computer and Information Systems
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Information Sciences and Technology
- Information Systems
- Management Information Systems
- Security and Risk Analysis
- Software Engineering

#### Education
- Agricultural and Extension Education
- Art Education
- Childhood and Early Adolescent Education
- Education and Public Policy
- Elementary Education
- Music Education
- Rehabilitation and Human Services
- Secondary Education (multiple options)
- Special Education
- Workforce Education and Development
- World Languages (K–12) Education (multiple options)

#### Engineering
- Aerospace Engineering
- Architectural Engineering
- Biological Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Electrical Engineering
- Energy Engineering
- Engineering Science
- Environmental Systems Engineering
- General Engineering
- Industrial Engineering
- Interdisciplinary Business with Engineering Studies
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Mining Engineering
- Nuclear Engineering
- Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering
- Rail Transportation Engineering
- Software Engineering
- Surveying Engineering

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<tr>
<th>Enrollment by degree program</th>
<th>Full-time</th>
<th>Part-time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>6,794</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baccalaureate</td>
<td>72,434</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate/ Medical/Law</td>
<td>14,927</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisional/ Nondegree</td>
<td>3,942</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total full-time faculty</td>
<td>6,060</td>
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For more information, visit [admissions.psu.edu](http://admissions.psu.edu).
Penn State offers more than 160 baccalaureate degree majors and more than 20 associate degree majors across our campus system.
Applying to Penn State

We strongly encourage you to file a complete application by November 30 of your senior year. Some programs and campuses fill quickly, so it is always to your benefit to apply early.

Penn State’s admission application is available at admissions.psu.edu.

Your application to Penn State allows you to be evaluated for any of our campuses and programs. Entrance difficulty is based partly on demand. The University Park campus is the most competitive location for admission to all programs.

A Wall Street Journal survey of corporate recruiters ranked Penn State first among 100 colleges for its ability to help students prepare for the job market. Penn State Career Services at all campuses offers career fairs, résumé reviews, and many other resources to help students find jobs and internships.

ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

September 1: Penn State’s application for undergraduate admission is available online at admissions.psu.edu.

Late October–May 1: Admission decisions are made.

November 30: Priority application deadline. Students who have submitted a complete application (including a high school transcript and SAT/ACT scores) by this date have the best chance of receiving their first choice of campus and major.

January 1: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available at fafsa.ed.gov. This is the only form that Penn State requires for financial aid consideration.

March 1: Date recommended by Penn State Office of Student Aid for completing the FAFSA.

Late March: Financial aid award notifications emailed from the Office of Student Aid.

May 1: National deadline for accepting an offer of admission.
More than 2,400 undergraduates study abroad every year in more than 54 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East, as well as in Australia and New Zealand.

Estimating your eligibility

Penn State bases admission decisions on a variety of factors. High school performance accounts for approximately two-thirds of the decision. The remaining one-third is based on other factors, which may include standardized test scores (students taking the ACT are required to complete and submit the writing component), class rank, the personal statement, and activities statement. Class rank is also considered for students with honors or Advanced Placement courses whose schools do not supply a weighted GPA. The optional personal statement and activities statement are sometimes considered for students whose applications require additional review.

The ranges in the chart below represent the middle 50 percent of students offered admission for fall 2013—they are not cutoffs or averages. Placing in the upper end of both ranges increases the likelihood of being offered your first choice of campus and/or major. Placing in the lower end may require you to be more flexible in making your campus (and perhaps major) choices. This chart in no way represents a promise or guarantee of admission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School GPA (4.0 scale)</th>
<th>MIDDLE 50% RANGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Penn State University Park</td>
<td>3.52–3.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other campuses</td>
<td>2.94–3.46</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Combined SAT</th>
<th>MIDDLE 50% RANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Penn State University Park</td>
<td>1730–1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other campuses</td>
<td>1450–1680</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composite ACT</th>
<th>MIDDLE 50% RANGE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Penn State University Park</td>
<td>25–30</td>
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<tr>
<td>All other campuses</td>
<td>20–25</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Combined English/Writing ACT</th>
<th>MIDDLE 50% RANGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Penn State University Park</td>
<td>24–30</td>
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<tr>
<td>All other campuses</td>
<td>19–24</td>
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</tbody>
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David Rusenko ’07, founder of the online startup company Weebly, was on his way to success before he left campus. Rusenko and a few fellow Penn Staters started the website design company as part of a class project.

Now Weebly, with more than 3 million users, has been named one of the “50 Best Websites” by *Time* magazine. Rusenko says his Penn State education was an ideal stepping-stone to postcollege life.

“What I learned in the classroom prepared me with the fundamental skills I needed after graduating, and the skills I learned outside of the classroom prepared me to be the kind of person people would enjoy working with,” he says. “PENN STATE strikes the perfect balance among great academics, affordable cost, and an amazingly fun time.”
Applying for financial aid

The first step of the financial aid application process is to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the Web at fafsa.ed.gov. Penn State’s federal school code for the FAFSA is 003329.

We recommend that you file your 2014 Federal Income Tax Return prior to submitting your FAFSA and use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, available after February 3, on the FAFSA website. Using the tool will save you time and increase the accuracy of your FAFSA.

To receive maximum consideration for student financial aid, including loans, grants, scholarships, and work-study, complete the FAFSA on the Web by March 1. If you submit your FAFSA by March 1, you will receive your Student Aid Award Notification in late March. Instructions on how to access the online award notification will be sent via email to the student (and parent, if the parent email is listed on the FAFSA). The Student Aid Award Notification will include the loans, grants, scholarships or work-study you are eligible to receive. In April and beyond, Student Aid Award Notifications are sent out weekly to those who submit their FAFSA after March 1.

All students who are offered admission and submit a FAFSA are considered for scholarships awarded by the Office of Student Aid. Some academic colleges, campuses, and other administrative units may require separate applications. Scholarship awarding begins in early spring. You will be notified if you are selected.

Visit studentaid.psu.edu to explore Penn State scholarships and the university’s financial aid process.

Please note: Pennsylvania residents must submit their FAFSA by May 1 in order to be eligible for the Pennsylvania State Grant.

The people in financial aid are very nice.

“I had two problems and they were very helpful in pointing me in the right direction. They don’t bounce you to someone else; they take care of it for you.”

To cover costs, most PENN STATE students and their families use financial strategies that include student and parent loans, grants, student employment, and scholarships. For Marcos Hernandez, starting early and establishing a relationship with Penn State’s Office of Student Aid were important steps in his planning.

Marcos, a Security and Risk Analysis major, completed several work-study jobs to earn money for books, rent, and other expenses. He also worked with the Office of Student Aid to resolve issues with student loans.

It can work. It will take planning, it may take sacrifice, but the high-quality educational experience offered at Penn State is within your reach.
Penn State campuses offer a variety of MEN’S AND WOMEN’S VARSITY SPORTS programs, as well as dozens of intramural and club sports.

Tuition and Costs

The costs in the chart below cover a two-semester academic year. Students are billed for one semester at a time. Penn State offers an optional payment plan to students and their families. Please access the Bursar’s office website at bursar.psu.edu for more information on tuition payment.

2013–14 Penn State Costs by Campus (FOR ESTIMATING PURPOSES ONLY)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>PA Resident</th>
<th>Non-PA Resident</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuition and Fees</strong></td>
<td>$16,992</td>
<td>$29,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional Estimated Costs</strong></td>
<td>$16,600</td>
<td>$16,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$33,592</td>
<td>$46,156</td>
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Growing up in Parsippany, New Jersey, Alex Gallego remembers his fourth-grade teacher telling him about the remarkable squirrels at Penn State. For whatever reason, that image stuck with him, and when it came time to apply for college, Alex knew he wanted to consider Penn State.

“When I actually set foot on campus, I loved the ambiance and atmosphere,” he said. “I just knew it was where I wanted to be.”

Alex enrolled in Penn State’s College of Communications with plans to major in advertising/public relations. Soon he was involved in THON, performing with No Refund Theatre, volunteering as a tour guide, and a member of the Singing Lions, Penn State’s version of Glee. He quickly realized Penn State was about a lot more than squirrels.

“The spectrum of what Penn State can offer is beyond what I ever could have imagined.”
The MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION on Penn State’s majors and campuses, as well as our admission application, can always be found at admissions.psu.edu.