Westgate Building: Self-Guided Tour

Welcome to the Westgate Building, home to the College of Information Sciences and Technology! Use this as your guide to learn more about the IST experience as you explore the building. We respectfully ask that you do not enter classrooms or faculty offices during your visit.

STOP 1: WESTGATE BUILDING—EXTERIOR

Opened in 2004 IST classrooms, faculty and staff offices, and research spaces are housed on the east side of the building. The 768-foot-long building is among the longest on campus. A 955-foot-long concrete walkway spans Atherton Street. Inspired by the Ponte Vecchio bridge in Florence, Italy, IST’s first graduates have their names inscribed on some of the building’s 400,372 bricks.

To Stop 2: Do not go up the ramp. Instead, veer to the left of the ramp and enter the double doors to access the ground floor. Walk straight down the hall until you see the entryway to the Academic Services Suite, Room E103 on your left.

STOP 2: ACADEMIC SERVICES SUITE (ROOM E103)

Hosts the majority of IST’s student support service teams, including academic advisers, career coaches, diversity advocates, student engagement specialists, and learning support staff. Staff help students stay on track for graduation, pursue career opportunities, get involved, and build community. Support staff are available to meet year-round. Space includes reservable rooms where students can interview with employers. Central location makes for easy access between classes.

To Stop 3: Walk toward the blue wall with the large College of IST logo at the end of the hall.

STOP 3: STUDENT LOUNGE AND COLLABORATION SPACES

One of many collaboration and study spaces in the building, most of which include accessible power or built-in technology. Conference rooms can be reserved for job interviews, team projects, and student organization work. Soft seating areas are a popular place to study, connect with friends, or rest between classes. IT Helpdesk is around the corner to assist with tech issues and support IST’s virtual desktop program. Spaces are designed to support the college’s emphasis on teamwork.

To Stop 4: Take the elevator, or the stairs to the left of the elevator, to the second floor. As you exit, walk straight and stop next to the Red Cell Analytics Lab on your left. Stop before walking out the doors to the IST Bridge.

STOP 4: RED CELL ANALYTICS LAB (ROOM E215) AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Red Cell Analytics Lab is a student organization that helps students better evaluate and manage threats like cyberattacks and natural disasters. Nearly 20 student organizations are housed in the college. IST student organizations focus on career preparation, practical experience, identity development, community building, and more. Organizations showcase student work and seek new members during the IST Involvement Fair. Students can also build community through more than 1,000 organizations offered at Penn State.

To Stop 5: Stay inside and walk down the long hallway. You’ll pass a glass-walled classroom on your left and a small brick wall on your right to enter the main IST classroom area.
STOP 5: MAIN CLASSROOM HALLWAY

Eight of the college’s 11 classrooms are in this second floor hallway. Four classrooms seat fewer than 30 students and nine seat fewer than 55 students. Students take classes across campus, but most IST classes will be in Westgate as students advance toward graduation. Collaboration spaces are located outside these classrooms for students to catch up on work and socialize.

To Stop 6: As you reach the end of the hallway, turn around and walk back to the Red Cell Analytics Lab. Once there, exit the doors to your right. Walk directly across the IST Bridge and through the doors to enter Reese’s Café.

STOP 6: REESE’S CAFÉ

Sits at the center in the Westgate Building with Atherton Street running underneath. Offers lots of natural light and a great view in the main atrium. Features a grab-and-go restaurant with coffee, snacks, and pre-made meals. Is a gathering place for student welcomes, research presentations, graduation socials, and other events. Grand staircase climbs 54 steps to the third floor.

To Stop 7: Walk through Reese’s Café, passing the Grand Staircase on your left and the “We Are Penn State” wall on your right. As you pass a glass-walled classroom to your right, look slightly right to see a brightly colored wall marking the Cybertorium, Room W201.

STOP 7: CYBERTORIUM (ROOM W201)

Largest classroom in the Westgate Building, with 155 seats. Used for many introductory courses required of IST students, regardless of major. Features a large projection screen, speakers, and plenty of technology. Hosts many of IST’s distinguished lectures, student organization showcases, and workshops. Faculty use innovative teaching methods to make the larger classroom feel small.

To Stop 8: (Via the Grand Staircase) Turn around and walk back toward Reese’s Café. Take the Grand Staircase up to the third floor. (Via the elevator) Find the elevators near the entrance to the Cybertorium and take them to the third floor. Exit the elevators and turn left, walking above Reese’s Café until you stop in Hansen Lounge at the top of the Grand Staircase.

STOP 8: FACULTY OFFICES AND RESEARCH LABS

Third floor hosts the majority of faculty offices and research labs. IST students can ask questions during office hours, connect with faculty about research opportunities, and seek input about career paths and internships. Research labs are primarily used by graduate students, but undergraduate students can participate in research. Hansen Lounge is a quieter study area with plenty of seating.

To Building Exit: (Via the Grand Staircase) Walk back down the Grand Staircase and exit through Reese’s Café to the IST Bridge. (Via the elevator) Take the elevator to the second floor and exit to the IST Bridge.