VOL.39 | JANUARY 2025

THE LION'S ROAR

The monthly newsletter for Penn State Berks

Important Dates

Jan. 2 - 27: Intent to Graduate Activation Period[1]
Jan. 10: Leave of Absence Deadline [2]
Jan. 12:
- Residence Halls reopen at 11a.m. (for residential students)
- Spring Course Registration Deadline at 11:59p.m.

Jan. 13: Spring Classes Begin
Jan. 18: Regular DROP Deadline at 11:59p.m. (for full semester courses)
Jan. 19:
- Regular ADD Deadline at 11:59p.m. (for full semester courses)
- Late Drop Begins (for full semester courses)[3]

Jan. 20:
- Late Registration Begins
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday (University Closed)

Jan. 22:
- Club Rush at 12:15p.m. in Beaver Athletics and Wellness Center
- Installment Payment Plan (IPP) enrollment deadline[4]
- Spring 2025 Bill Due

Jan. 27: New International Student's MICI Submission Deadline[5]

LOOKING AHEAD

Feb. 21: Spring Break Housing Request Deadline (for residential students)[6]

1 Students intending to graduate in May 2025, should file their intent to graduate in LionPATH. More information here.
2 Students not enrolling in the Spring 2025 semester but who plan to return to the university in the Fall 2025 semester, should speak with an academic adviser and consider submitting the leave of absence form. Learn more here.
3 The Late Drop period ends on April 11 at 11:59 p.m.. This date applies to full-semester courses. Learn more here.
4 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.
- IMPORTANT: To use this method of payment, enroll in Penn State's Installment Payment plan every semester. Read more on the IPP, here.

5 All NEW international students in initial or transfer F-1 status must complete Mandatory Immigration Check-in (MICI) to be registered in SEVIS. Learn more about MICI here.
- Questions? Click here to schedule an appointment with Diane Sanders, International Student Adviser.

6 Break housing is not included in the semester contract. In order to make the request, log into eLiving and choose Contracts > Summer/Break Housing Request. Read more on managing your housing contract here.

What's Inside?

Page 1: Important Dates | On Campus Job Fair
Page 2: Spring Semester Success including Academic Advising Spotlight | Drop/Add Week | Peer Tutoring
Page 3: Campus Features including MLK Banquet | THON
Page 4: Stay in the Know including OL Recruitment | Satisfactory Academic Progress | FAFSA Party
Page 5: ICYMI including FAFSA 25-26 | Mobile id+ | Inclement Weather Policy | Scholarship Search
Page 6: Campus Resource List

Job Seekers: Find Work at Berks

ON CAMPUS JOB FAIR

Join us for an on-campus job fair! Explore open positions for students, including work-study positions that offer flexible schedules and valuable experience.

Wednesday
January 15

Time
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Perkins 7
MPR

You can check your work-study eligibility at the fair, event with
Johnee Border
jcb6176@psu.edu

Have any questions, contact:
Career Services | Perkins 10
ncl102@psu.edu

SPRING SEMESTER SUCCESS

Academic Advising Center

As the new academic semester kicks off, we're thrilled to re-introduce you to a crucial campus resource – the Berks Academic Advising Center. Committed to your academic success, our team is here to guide you through your educational journey.

BERKS ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER
Location: 160 Franco
Hours: Monday through Friday from 8a.m. to 5p.m.
Phone: 610-396-6280
Email: bkadvisingcenter@psu.edu
Appointments: In-person and Virtual

*We also provide daily Drop-In hours for immediate, time sensitive concerns and questions.

HOW WE CAN HELP:

1. **Academic Planning:** Your academic journey is unique, and we are dedicated to helping you navigate it successfully. Together, we'll ensure you make the most of your time at PSU Berks.
2. **Change of Major or adding a minor:** Are you considering a change of major or perhaps adding a minor? We are happy to speak with you about these topics!
3. **Additional Assistance:** We understand that academic challenges can arise, and you may need extra support. Whether it's discussing majors, courses, grades, academic supports, or reviewing PSU policies/ procedures, we are here to assist you.

SCHEDULING AN APPOINTMENT:
You can call, stop by, or email the office. You can also schedule an appointment online using Starfish.

BERKS ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER STAFF:
Paula Plageman, *Coordinator*
Cindy Donahue, *Administrative Support Assistant*
Karen Del Vecchio, *Academic Adviser*
Aubrey Edwards, *Academic Adviser*
Michael Stella, *Academic Adviser*

Spring DROP & ADD Week

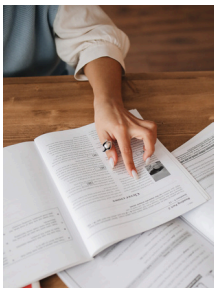
Want to change your Spring 2025 schedule? Drop-in Advising is available for week of drop/add! Students can DROP classes until Saturday, Jan. 18 at 11:59p.m. and ADD classes until Sunday, Jan. 19 at 11:59p.m.

Always consult with an academic adviser before altering your schedule as changes may affect degree progress and financial aid. Meet with an academic adviser virtually or in-person from Jan. 13 to Jan. 17, between 8a.m. and 4p.m., to discuss schedule changes.

- **Virtually**: Join via Zoom https://psu.zoom.us/s/95866379023
- **In-person:** Come to the office and sign-in for a drop-in appointment. You will have the option to meet with an adviser in-person or virtually.

If you need to create a **full schedule** for the Spring semester, please call the advising center to schedule an appointment at 610-396-6280.

Tutoring: How Successful Students Excel



Studies show 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 on January 21. Engage early to establish strong habits for semester-long success!

LEARNING CENTER (161 FRANCO)

- **WHAT:** Tutoring in math, chemistry, biology, and more. Support with study skills, time management, test anxiety, and more.
- **HOW:** Available in-person by appointment -- schedule on https://berks.mywconline.com/
- **WHEN:** Monday–Thursday 9a.m.–7p.m. | Friday 9a.m.-1p.m.
  - **Walk-In Hours Dr. Ryan Hassler, Faculty Math Tutor:** Mondays 12p.m. to 3p.m.

WRITING CENTER (146 FRANCO)

- **WHAT:** Support with written material such as papers, speeches, resumes, and more!
- **HOW:** Available in-person or via Zoom by appointment -- schedule on https://berks.mywconline.com/
- **WHEN:** Monday–Thursday Friday between 10a.m. – 6:30p.m. and Fridays between 10a.m. - 4p.m.

MATH PEERS & PROFS (222 LUERSSEN)

- **WHAT:** Tutoring sessions available for Math 4, 21, 22, 26, 34, and Stat 100 with Math faculty and teaching assistants.
- **HOW:** In-person, no appointment is necessary!
- **WHEN:** Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:15 - 1:15p.m.

CAMPUS FEATURE: CELEBRATING GOOD

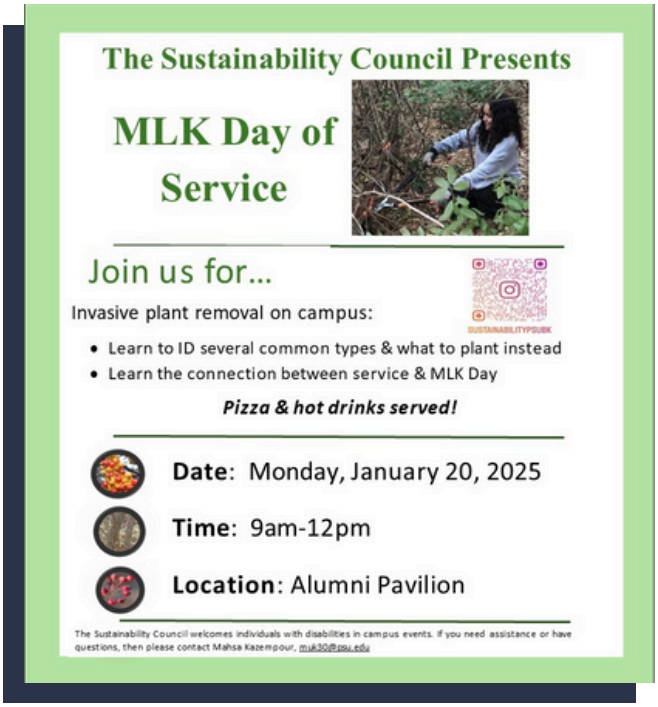
You're Invited: Annual MLK Banquet

Join us on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 6p.m. in the MPR as we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther Kind Jr. We have planned an uplifting evening featuring a keynote address, student performances, awards recognition, and a delicious meal.

RSVP TO ATTEND by noon on Jan 15 at https://forms.office.com/r/gKeAMC2ZCF

Enjoy a keynote entitled *We Cannot Walk Alone: Bridging Divides, Building Community* by Darryl Mace, PhD who currently serves as the VP for Mission, Diversity and Inclusion at Alvernia University and is the co-founder of Unstuck Insights, LLC, a company focused on executive coaching, strategic planning, and organizational culture.

This event is made possible by the Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging Committee and with the generosity of the Student Initiated Fee. Individuals who anticipate needing accommodations or who have questions about access may contact Aubrey Edwards (are12@psu.edu) or Alexa Hodge (aeh221@psu.edu) in advance of the program.



Life Changing Dance Marathon

Written by Lauren Ziegler, Writing and Digital Media Major

What is THON?

A student-run philanthropy dedicated to improving the lives of children and families impacted by childhood cancer. Their mission is to provide emotional and financial support, raise awareness, and fund critical research - all in the pursuit of finding a cure. The culmination of their yearlong efforts is the 46-hour Dance Marathon.

When is THON 2025?

- February 21- February 23, 2025 at the Bryce Jordan Center on the Penn State University Park campus.
- Visit the Bryce Jordan Center's webpage to watch THON live.

How Does Penn State Berks fit in?

Students at Penn State Berks support the larger THON organization through the Berks Benefitting Thon (BBT) student organization. Each year, BBT members are selected to represent Berks as dancers in the 46-hour Dance Marathon.

Interested in in getting involved?

- **Attend:** General meetings are held on Mondays during Common Hour (12:15p.m.-1:15p.m. in Perkins 3.
- **Support:** THON hosts a range of opportunities and experiences to raise funds in support of THON. Upcoming fundraisers include
  - Anytime: Donate directly to BBT here.
  - Jan. 15: Honeygrow from 10:30a.m.–10p.m.
    - Use code GIVE135 online or at kiosk.
    - 20% of proceeds will benefit BBT
  - Feb. 1: Reading Royals ice hockey game at 7p.m.
    - Buy tickets here.
- **Connect:** Follow on social medial @berksbenefittingTHON for updates or reach out to the Co-Overalls, Lindsey at lqg5448@psu.edu and Savannah at smb8066@psu.edu with questions!

STAY IN THE KNOW

OLs Wanted: Be a Campus Leader

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!

Responsibilities: An OL assists first-year students with the move-in process and helps to acclimate them to the Berks campus during Welcome Weekend. OL's serve as a welcoming face, helpful hand, and a general resource for first-year students.

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

- **SPRING 2025:** Students must complete the OL application. Students selected as OLs will be expected to participate in a training during the Spring semester.
- **FALL 2025:** Students must be available the week before Fall classes begin for training and to assist during Welcome Weekend events.

If you have any questions about the process or how you can get involved, contact Lily Sánchez at LQS5108@psu.edu or Dereka Bauscher at DZB5915@psu.edu.

Scan the QR code or click here for the 2025 Orientation Leader application.

SAP, Not Just In Trees

If you received a communication from the Registrar titled "Notice of Academic Warning," it means you did not meet ***Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)*** during the Fall semester. In other words, your cumulative grade-point average has fallen below 2.00. As a result, you will be placed on ***academic warning*** for the Spring semester.

For students who receive financial aid, being on academic warning may also result in a ***financial aid warning***. If you fail to meet SAP standards by the end of the Spring semester, it could affect both your ability to return to Penn State in the Fall and your eligibility for financial aid in the upcoming semester.

To continue receiving federal aid, you need to meet ALL of the Financial Aid SAP requirements listed below:

1. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher.
2. Pass at least 67% of the credits you attempt. Failing or dropping courses affects your completion rate.
3. Complete a degree within 150% of the program's published length.
4. Learn more about SAP here

I'M ON SAP WARNING! NOW WHAT?
In your warning semester, aim to raise your cumulative GPA above 2.00 and your completion rate above 67%. Failing to meet BOTH requirements will result in the loss of federal aid in your next enrolled semester at PSU.

GENERAL FINANCIAL AID

- Check for any To Do list items or Holds related to Financial Aid in your LionPATH account. Click on the link provided in the notice to understand the request or information outlined; some may require action while others offer 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.

FAFSA Completion Party

It's time to complete the 2025-2026 FAFSA. Let's do it together. Join us for food, friends, and the FAFSA Support System!

WHEN: Friday, Jan. 17, 2025 from 12:15p.m.-1:15p.m.
WHERE: 205 Gaige
COME PREPARED: Have your Federal Student Aid account log in info & 2023 Federal Tax Information (FTI) information easily accessible.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

ICYMI: In Case You Missed It

Mobile id+ Here to Stay

To simplify user experiences and enhance the security of University resources, Penn State IT has announced the **mobile id+ card** as Penn State's primary credential. The mobile id+ card provides a single digital identity that allows students, faculty, and staff to use their personal mobile devices to access campus buildings, securely make purchases with a meal plan or LionCash, and more.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- Physical Penn State ID cards will be deactivated on February 17, 2025.
  - If you **currently use mobile id+:** your physical id+ card will be deactivated on Feb. 17.
  - If you **only have the physical id+ card:** you have the option to keep the physical card or activate the mobile id+ card.
    - To activate the mobile id+ card after Feb. 17, call the id+ Office at 814-865-7590.

I NEED MORE INFO!

- Visit https://idcard.psu.edu/mobile-id-card to learn more.
- For questions, email the id+ Office at idcard@psu.edu

Scholarship Season Begins!

FACT: Winter (December - March) is the best time to search for and apply for 2025-26 scholarships as many opportunities open in December and January then close between February and March.
TIP: Dedicate time during the spring semester to seeking out scholarships! Set a goal to *apply for* at least double your cost to attend college!
WHERE TO START:

- Click here for outside scholarships recommended by PSU.
- Check to see if your home county has a *community foundation.*
- Check with an employer for yourself (current or previous) or your guardian(s).

It's Time: FAFSA is Open

December 1 was the public release date for the FAFSA form. Students returning to any Penn State campus who are completing the 2025-2026 FAFSA form should be using the following school information.

- Pennsylvania State University (The)
- SCHOOL TYPE: PUBLIC, PRIMARILY 4-YEAR
- Federal School Code: 003329

PRO TIPS:

- Access the FAFSA Application at
  - https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa
- Complete your FAFSA as soon as possible--it should take less than 10 minutes to complete!
- If possible, complete your FAFSA the same day you start it! You can save your progress and come back to the application later. However, your progress may delete after 45 days if not submitted. Check in with your contributor to make sure they complete their section in a timely manner to avoid issues.

Snow Days, in College?!

In the event of significant ice or snow accumulation, the Chancellor might take any of the the actions listed below. Weather emergencies and resulting delays, cancellations and closures are communicated via the PSU Alerts system. This information is also listed at the top of the College's website and typically communicated through the College's official social media platforms.

- 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.
- Review the full policy and procedures here.

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:
  - Call 1-877-229-6400 or Text "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 a 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.
  - **24/7 Hotline:** 844-789-SAFE
  - **Text:** SAFE BERKS to 20121
- **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/

General Student Resources

- **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
    - **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**
  - Questions about your **bill** or **payment options,** contact the Bursar's Office at University Park
    - **Contact:** https://www.bursar.psu.edu/contact-us
- **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**
  - Questions about your **aid, holds,** or **to do list items,** contact the Financial Aid Office
    - **Email:** 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
  - Questions about meal plans and food services, including reporting food allergies, email absfoodservicebk@psu.edu
- **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES**
  - Provides support and information to international students.
  - **Office:** 311A Gaige Building
  - **Website:** https://berks.psu.edu/international-student-services
- **THUN LIBRARY**
  - Looking for a **place to study, access course materials, a lounge with vending machines, or support with technology,** visit Thun Library.
    - Webpage: https://libraries.psu.edu/berks
    - Access their full calendar here.
    - Course Reserves (free access to textbooks for your classes) can be used in the library in 2 hours intervals. Check here
- **TUTORING**
  - Need help with **Math or Science,** schedule a tutoring session with a Learning Center Tutor (in 161 Franco) here.
  - Need help with a **paper, speech, resume, or other written material,** schedule an appointment with a Writing Center Tutor (in 146 Franco) here.
  - Need help with math, attend the "Peers and Profs" help sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:15-1:15p.m. in Luerssen 222. No appointment necessary!
- **VETERAN BENEFITS**
  - Questions about VA certifications, contact the Registrar's Office
  - Email: BKVeterans@psu.edu
  - Phone: 610-396-6085

PennState Berks

NITTANY CORNER FOOD PANTRY

The Nittany Corner food pantry was funded and established by the Penn State Berks class of 2017. Pantry items are FREE to Penn State Berks students! Visit the pantry on the second floor Perkins.