Welcome

Thank you for your interest in Penn State Undergraduate Education (UE)! Undergraduate Education is composed of seventeen units which are diverse in purpose but united in our shared commitment to supporting the academic success of Penn State undergraduates across the Commonwealth.

Our staff support students through work that ranges from recruiting prospective students and enrolling incoming students, to helping students manage the financial investment a college education represents, to advising and supporting undergraduates along their academic journey, to enriching the learning that happens both in and out of the classroom. This work touches every facet of students’ academic experience at Penn State and impacts their lives long after graduation.

As you explore the Blue Book, you will learn more about each of these areas of work and the offices that lead these efforts. You will also learn about the strategic priorities that span multiple UE offices and unite our collective efforts. One theme you will notice is a commitment to continually improving our programs and processes. This commitment is integral to the culture of UE and reflects our dedication to Penn State students. Indeed, UE staff and leadership are determined to advance Penn State's position as an international leader in undergraduate education.

I hope that after reading this overview of UE, you are inspired by the work we have ahead of us, which has the potential to empower each and every Penn State undergraduate student to form the foundation for a lifetime of success. To Penn State faculty, staff, administrators, parents, and donors, thank you for your partnership in helping us to achieve our mission. To Penn State undergraduates, know that we are here to support you every step of the way on your path to graduation.

Thank you again for taking the time to learn more about Penn State Undergraduate Education.

Igniting curiosity and expanding opportunity for Penn State undergraduates

Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education

Yvonne Gaudelius

Jeff Adams

Melissa Johnson

Alan Rieck

Associate Vice President and Senior Associate Dean

Melissa Kunes

Angela Linse

Maggie Slattery

Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Education and University Registrar

Executive Director of the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence and Associate Dean for Teaching

Director and Assistant Dean for General Education

Executive Director for the Division of Undergraduate Studies and Associate Dean for Advising

Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Education and Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions

Associate Vice President and Associate Dean

Associate Vice President and Associate Dean

Assistant Vice President and Associate Dean

Director and Assistant Dean for General Education

Executive Director for the Division of Undergraduate Studies and Associate Dean for Advising

Assistant Vice President for Undergraduate Education and Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions

undergrad.psu.edu
Vision
The vision of Undergraduate Education is to ensure equitable outcomes for all Penn State students through effective collaborations, responsive and adaptable practices and policies, and informed decision-making.

Mission
The mission of Undergraduate Education is to facilitate a Penn State academic environment that enhances the success of all students.

Values
Integrity – We act with integrity in accordance with the highest academic, professional, and ethical standards
Respect – We respect and honor the dignity of each person, embrace civil discourse, and foster a diverse, inclusive, and safe community
Responsibility – We act responsibly and hold ourselves accountable for our decisions, actions, and their consequences
Discovery – Through advanced research and scholarship, we seek and create new knowledge and understanding, and foster creativity and innovation, for society’s benefit
Excellence – We strive for excellence in all endeavors as individuals, an institution, and a leader in higher education and research
Community – We work together for the betterment of our University, the communities we serve, and the world

In addition to embodying the Penn State Values listed above, we strive to uphold the values of:

– We believe the potential of all students and strive to create meaningful opportunities for all students to belong and achieve success
– We act with integrity in accordance with the highest academic, professional, and ethical standards
– We believe in the potential of all students and strive to create meaningful opportunities for all students to belong and achieve success
– We strive for excellence in all endeavors as individuals, an institution, and a leader in higher education and research
– We act responsibly and hold ourselves accountable for our decisions, actions, and their consequences
– We act in innovative, creative ways to provide a world-class experience for Penn State students

Leadership
Office of the Vice President and Dean
Academic Support, Advising, and Tutoring
Center for Penn State Student Entrepreneurship
Office of Student Aid
Office of General Education
Office of the University Registrar
Office of the Vice President and Dean

Office of the Vice President and Dean
undergrad.psu.edu
814-863-1864

The Office of the Vice President and Dean leads, coordinates, and collaborates on a wide range of undergraduate education matters across the University. The office also serves as a source and clearinghouse for institutional research and data pertaining to undergraduate enrollments and student success and retention.

Key responsibilities of this office include:
– coordinate the curricular development and review process
– develop and maintain academic policies and procedures
– ensure academic integrity is upheld at Penn State
– facilitate digital and online learning
– administer the Complete Penn State and Raise.me programs
– serve the needs of all UE units through the Office of Communications, Finance and Administration, Information Technology (IT), and Research and Analysis

Highlights
– Since its founding through 2018-19, Penn State has awarded 887,004 degrees.
– Penn State annually receives over 77,000 undergraduate applications.
– There are 363 general purpose classrooms at University Park, located throughout fifty-five buildings. In these classrooms, there is an aggregate of 20,892 seats, providing up to 33.5 million annual hours of schedulable credit instruction.

Our units and programs

The seventeen units that comprise Undergraduate Education (UE) are diverse and wide-ranging. From the offices that help to bring students to Penn State, to those that shape and enhance their experience while they are here, UE is committed to working together in innovative, creative ways to provide a world-class experience for Penn State students.

Strategic Goals, 2020–2025

Goal 1 – Improve success of minoritized and marginalized students thereby having a positive effect on all students

• Develop and utilize data to guide decisions regarding student success
• Lead in efforts to reduce gaps in graduation rates
• Collaborate to improve professional practices that better equip individuals to respond to student needs

Goal 2 – Foster institution-wide connection and collaboration

• Grow UE collaborations with students
• Grow connections and collaborations within UE
• Pursue UE collaborations with other university entities
• Build meaningful UE connections and collaborations with individuals and community entities

Goal 3 – Prioritize and model student-centeredness, equity, diversity, inclusion, and transparency in UE work

• Review and revise policies and processes to be student-centered, equitable, and sustainable
• Promote and model a culture of equity and inclusion among UE professionals
• Practice critical reflection that challenges assumptions

Our vision, mission, values, and goals

The mission of Undergraduate Education is to facilitate a Penn State academic environment that enhances the success of all students.

Vision
The vision of Undergraduate Education is to ensure equitable outcomes for all Penn State students through effective collaborations, responsive and adaptable practices and policies, and informed decision-making.

Mission
The mission of Undergraduate Education is to facilitate a Penn State academic environment that enhances the success of all students.

Values
Integrity – We act with integrity in accordance with the highest academic, professional, and ethical standards
Respect – We respect and honor the dignity of each person, embrace civil discourse, and foster a diverse, inclusive, and safe community
Responsibility – We act responsibly and hold ourselves accountable for our decisions, actions, and their consequences
Discovery – Through advanced research and scholarship, we seek and create new knowledge and understanding, and foster creativity and innovation, for society’s benefit
Excellence – We strive for excellence in all endeavors as individuals, an institution, and a leader in higher education and research
Community – We work together for the betterment of our University, the communities we serve, and the world

In addition to embodying the Penn State Values listed above, we strive to uphold the values of:

– We believe the potential of all students and strive to create meaningful opportunities for all students to belong and achieve success
– We act with integrity in accordance with the highest academic, professional, and ethical standards
– We believe in the potential of all students and strive to create meaningful opportunities for all students to belong and achieve success
– We strive for excellence in all endeavors as individuals, an institution, and a leader in higher education and research
– We act responsibly and hold ourselves accountable for our decisions, actions, and their consequences
– We act in innovative, creative ways to provide a world-class experience for Penn State students

Leadership
Office of the Vice President and Dean
Academic Support, Advising, and Tutoring
Center for Penn State Student Entrepreneurship
Office of Student Aid
Office of General Education
Office of the University Registrar
Office of the Vice President and Dean

Office of the Vice President and Dean
undergrad.psu.edu
814-863-1864

The Office of the Vice President and Dean leads, coordinates, and collaborates on a wide range of undergraduate education matters across the University. The office also serves as a source and clearinghouse for institutional research and data pertaining to undergraduate enrollments and student success and retention.

Key responsibilities of this office include:
– coordinate the curricular development and review process
– develop and maintain academic policies and procedures
– ensure academic integrity is upheld at Penn State
– facilitate digital and online learning
– administer the Complete Penn State and Raise.me programs
– serve the needs of all UE units through the Office of Communications, Finance and Administration, Information Technology (IT), and Research and Analysis

Highlights
– Since its founding through 2018-19, Penn State has awarded 887,004 degrees.
– Penn State annually receives over 77,000 undergraduate applications.
– There are 363 general purpose classrooms at University Park, located throughout fifty-five buildings. In these classrooms, there is an aggregate of 20,892 seats, providing up to 33.5 million annual hours of schedulable credit instruction.

Our units and programs

The seventeen units that comprise Undergraduate Education (UE) are diverse and wide-ranging. From the offices that help to bring students to Penn State, to those that shape and enhance their experience while they are here, UE is committed to working together in innovative, creative ways to provide a world-class experience for Penn State students.

Strategic Goals, 2020–2025

Goal 1 – Improve success of minoritized and marginalized students thereby having a positive effect on all students

• Develop and utilize data to guide decisions regarding student success
• Lead in efforts to reduce gaps in graduation rates
• Collaborate to improve professional practices that better equip individuals to respond to student needs

Goal 2 – Foster institution-wide connection and collaboration

• Grow UE collaborations with students
• Grow connections and collaborations within UE
• Pursue UE collaborations with other university entities
• Build meaningful UE connections and collaborations with individuals and community entities

Goal 3 – Prioritize and model student-centeredness, equity, diversity, inclusion, and transparency in UE work

• Review and revise policies and processes to be student-centered, equitable, and sustainable
• Promote and model a culture of equity and inclusion among UE professionals
• Practice critical reflection that challenges assumptions

Our vision, mission, values, and goals

The mission of Undergraduate Education is to facilitate a Penn State academic environment that enhances the success of all students.

Vision
The vision of Undergraduate Education is to ensure equitable outcomes for all Penn State students through effective collaborations, responsive and adaptable practices and policies, and informed decision-making.

Mission
The mission of Undergraduate Education is to facilitate a Penn State academic environment that enhances the success of all students.

Values
Integrity – We act with integrity in accordance with the highest academic, professional, and ethical standards
Respect – We respect and honor the dignity of each person, embrace civil discourse, and foster a diverse, inclusive, and safe community
Responsibility – We act responsibly and hold ourselves accountable for our decisions, actions, and their consequences
Discovery – Through advanced research and scholarship, we seek and create new knowledge and understanding, and foster creativity and innovation, for society’s benefit
Excellence – We strive for excellence in all endeavors as individuals, an institution, and a leader in higher education and research
Community – We work together for the betterment of our University, the communities we serve, and the world

In addition to embodying the Penn State Values listed above, we strive to uphold the values of:

– We believe the potential of all students and strive to create meaningful opportunities for all students to belong and achieve success
– We act with integrity in accordance with the highest academic, professional, and ethical standards
– We believe in the potential of all students and strive to create meaningful opportunities for all students to belong and achieve success
– We strive for excellence in all endeavors as individuals, an institution, and a leader in higher education and research
– We act responsibly and hold ourselves accountable for our decisions, actions, and their consequences
– We act in innovative, creative ways to provide a world-class experience for Penn State students

Leadership
Office of the Vice President and Dean
Academic Support, Advising, and Tutoring
Center for Penn State Student Entrepreneurship
Office of Student Aid
Office of General Education
Office of the University Registrar
Office of the Vice President and Dean

Office of the Vice President and Dean
undergrad.psu.edu
814-863-1864

The Office of the Vice President and Dean leads, coordinates, and collaborates on a wide range of undergraduate education matters across the University. The office also serves as a source and clearinghouse for institutional research and data pertaining to undergraduate enrollments and student success and retention.

Key responsibilities of this office include:
– coordinate the curricular development and review process
– develop and maintain academic policies and procedures
– ensure academic integrity is upheld at Penn State
– facilitate digital and online learning
– administer the Complete Penn State and Raise.me programs
– serve the needs of all UE units through the Office of Communications, Finance and Administration, Information Technology (IT), and Research and Analysis

Highlights
– Since its founding through 2018-19, Penn State has awarded 887,004 degrees.
– Penn State annually receives over 77,000 undergraduate applications.
– There are 363 general purpose classrooms at University Park, located throughout fifty-five buildings. In these classrooms, there is an aggregate of 20,892 seats, providing up to 33.5 million annual hours of schedulable credit instruction.
Division of Undergraduate Studies

The Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS) is the academic home for students exploring multiple academic programs before committing to a course of study. DUS serves as a leader in academic advising for the University and other institutions across the nation.

Key responsibilities of this office include:
- enroll and advise students who are exploring majors
- teach students about the larger value of higher education by fostering reflection and intentionality in decision-making
- enable students to persist at Penn State even if they change academic direction
- administer student success technologies such as Starfish and ALEKS
- provide guidance for the development of academic policies, procedures, and supporting resources
- set a standard of excellence for academic advising University-wide, as well as for the continuing development of the academic advising profession both at Penn State and at institutions throughout the nation.

Highlights
- DUS is the largest enrollment unit for first-year students across the University.
- DUS students take the same classes other Penn State students take.
- Students who start in DUS take the same amount of time to graduate as students who start in a Penn State college.
- Students and families say they chose DUS and Penn State because they feel comfortable knowing that students will have time and support in choosing a major, without losing time toward graduation.
- DUS students declare their majors by the end of their second year, at the same time as all other Penn State students.

Morgan Academic Center

The Morgan Academic Center (MAC) provides comprehensive support services to all student-athletes as they fully engage in the University educational experience, earn meaningful degrees, and prepare for a lifetime of impact.

Key responsibilities of this office include:
- provide comprehensive learning services that support all student-athletes in reaching their potential while achieving academic and athletic excellence
- enhance the collegiate experience of all student-athletes through academic and career planning and encouraging participation in both leadership education and community service opportunities
- produce periodic reports to the University Faculty Senate, NCAA, and Big Ten Conference regarding overall student-athlete academic performance.

Highlights
- The MAC, newly renovated in 2016, provides 32,000 square feet of office and academic support space for all staff and student-athletes.
- The MAC includes individual study space, classroom space, fifteen collaborative learning rooms, a One Button Studio, and state-of-the-art technology throughout the building for both tutoring and mentoring sessions.
- Each academic year, the MAC employs and trains over 100 tutors to fulfill over 500 tutor requests made by over 300 student-athletes.
- 207 Penn State student-athletes have been recognized as CoSIDA Academic All-Americans, the fourth highest among all NCAA Division 1 institutions.
- 6,697 Penn State student-athletes have been recognized as Academic All-Big Ten Conference honorees, the second-highest total in the conference since 1991-1992.
- In October 2019, the NCAA released its annual graduation rates report, which revealed that Penn State student-athletes earned a school record Graduation Success Rate (GSR) of 91 percent.

Penn State Learning

Penn State Learning develops and assesses peer-led, undergradaute learning communities in math, sciences, writing, languages, and economics through tutoring, workshops, and guided study groups.

Key responsibilities of this office include:
- help all undergraduates at University Park meet or exceed the skill standards required to succeed as scholars in their chosen programs and to thrive as cooperative citizens and peer educators within a global society.
- support individual and group tutoring, learning community development, and collaborative projects with academic departments to assess learning and improve academic assistance resources for undergraduates.
- develop tutors through a credited tutoring training course and through ongoing observations, peer mentoring, and staff meetings.
- offer research-based, metacognition resources and programs to help students meet the demands of college-level courses.

Highlights
- Tutoring and study groups are included in tuition, are on-campus and online, and are instructor-supported.
- Penn State Learning employs over 150 undergraduate peer tutors in writing, math, languages, sciences, economics, statistics, and public speaking.
- Tutors conduct upwards of 40,000 tutorials a year with 12,000 students.
- Tutors conduct approximately 1,000 online tutorials per year.
- Course-embedded tutors lead approximately seventy Guided Study Group sessions per week for twenty high-enrollment General Education courses.

Student Success Center

The Student Success Center exists as both a physical center at the University Park campus and a broad-based commitment toward University-wide student support and retention goals. Launched in 2019, the center partners with various departments, programs, and initiatives to assist Penn State students in their academic pursuits, allowing them to fully harness the power of financial support and academic engagement opportunities. The Student Success Center is committed to empowering students and their advocates across the University Park and Commonwealth campuses to help students fulfill their academic goals.

Key responsibilities of this office include:
- administer the Complete Penn State program, which provides resources for students who are in their final two semesters of study and experience a situation that negatively impacts their ability to complete their degree.

Highlights
- The center has fielded more than 1,250 student applications or referrals for assistance.
- The center has awarded scholarships to 625 students representing thirteen academic colleges and eighteen Penn State campuses, in addition to the World Campus.
- The center has awarded more than $1.5 million in aid.
Office of the University Registrar

The Office of the University Registrar has University-wide responsibility for student academic records and related processes. Key responsibilities of this office include:

- guide students through the course registration process
- facilitate requests for academic transcripts and enrollment verifications
- manage graduation procedures and diploma information
- assess requests to withdraw, re-enroll, and resume study through academic renewal
- produce the Schedule of Classes for all Penn State campuses
- manage General Purpose Classroom scheduling
- maintain the University’s academic calendar
- review athletic eligibility of student-athletes
- manage the University Bulletins

The Office of the University Registrar offers each year.

Undergraduate Admissions

admissions.psu.edu
814-865-5471

The Undergraduate Admissions Office (UAO) is responsible for managing the admission decisions process for Penn State’s twenty undergraduate campuses, with the goal of identifying, recruiting, and yielding a diverse and academically talented pool of future students. Key responsibilities of this office include:

- lead recruitment outreach efforts, including travel, within Pennsylvania, across the country, and around the globe
- host and provide information sessions for campus visitors during both daily activities as well as large comprehensive events like Spend a Summer Day
- create and deliver recruitment materials directed at strategically targeted populations
- communicate admission decisions
- conduct institutional research in recruitment and application patterns, demographics, and enrollments
- manage the administration of Provost Awards

The Undergraduate Admissions Office works with approximately 250 Lion Scouts and 75 Student Minority and Advisor Recruitment Team (SMART) volunteers, as well as Lion Ambassador volunteers, to provide tours for the almost 500 official visits to campus.

- Each school year, 30,000 students and over 75,000 total guests visit campus for an admissions-related event.
- Spend a Summer Day, the campus-wide open house event for prospective students, hosts almost 5,000 students and 15,000 total visitors over five days in the summer, and student tour guides provide nearly 400 tours.
- The office receives and processes close to 100,000 transcripts each year.

Office for General Education

gened.psu.edu
814-865-3487

The Office for General Education works to inspire transformative student learning through collaboration, innovation, and scholarship. The office supports faculty and staff in the development and delivery of an intentional, excellent, and innovative undergraduate General Education curriculum and provides resources to help students make intentional decisions in crafting their General Education experience. Key responsibilities of this office include:

- work to position Penn State as a national leader in General Education and make General Education a hallmark of a Penn State education
- manage support programs, such as the General Education Faculty Scholars Program and various initiatives, to assist faculty in the development and delivery of General Education courses and in creating and using innovative and effective pedagogies
- coordinate and collaborate with the Office of Planning and Assessment to assess the General Education curriculum and use assessment data to improve General Education
- support students in selecting transformative educational experiences within General Education

The Office for General Education provides an interactive physical space in the heart of campus where students can connect with engagement opportunities. The SEN has thirteen faculty members who seek to integrate student engagement into their teaching and scholarship, has thirteen faculty fellows and three faculty scholars.

Student Engagement Network

engage.psu.edu
814-863-1296

A joint initiative of the Office of Undergraduate Education, Student Affairs, and Outreach and Online Education, the Student Engagement Network (SEN) connects students with curricular and co-curricular opportunities such as research, student organization involvement, community leadership, study abroad, internships, and many more. The SEN advances the power of participation by connecting students with experiences that empower them to make a positive impact as citizens and leaders of the world. Key responsibilities of this office include:

- collaborate to enhance and enrich experiences with existing college, campus, outreach, and student affairs programs
- create and develop a greater body of scholarship, a portal for all seeking engagement opportunities, and a dynamic means for community members to develop opportunities
- increase the number of students and faculty participating in engagement opportunities
- inform engagement experience constituencies of their impact on students, community, and development

Office of Undergraduate Education

Undergraduate Admissions

- Students request nearly 10,000 separate documents per year through Parchment, the online transcript ordering service.
- More than 20,000 degrees are conferred to Penn State students each year, including undergraduate, graduate, law, and medical degrees.
- More than 27,000 courses with nearly 60,000 sections are offered each year.
- On average, around 800 student-athletes are certified for athletic eligibility each fall and spring semester.

- More than 1,200 Penn State courses have a General Education requirement.
- More than 35 percent of each baccalaureate student’s required credits are General Education (45 out of a minimum of 120 credits).
- More than 2,500 applications from students and awarded $950,000 in grants to fund engagement experiences.

- There are 13 Faculty members who seek to integrate student engagement into their teaching and scholarship, have thirteen faculty fellows and three faculty scholars.

- The Engagement Space in the HUB-Robeson Center provides an interactive physical space in the heart of campus where students can connect with engagement opportunities.

- The SEN grant program has received more than 2,500 applications from students and awarded $950,000 in grants to fund engagement experiences.

- The Faculty Academy, which brings together Penn State faculty members who seek to integrate student engagement into their teaching and scholarship, has thirteen faculty fellows and three faculty scholars.

- The Office of the University Registrar has University-wide responsibility for student academic records and related processes.
- The Undergraduate Admissions Office (UAO) is responsible for managing the admission decisions process for Penn State’s twenty undergraduate campuses, with the goal of identifying, recruiting, and yielding a diverse and academically talented pool of future students.
- The Office for General Education works to inspire transformative student learning through collaboration, innovation, and scholarship. The office supports faculty and staff in the development and delivery of an intentional, excellent, and innovative undergraduate General Education curriculum and provides resources to help students make intentional decisions in crafting their General Education experience.
- The Office of Undergraduate Education
- The Undergraduate Admissions Office (UAO) is responsible for managing the admission decisions process for Penn State’s twenty undergraduate campuses, with the goal of identifying, recruiting, and yielding a diverse and academically talented pool of future students.
- The Office for General Education works to inspire transformative student learning through collaboration, innovation, and scholarship. The office supports faculty and staff in the development and delivery of an intentional, excellent, and innovative undergraduate General Education curriculum and provides resources to help students make intentional decisions in crafting their General Education experience.
- The Office of Undergraduate Education
Undergraduate Research and Fellowships Mentoring

The Erickson Discovery Grant allows students to receive advise students through the entire fellowship application process, from written application to interview, and educate students about all aspects of the research process, from selecting a project to presenting their findings. The Schreyer Institute also manages the Pollock Testing Center, which provides computer-based testing and processes exam “bubble sheets” for Penn State courses.

Office of Student Aid

The Office of Student Aid (OSA) helps students finance their education by administering federal, state, institutional, and private funds for the University. It is OSA’s belief that access to education should be possible for all, regardless of family ability to pay, and that through financial aid programs access may be possible.

Key responsibilities of this office include:
- receive and process over 100,000 applications for financial aid each year
- facilitate the disbursement of student financial aid for Penn State students; this totaled $1.2 billion that assisted 71,731 students in 2017-18
- provide financial aid to students in the form of grants, loans, scholarships, and work-study programs
- offer outreach services to area high school counselors, students, and parents to inform and assist in applying for financial aid

Sokolov-Miller Family Financial and Life Skills Center

The Sokolov-Miller Family Financial and Life Skills Center helps students gain the knowledge and skills needed to manage their financial resources effectively for a lifetime of financial wellbeing. Through workshops, webinars, online self-study modules, and one-on-one meetings with staff and student ambassadors, students can learn the principles of financial literacy and receive help tailored to their specific financial challenges.

Key responsibilities of this office include:
- develop and lead financial literacy education workshops, webinars, and online modules throughout the year on a wide range of issues including budgeting, credit cards, student loans, and more
- meet confidentially with students to address their money management concerns
- partner with departments throughout the University to create programs that help students develop long-term strategies for financial stability and offer support for those experiencing financial hardships

Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence

The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence (SITE) advocates for effective and evidence-based teaching practices at all Penn State locations. SITE sustains instructional creativity by collaborating with faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, administrators, and staff through consultations, teaching and learning scholarship, and grants to enable growth of innovative instruction. The Schreyer Institute also supports online testing and paper exam scoring for all Penn State courses. Key responsibilities of this office include:
- work with faculty to explore effective teaching methods, design courses and curricula, and evaluate student learning
- conduct teaching and learning scholarship in collaboration with faculty and students
- manage the Pollock Testing Center
- administer Penn State’s Student Ratings of Teaching Effectiveness (SRTE)
- oversee the University undergraduate teaching award process

Highlights
- SITE faculty served as consultants and coaches for faculty and graduate students teaching more than 50,000 students over the past five years
- Every year, SITE designs more than 100 workshops and presentations for more than 1,000 faculty
- SITE awards at least $50,000 in grants per year to support innovative teaching and learning and scholarship of teaching and learning
- SITE has supported more than forty Faculty Teaching Communities including teaching in STEM disciplines, language instruction, teaching evaluation, online learning, and many more
- SITE staff support online testing and paper exam scoring for thousands of courses

Highlights
- OSA has a full-time staff of eighty-five at the University Park office. Approximately three part-time work-study students help support the work of the office.
- OSA assists almost 75,000 students per year with over a billion dollars in financial aid.
- Nearly three-quarters of all undergraduates and well over half of graduate students receive some type of financial assistance.
- OSA partners with Undergraduate Admissions and the New Student Orientation program in the recruitment and welcoming of new students each year.

Sokolov-Miller Family Financial and Life Skills Center

The Sokolov-Miller Family Financial and Life Skills Center helps students gain the knowledge and skills needed to manage their financial resources effectively for a lifetime of financial wellbeing. Through workshops, webinars, online self-study modules, and one-on-one meetings with staff and student ambassadors, students can learn the principles of financial literacy and receive help tailored to their specific financial challenges.

Key responsibilities of this office include:
- develop and lead financial literacy education workshops, webinars, and online modules throughout the year on a wide range of issues including budgeting, credit cards, student loans, and more
- meet confidentially with students to address their money management concerns
- partner with departments throughout the University to create programs that help students develop long-term strategies for financial stability and offer support for those experiencing financial hardships

Highlights
- The Sokolov-Miller family gave a generous endowment to the center in 2018 to support Penn State’s financial literacy programs.
- Business-focused and similarly qualified students hold paid positions at the center to help promote its programs and services and also work with students to address money management concerns.
- The center gave 202 presentations during the 2018-2019 academic year.
- Faculty, staff, and student groups can request a workshop tailored to their needs, by submitting a request online.

Undergraduate Research and Fellowships Mentoring

Penn State consistently ranks as a ‘Top Producing Institution’ for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Undergraduate Research and Fellowships Mentoring aims to spark personal reflection and professional growth in undergraduates by encouraging students to engage in undergraduate research and pursue national or international fellowships. Penn State students leverage these experiences to attend graduate school, join the scholarly community, become educators, contribute to business and industry, and more.

Key responsibilities of this office include:
- help students discover research and fellowship opportunities that match their goals and interests
- provide competitive funding for students to complete undergraduate research experiences
- educate students about all aspects of the research process, from selecting a project to presenting their findings
- provide opportunities for students to present their research findings to their Penn State peers, and support students in traveling to conferences to share their work with the broader scholarly community
- advise students through the entire fellowship application process, from written application to interview, and educate students on the profile of a competitive candidate

Highlights
- The Undergraduate Exhibition is held every year in April and is an opportunity for students to share their research with the Penn State community and be considered for a variety of awards.
- The Erickson Discovery Grant allows students to receive support during the summer to complete a collaborative research project with a faculty mentor.
- Penn State consistently ranks as a “Top Producing Institution” for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.
Center for Penn State Student Entrepreneurship

The Center for Penn State Student Entrepreneurship teaches Penn State students the foundational skills needed to position themselves as successful entrepreneurs and innovators. The center leads curricular and co-curricular initiatives that support undergraduate student entrepreneurship, including the Intercollege Minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation (ENTI) and Lion LaunchPad, which offers a special living option for first-year students who want to get involved right away in the Penn State entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Key responsibilities of this office include:
- coordinate all aspects of the ENTI minor across all colleges and campuses
- coordinate all aspects of the Lion LaunchPad special living option
- collaborate with faculty, students, alumni, and other stakeholders across the University to advance Penn State’s mission of teaching, research, and service

Highlights
- Students are encouraged to start taking entrepreneurship courses as early as they are interested, even before they declare a major.
- The ENTI minor is open to students of all disciplines and campuses
- coordinate all aspects of the Lion LaunchPad special living option
- collaborate with faculty, students, alumni, and other stakeholders across the University to advance Penn State’s mission of teaching, research, and service

Reserve Officers’ Training Corps

The Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) trains undergraduates to become commissioned officers in the United States Armed Forces. Students in ROTC must attend service specific ROTC academic classes, which count for college credit, and participate in weekly leadership labs and physical fitness training as part of the program. Students may receive a competitive, merit-based scholarship, covering all or part of college tuition and fees.

ROTC graduates serve in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and incur a four-year active duty service obligation (ADSO) and an eight-year military service obligation (MSO) if they accept a commission as a regular officer.

Key responsibilities of these offices include:
- offer students in the ROTC program specialized professional training for military officer positions after college
- develop strong technical and leadership skills in ROTC students
- encourage mental and physical growth in ROTC students

Highlights
- Military training has been part of Penn State since its founding in 1855 as part of its duties as a land-grant university
- The first full-time professor of military science was assigned to Penn State in 1878.
- In June 1916, the National Defense Act formally created an ROTC unit at Penn State.
- Air Force is the youngest ROTC program, having been established in 1947 when the Air Force became a separate service.
- The Joint Service Coordinator is an administrative position that rotates annually among the three ROTC commanders and represents the units at Penn State.
- Penn State’s ROTC program is the largest in the Big Ten and one of the largest and highest performing in the nation.

Office for Summer Session

The Office for Summer Session works with Penn State colleges to expand opportunities for students and to develop creative offerings for summer study. The office provides students with the requisite information about summer session course offerings.

Key responsibilities of this office include:
- coordinate the Learning Edge Academic Program (LEAP) for first-year students entering University Park in the summer
- manage the Student Transitional Experiences Program (STEP) for charge-of-campus students and summer programs for international students
- make students aware of the many advantages of taking summer session courses including the opportunity to catch up on missed requirements or incomplete credits, focus on challenging classes, and receive individual attention in smaller classes
- encourage students to stay on track, get ahead in their program, and to graduate on time

Highlights
- LEAP participants have higher first-year GPAs and higher first-to-second-year retention rates compared to students who do not participate in the program.
- LEAP provides leadership experiences to fifty to sixty undergraduate students through the LEAP mentor program.
- Summer Success Scholarships provide financial support to students who need to take summer courses to get back on track to a timely degree completion, but have financial challenges to do so.

Prior Learning Assessment

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) works to ensure that knowledge and skills acquired by students prior to coming to Penn State, or outside of their Penn State classroom, are consistently evaluated and awarded credit across Penn State’s colleges and campuses. Some examples of prior learning credits awarded to students include transfer credits, credits from Advanced Placement exams, and credit by portfolio. To increase student access and success, PLA strives to ensure that Penn State appropriately awards college-level credentials in a way that upholds the academic integrity and excellence of programs that lead to a Penn State degree. Earning credit for prior learning may shorten time to degree and reduce tuition costs.

Key responsibilities of this office include:
- provide leadership for the University-wide efforts in prior learning assessment and serve as the primary point of contact on prior learning assessment for students, faculty, and staff
- develop collaborative processes for implementation and administration of prior learning assessment
- work with faculty and professional staff to develop criteria, tools, and record-keeping for prior learning assessment
- promote a widespread understanding of prior learning assessment policies and processes and the role that prior learning can play in student success by working with admissions, the Registrar, and advising staff
- plan and coordinate activities and communications on prior learning assessment opportunities to prospective and current students, faculty, and staff

Highlights
- In the fall 2017 semester, 13,197 students transferred 294,018 credits to Penn State.
- On average, one-third of first-time college students begin their college careers with credits earned previously.
- The office for Summer Session works with Penn State colleges to expand opportunities for students and to develop creative offerings for summer study.
Student Orientation and Transition Programs

Student Orientation and Transition Programs (SOTP) facilitates comprehensive learning experiences for Penn State undergraduate students that support a successful academic, social, and personal transition to the University. Our team of full-time staff, undergraduate student leaders, and program volunteers work throughout the year to assist new students, parents, and family members at each stage of their transition to the University. SOTP is operated in partnership with Student Affairs.

Key responsibilities of this office include:
• coordinate Link UP, a visit program for students considering a Penn State campus change
• plan, coordinate, and implement New Student Orientation (NSO), a two-day, on-campus summer orientation for new, first-year students and their parents and family members
• provide Transfer Student Orientation (TSO), a program specifically designed for students who have previous experience at another college or university
• collaborate with campus partners to deliver Welcome Week programs, which are composed of activities to help students get to better know Penn State at the start of each semester
• provide leadership for the planning and implementation of the President’s New Student Convocation

Highlights
• SOTP has introduced a number of new Signature Events to our Welcome Week calendar including Tip Off the Semester (with Penn State Athletics), the Campus Traditions Tour, and Paws Point Information stations.
• The office has invested in positively impacting the change-of-campus student experience through strategic partnerships that have helped us increase Link UP attendance by 29 percent and pilot a mentoring program for students in the College of Engineering.

The Future of Undergraduate Education at Penn State

As the units that comprise Undergraduate Education pursue a shared vision of excellence in undergraduate teaching and learning, we will help to advance several key University-wide initiatives that will shape the future of Penn State:

One Penn State 2025
This initiative aims to position the University as a leader in higher education in the realm of student success and lifelong engagement.

Achieve Penn State
Achieve Penn State will help Penn State undergraduates overcome obstacles on the path to graduation so they can graduate with lower debt and in less time.

Engage Penn State
This forthcoming initiative will unify efforts across the University to provide Penn State undergraduates with opportunities for hands-on, real-world learning.

Together, UE will help to ensure that the students who walk through Penn State’s doors leave our institution prepared to begin their lives and tackle twenty-first-century challenges.

The history of Penn State’s “Blue Book”
Before the internet transformed higher education, Penn State undergraduates browsed available courses in a thick book with a bright blue cover. After the Undergraduate Bulletin was transferred online, the physical “Blue Book” was relegated to Penn State history. We’ve borrowed the book’s name for this publication to honor UE’s historic role not only in publishing the Undergraduate Bulletin, but also in helping to shape the curriculum that appears therein.