



This is the  
**pause**  
before the story of your life  
and times at Penn State...

Dear Penn Stater, **It's Official!**  
You're in college. Better yet, you're now an official  
member of the Penn State family, and you're really  
on your way.

**Then why is it, you may wonder, that  
nothing seems to be happening?**

Don't let this momentary silence fool  
you. It's just the pause before the  
story of your days at Penn State—  
and, actually, a great deal is going  
on to make sure your story has a  
happy beginning.

A number of people at Penn State  
Schuylkill and the University Park  
campus are setting things up for  
you—people who work on advising,  
placement, academic planning, faculty  
schedules, course materials, campus  
activities, athletics, financial aid,  
orientation, and registration. And  
before long, you'll be hearing from  
some of them.

In the meantime, we thought you might  
appreciate an advance look at what to  
expect over the next few months.

*In other words...*

**What Happens Next?**

**Here's how it all works—the next  
steps...**

**and some steps after that...**

**and the reasons for them...**

**some times and places...**

**some good ideas...**

**and some phone numbers to use if  
you have questions along the way...**

*Read on.*

## Testing ... One, Two, Three

All first-year students are required to take placement tests. This helps you and your adviser decide which courses will suit you best. Here's how it goes:

**One...** You'll get a postcard from University Park with information about placement testing and your deadline for completing testing online.

**Two...** You take tests in English, math, and—if applicable—chemistry. Don't worry and don't cram. Test results have no bearing on your Penn State admission.

**Three...** When you come in later for advising and registration, a counselor will review the test results with you.

## Academic Advising

After testing, you'll be invited to Penn State Schuylkill in late June or July for a comprehensive visit. A counselor will review your test results with you, along with your high school records, and help you decide on the best courses to take in your first semester. Parents are welcome.

## Scheduling Classes

While you're here for advising, you will schedule your classes in relative calm, well before the last-minute rush. When you leave campus, you'll know what classes you'll be taking, and you'll know where everything is—parking, eating, classes, sports, activities, and places to hang out, use the computers, get help, or study in peace.



## What About Books?

The on-campus Penn State Bookstore recommends that you purchase your textbooks a week prior to the start of the semester.

How do you know which books to buy?

It's easy. By that time you'll already have your schedule of classes. Just take that schedule to the bookstore, and they'll know which books are required.

## When Do Classes Start?

This fall's classes begin on Monday, August 25. Plan to arrive about five minutes before your classes are scheduled to begin. Bring a pen or pencil, paper, and your textbook.

## Where's My Room?

You may choose to live on or off campus, or commute from your home. If you desire to live on campus, please submit a housing contract card with a \$300 deposit. In case you're not sure this has been taken care of, call the Housing Office at 570-385-6095.

If you would like information about off-campus housing options, please visit [www.sl.psu.edu/StudentLife/living.htm](http://www.sl.psu.edu/StudentLife/living.htm).

## What About Orientation?

Oh, yes, we'll be in touch about orientation, and everyone should attend. It will take the mystery out of anything we haven't covered here, and it will go a long way toward making you feel at home.



This year's First-Year Orientation will be held in August. You'll be contacted during the summer academic advising program regarding orientation. Call 570-385-6246, if you have questions.

## When Do I Pay for Tuition, Room, and Board?

Did you have to bring that up? Yes, it's inevitable. Bills are generated after you schedule your classes. An e-mail message will be sent to your official University e-mail account announcing that the eBill is available. Your eBill will be available to view and/or pay via e-mail.

You can also access your eBill on the eLion system. If you have questions about the process, please call the Bursar's Office at 570-385-6093. The payment options will be included with your bill, and any financial aid awarded to you will be shown as credit.

**Bottom line:** A minimum one-third payment on your balance will be due in early August.



## Where Do We Eat?

While many students living in the Nittany Apartments enjoy the freedom of cooking, many opt to take advantage of the on-campus food service operation, Hidden Stream Café. Off-campus students can also purchase the A-La Board meal plan. LionCash+ is another option to pay for meals. Additional information about the meal plan and LionCash+ is available at [www.hfs.psu.edu/schuylkill/mealplans](http://www.hfs.psu.edu/schuylkill/mealplans).

How good is the food? We may not be able to cook some dishes like your family, but we get pretty close! We offer a large variety of menu options, including vegetarian and low-fat entrées.

Hidden Stream Café offers a deli bar, grilled specialties, pizza, entrée station, fresh salads, grab-and-go, and many other items.

Contact Food Services at 570-450-6035 or [slcater@psu.edu](mailto:slcater@psu.edu) for further information.

## Remember—You're Not in This Alone.

Here at Penn State Schuylkill, there's help for any problem, question, or confusion you may have. Once you're on campus, you'll soon become familiar with all the resources available to you.

In the meantime, it's our job to help you make a smooth transition to Penn State. If you have a question or concern that doesn't seem to fit any of the phone numbers above, call the Admissions Office at 570-385-6252, or e-mail [admissions-sl@psu.edu](mailto:admissions-sl@psu.edu). If we don't know the answer, we'll know where to find it.

[www.sl.psu.edu](http://www.sl.psu.edu)

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