

University Park Self-Guided Tour

Welcome to Penn State University Park!

On this self-guided walking tour of campus, you will follow our standard guided tour route, which features descriptions of various points of interest along the route. Do as much, or as little, of the tour as you would like. Follow the purple line on the map to visit the stops described here. Enjoy your time on campus!

Shields Building (SHD, D9)

The Shields Building is home to the Undergraduate Admissions Office, Office of the Bursar, Office of Student Aid, and Office of the University Registrar.

– Exit the Shields Building and turn left onto Curtin Road.

Intramural Building (IM, E9)

This recently renovated fitness building houses a weight training room and fitness center, three gymnasiums with basketball and volleyball courts, racquetball courts, an indoor track, climbing wall, and a matted all-purpose room. The Intramural (IM) Building is also the home of the Intramural Sports Office, which coordinates Penn State's extensive IM offerings.

East Halls (E8)

East Halls, the largest residence hall complex on campus, accommodates around 4,000 first-year students. The majority of the rooms in the co-ed residence halls are designed as double occupancy. Findlay Commons offers study lounges, a computer lab, and a variety of food options, including a convenience store, coffee shop, and dining hall.

Tour Guide Tidbit: Check out the sample residence hall room in Findlay Commons, directly behind Edge Coffee Shop. This space is modeled after a typical double occupancy room with furniture and amenities found in on-campus housing.

– Turn left onto Bigler Road.

Bank of America Career Services Center (BCS, D8)

This highly-utilized center helps students and alumni search for internships and jobs, while providing career coaches, resume and networking workshops, mock interviews, career counseling, the career library, and more. Career Services also coordinates two University-wide career fairs that are the largest University-based career fairs in the country.

Tour Guide Tidbit: University Police are located nearby, in the Eisenhower Parking Deck (EPD). In addition to their police services, Penn State offers blue-light phones throughout campus to report emergencies, as well as a free security escort service (865-WALK) for students and visitors.

University Health Services (STH, C8)

University Health Services offers exam rooms, a laboratory, an allergy clinic, and a full-service pharmacy. It also provides students with general and urgent care, women's health care, physical therapy, nutritional counseling, and more. The center is home to Counseling and Psychological Services, or CAPS, which provides group and individual counseling, crisis intervention, and evaluations.

Pollock Halls (B8)

The third-largest housing area on campus, Pollock offers traditional, co-ed residence halls, with most residents sharing a double room. Pollock includes the renovated Pollock Dining Commons and many Living Learning Communities, including Biology Home (BIOME), First-year in Science and Engineering (FISE), Forensic Science, Global Engagement, and Sophomore Year Experience (SYE).

Millennium Science Complex (MSC, C7, C8)

Completed in 2011, this complex features 297,000 square feet of laboratory and research space and is the largest academic building at the University. Penn State's Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences and its Materials Research Institute perform cutting-edge research in this unique building that features many quiet laboratories designed to be free from vibration and electromagnetic forces.

South Halls (B7, B8)

The second-largest housing area, South accommodates approximately 3,200 students and spans from the southern edge of campus through mid-campus. This is also where you will find the nationally rated Schreyer Honors College and reserved housing within Atherton Hall and Simmons Hall for their Scholars.

Thomas Building (TMS, C7)

This academic building is the home of the Eberly College of Science, which offers degrees in the physical sciences, mathematical sciences, and life sciences. Thomas is a familiar building for all students, featuring many small and large classrooms and the largest lecture hall on campus.

Tour Guide Tidbit: While Penn State does offer some large classes, 85% of first-year classes at University Park have 50 or fewer students. And, as students start taking courses in their specific major, classes become smaller. The University's student to faculty ratio is 14:1.

– Continue on Pollock Road, crossing the intersection with Shortlidge Road.

Grange Building (GRN, C7)

The building is home to the Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS), the academic advising unit for undecided students at Penn State, and the offices for the Multicultural Resource Center.

Boucke Building (BKE, C6)

This building offers many resources for students, including Penn State Learning, the tutoring center on campus; the Office for Disability Services; and the Office of Veterans Programs. Boucke is also home to Penn State Global, which assists both the international student population and students who wish to study abroad in one of Penn State's more than three hundred programs.

Hetzel Union Building (HUB, B6)

The HUB features a student bookstore, multiple dining options, coffee shops, lounges, exhibit areas, and the offices for the more than 900 clubs and organizations at University Park. The HUB also hosts LateNight Penn State, which is weekend programming offering free movies, comedians, dance lessons, concerts, and more. The HUB is also home to the Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity and the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, a center that focuses on issues related to social justice, racial identity, and cultural enrichment.

Tour Guide Tidbit: University Park offers more than 900 clubs and organizations for all interests, including groups that focus on music and performing arts, academics, service, athletics, religion, and more. Approximately 14% of students are involved in Greek life. Trust us – you will never be bored!

– Turn left onto the alley just past the Hetzel Union Building, and then turn right onto the path just past the U.S. Post Office.

Old Main (OMN, B5)

Old Main is the most recognizable building on University Park's campus and is the current home to the Office of the President and much of the University's administration. Old Main Lawn is also a popular gathering spot for students and home to many University events.

Tour Guide Tidbit: State College is consistently ranked as one of the top college towns in the country – be sure to spend some time in town and see for yourself! Right across College Avenue, downtown State College offers plenty of shopping, restaurants, and entertainment options for students and their families.

– Continue on the path in front of Old Main, and then turn right onto the walking mall just past Old Main.

Willard Building (WLD, B5)

A popular classroom building, most students have at least one class here during their time at Penn State. In addition to the many classrooms, Willard also offers a computer lab staffed with lab consultants to assist students and is the home to the Bellisario Media Center.

Carnegie Building (CRG, C5)

This building, a gift from Trustee Andrew Carnegie, was completed in 1904 as Penn State's first library, but is now the home of the renowned Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications.

Sparks Building (SPK, C5)

This building is home to the College of the Liberal Arts, as well as another location for the tutoring services of Penn State Learning.

Pattee and Paterno Library (PTL/PNL, C5)

Penn State's library is ranked as one of the top ten research libraries in North America with over 5.8 million available volumes. The Pattee Library features seven levels of books, known as the "stacks," several reading rooms, a café, and the impressive Knowledge Commons, which offers reading rooms, computer stations, video studios, and group study rooms. The Paterno Library houses the Special Collections library, as well as specialized research libraries.

– Turn left just before the steps of the library and follow the walking path across Fraser Road through West Halls.

West Halls (C4, C5)

The oldest residential area on campus, West Halls was constructed in a traditional collegiate residence style, with brick buildings, open quad, and beautiful archways. Mostly upperclass students fill the traditional double rooms.

– Turn right onto Burrowes Road.

Recreation Hall (REC, C4, D4)

Rec Hall is home to a technologically equipped fitness facility, featuring a cardio loft, video walls, nearly 15,000 square feet of workout space, two gyms, racquetball courts, squash courts, and an indoor track. The field house also hosts athletic competitions for Men's and Women's Volleyball, Men's and Women's Gymnastics, and Men's Wrestling.

– Continue on Burrowes Road, crossing Curtin Road.

Nittany Lion Shrine (NLS, D4)

The Nittany Lion has served as Penn State's mascot for over a century. The iconic Nittany Lion Shrine, a gift from the Class of 1940, is the most photographed spot on campus, so be sure to snap a picture!

– From the Nittany Lion Shrine, turn left and follow Curtin Road, travelling east.

Pasquerilla Spiritual Center (PSQ, D5)

The Pasquerilla Spiritual Center is the largest multi-faith center of its kind in the country, providing space for the more than 50 different religious and spiritual groups on campus.

Tour Guide Tidbit: On the Northeast side of campus is the Penn State Arboretum. With a botanical garden, water fountain, and overlook pavilion, the Arboretum is known for its beauty and serenity for our students and community. You'll also see the Palmer Museum, the largest art museum collection between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, in its new location opening spring 2024

North Halls (E6)

The smallest housing area on campus, these residence halls offer mostly suite-style living, accommodating up to 4 people per suite.

Business Building (BUS, E7)

The Business Building has been recognized as one of the best business school facilities in the nation, providing students in our Smeal College of Business with state-of-the-art classrooms that promote a collaborative learning environment. This building also features the Rogers Family Trading Room, which allows students to experience hands-on, real-time analysis of financial markets and manage an actual investment portfolio through the Nittany Lion Fund.

Tour Guide Tidbit: Near the Business Building, on the Northeast side of campus, is the Penn State Arboretum. With beautiful white arches, a lotus pond, and rose garden, the Arboretum is known for its beauty and serenity for our students and community. You'll also see the Palmer Museum of Art, the largest art museum collection between Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

– After passing the Business Building, turn right onto the path and walk down the Ag Hill mall. Your tour will end on Curtin Road with the Berkey Creamery on your left.

Berkey Creamery (BCR, D7)

Lucky you – not only did you complete the entire walking tour, but you get to reward yourself with some delicious ice cream from the Berkey Creamery! The Creamery sells over 2.5 million ice cream cones each year, and it features a wide array of unique flavors. Just one rule: do not mix flavors. The only person that was able to combine two flavors was President Bill Clinton during a visit to campus in 1996.

– To return to Shields Building, turn left on Curtin Road. You will travel east, cross the intersection at Bigler Road, and walk for a block before you arrive at Shields on your right. Just ahead, you will see Beaver Stadium and the Bryce Jordan Center.

Beaver Stadium (BVR, E11)

Home to Penn State football, Beaver Stadium is the second largest college football stadium in the country with a seating capacity of approximately 107,000. The stadium also houses the All-Sports Museum, which honors student-athletes and coaches from Penn State's long athletic history.

Bryce Jordan Center (BJC, D10)

The BJC is the home of Penn State's Men's and Women's Basketball teams, where 16,000 fans can see some of the best college basketball in the country as part of the Big Ten conference. This multi-purpose venue hosts many events and performances, some of the top musical acts in the country, and Penn State events, like graduation, career fairs, and the IFC/ Panhellenic Dance Marathon (THON). THON is a 46-hour dance marathon that has raised over \$200 million since 1973 to fight pediatric cancer.

Penn State Undergraduate Admissions Office

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