Make Penn State Part of Your Summer Plans

STEP is a summer program designed for students making the junior-year transition to University Park from another Penn State campus.

All students who have been approved for entrance to their major at University Park are eligible to participate in STEP.

How It Works

Two summer courses. When you register for STEP, you’re required to take two courses (6–7 credits) at University Park. One course must be taken during Summer Session II (June 30–August 13) so you are available for the STEP Connect Workshop Series. During the registration process, you will list how these courses fit with your academic plan of study. The courses you select may be in-person, remote, or web courses.

STEP Connect Workshop Series. These required weekly workshops, offered via Zoom, are designed to help you become familiar with the opportunities and resources available at the University Park campus, including internships, undergraduate research, and study abroad. You will also explore financial planning, opportunities for engagement, career planning, and hear from University faculty and staff who are here to support you. The final workshop, a networking social, will give you the opportunity to meet and interact with employers and alumni that often hire Penn State interns and graduates.

Tuition and Fees

There is no additional cost to STEP besides tuition and fees related to classes and housing. For more information, visit admissions.psu.edu.

Housing

STEP students can live on or off campus during the program. Students who elect to live on campus will be housed together in the residence halls. If you’re interested in living on campus during the STEP program, visit housing.psu.edu/summer-housing-options and request a summer housing contract. For more information about housing assignments, contact the Assignment Office at assignmentoffice@psu.edu or call 814-865-7501.

Room and board rates for summer 2021 are not yet available. Rates vary by the type of housing selected and the amount of time you will live in the halls. For the most up-to-date information on summer room and board rates, including information about how to request a summer housing contract, visit hfs.psu.edu/rates.

STEP Courses

Students in the STEP program can choose any two courses at the University Park campus that will help them progress toward their degree. One of these courses must take place during Summer Session II. Courses can be in any instructional mode for summer 2021. Please consult with your adviser prior to scheduling to be sure the courses you select will help keep you on track to an on-time graduation.

Students in the Smeal College of Business must select BA 342 as one of their summer courses.

Employment

Students who are interested in on-campus employment during the summer will have the opportunity to indicate this on their STEP registration form. These students will be assisted in finding employment on campus for the summer, but there may be limited opportunities due to current pandemic restrictions. Students are often able to continue their summer employment into the fall semester.

Benefits

- Receive a Provost Award of at least $1,500 applied toward summer tuition*
- Ease your transition to UP on a smaller scale and learn your way around campus
- Participate in the STEP Connect Workshop Series, Networking Social, and other activities
- Connect with faculty, staff, and other students
- Complete two classes that help you make progress toward your degree
- Receive assistance to help you secure on-campus employment

* Students may be eligible for a scholarship greater than $1,500 based on availability of funds.

How to Register

1. You must be approved for entrance to your major at the University Park campus.
2. Determine which two courses you would like to enroll in.
   - Meet with your academic adviser to discuss your degree program requirements and the types of courses you should be enrolling in for the summer. These courses should help you make progress toward an on-time graduation. You should especially consider courses that were not available on your campus, but are required courses for your degree. Smeal students must enroll in BA 342 as one of their courses.
   - Perform a class search in LionPATH to view course options. Be sure to set the term as summer 2021 and the campus to University Park. You’ll want to make sure to pay attention to the course dates and select at least one course that is meeting during Summer Session II (June 30–August 13).
   - Check in with your adviser again to be sure the courses you have selected will help you make progress toward your degree.
3. Complete the STEP Registration Form at summer.psu.edu/current-students/step-registration.

For more information, visit admissions.psu.edu. This publication is available in alternative media on request. Penn State is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer, and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status. UGE 21-88