



Transition Thursday

Educational Planning and Preparation

New Student Orientation

May 8, 2025



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Today we'll discuss:

- Important terms
- The value of exploring all of Penn State's options
- The composition of a Penn State degree
- Course placements
- Owning your education



You are in the driver's seat of your education.



Important Terms

- **Undergraduate degree:** first level of higher education offered by colleges and universities
- **Associate degrees:** two-year degrees
- **Bachelor's degrees:** four-year degrees
- **Major:** primary field of study
- **Minor:** secondary field of study that requires fewer courses than a major
- **Academic college:** units that house departments, programs, and majors



Important Terms Continued

- **Credits:** represent the approximate number of hours per week of instruction
- **Prerequisites:** requirement that must be completed before enrolling in a subsequent course
- **General Education courses:** provide a well-rounded education
- **Electives:** free choice courses



Explore all Penn State has to offer.



What if you want to study business?

University Park Colleges



Abington & University Colleges



Behrend College



Capital College



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What if you want to health and life sciences?

University Park Colleges



Berks College



Altoona College



Behrend College



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You are responsible for knowing your academic requirements.

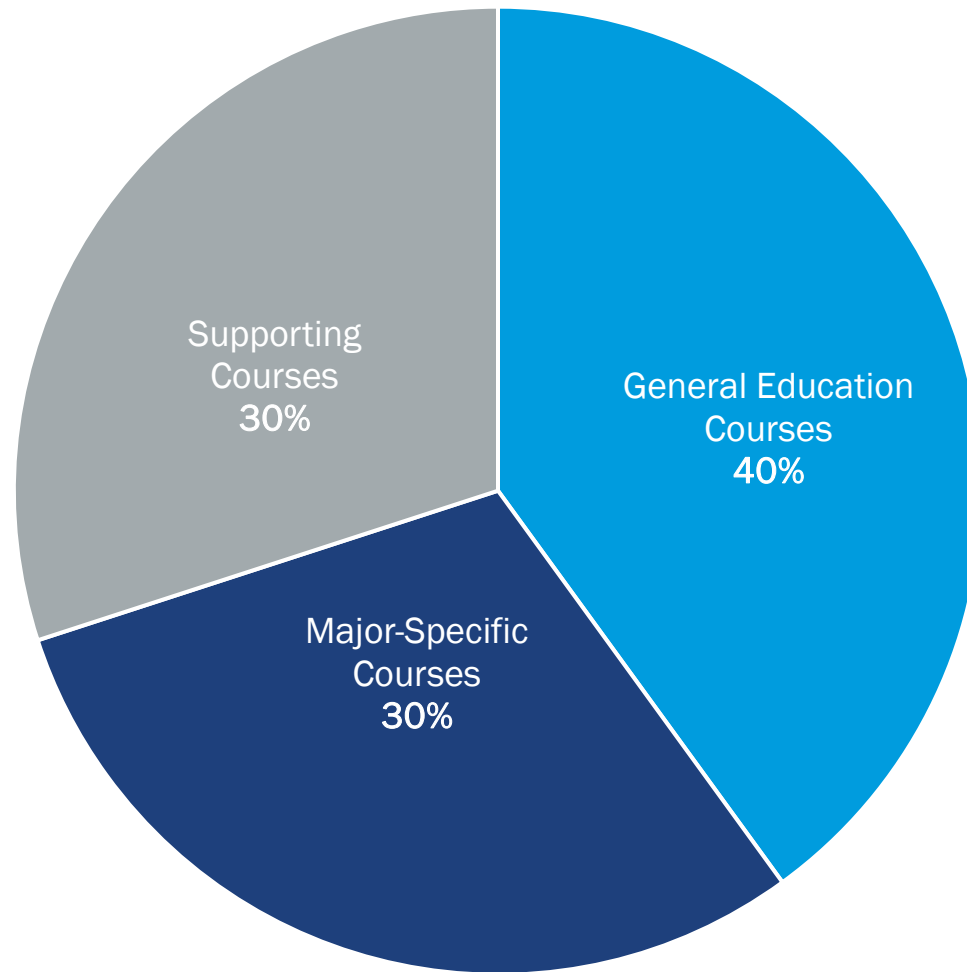


Every Penn State degree requires:

- A minimum of 120 completed credits to graduate
- A minimum 2.0 GPA to graduate
- Cultural Diversity course requirements
- Writing Across the Curriculum course requirements
- General Education course requirements



Your Penn State Degree



General Education

- Writing and Speaking
- Quantification
- Health and Wellness
- Natural Sciences
- Arts
- Humanities
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Integrative Learning



Entrance-to-Major (ETM)

- You are in an academic college as a pre-major student
- Every major has entrance-to-major requirements that vary, but may include:
 - Courses
 - Grades
 - GPA
 - Credits
 - Portfolio
 - Talent Review



Different Types of ETM Requirements

- Minimum requirements:
 - Third-semester standing
 - Minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA
- Academically controlled requirements:
 - The above and could include in addition:
 - Specific coursework with a C or better grade
 - Portfolio review
 - Talent review
- Administratively controlled requirements:
 - Specific GPAs higher than 2.0
 - Credit window



**You must consider your course placements
when selecting certain courses.**



English

- Consider:
 - What English courses did you take your junior and senior years of high school?
 - What type of writing did you do in your high school English classes?
 - What were your grades in your high school English classes?
- Not all students take English composition in their first semester
 - ENGL 15 is the standard composition course
 - ENGL 30, ENGL 4, ESL 15, and ENGL/CAS 137H may be other appropriate options



Math

- High school calculus = 101 placement score
- No high school calculus = take ALEKS Math Assessment to receive a score



Required GQ Course for Your Intended Major	0-13 Score	14-29 Score	30-45 Score	46-60 Score	61-75 Score	76-100 Score
STAT 200	MATH 3* →	MATH 4 →	STAT 200			
MATH 22	MATH 3* →	MATH 4 →	MATH 21 →	MATH 22		
MATH 26	MATH 3* →	MATH 4 →	MATH 21 →	MATH 26		
MATH 110	MATH 3* →	MATH 4 →	MATH 21 →	MATH 22 →	MATH 110	
MATH 140 (ALEKS 0-60)	MATH 3* →	MATH 4 →	MATH 21 →	MATH 22 & MATH 26 →	→	MATH 140
MATH 140 (ALEKS > 60)	MATH 3* →	MATH 4 →	MATH 21 →	→	MATH 26 or MATH 40* or MATH 41 →	MATH 140

* Course not offered at all Penn State campuses.



Chemistry

- ALEKS score and previous experience with chemistry classes determine your placement



World Language

Years of Study in Grades 9-12	Penn State Language Level
Fewer than two	Level 001
Two or three	Level 002
Four or more	Level 003



You are in charge of your education.



Welcome to Penn State!

Best wishes this semester!



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