Penn State New Kensington
First Year Students

The Penn State New Kensington community welcomes you to new beginnings. Although filling out an admissions application started the ball rolling, you will find that becoming involved in campus-related activities dictates your happiness while in college. Becoming involved means meeting staff, faculty, and other students by participating in the numerous activities we have planned especially for you. These programs are planned to help any new student to adjust to college life and to the Penn State experience as a whole.

New Student Orientation: A Three-Day Experience

Academic Advising Day: 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. June 19, 24, 25, & 26, and August 8
On the first day of orientation, Academic Advising Day, you will learn more about a Penn State Degree, your academic interests and abilities, and what it takes to succeed academically at Penn State. During the afternoon, you will meet one-on-one with an academic adviser to discuss the above information and to plan your fall semester courses. You will also create a custom made schedule with the help of your adviser and enroll in those courses. Additionally, all first year students will receive a copy of this year’s selection for Freshmen Summer Reading Program. Through the day, you and your parents or guardians, for whom we have planned additional special sessions, will learn more about campus resources and how to get involved at Penn State New Kensington. Orientation is mandatory for all new students; parents and guardians are highly encouraged to attend.

Pride Day: 8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 20
On Day 2, you become part of a campus tradition… Orientation Prides. Every new student is assigned to a pride group led by our new student orientation leaders. At orientation, you will attend interactive workshops conducted by faculty and professional staff to learn about academic procedures, electronic resources and more. Student leaders lead the Prides in small group exercises designed to increase interpersonal communication skills. A faculty led discussion on this year’s summer reading selection is a part of Day 2.

All Prides Day: 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Thursday, August 21
This is the final preparation for your college career. You will have an opportunity to meet many of your fellow classmates and participate in academic success sessions. You receive your Pride T-shirt on this day. Activities include: Academic Convocation, College Meetings, and the Pride Olympics!

Special Population Orientations

International Student Orientation 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Friday, August 22
In addition to academic advising and scheduling of courses, this program will cover topics that are important to new international students including: US Government Regulations and how they apply to students, international student health insurance requirements, maintaining full-time status, on-campus employment, and filing tax returns, as well as travel and re-entry from abroad during your program of study. All international students will meet with an academic advisor during the week of August 19-23, 2013, to schedule their classes.

Adult Learners and Transfer Students Program 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Saturday, August 23 or Tuesday, August 26 from 6-9:00 p.m.
The Office of Student Affairs sponsors a special workshop session the Saturday before classes start for adults and students who are transferring into the University. You will meet with faculty and staff to discuss important topics such as academic success, enhancing study skills, how to juggle responsibilities, childcare, etc. Plus, this is a great time to learn your way around campus, take care of details, ask last minute questions and meet currently enrolled students.

Summer Checklist for New Students

- Attend all 3 New Student Orientation Days
- Get photo ID picture taken and receive student ID card.
- Receive First Year Summer Reading Program book selection.
- Activate access accounts at an electronic signature station and register on eLion.
- Take your ALEKS placement exam
- Print out your class schedule.
- Check on-line to finalize your semester bill and confirm your registration.
- Complete an on-line immunization form.

Orientation Questions? Call: 724-334-6143
or visit us on the web: www.nk.psu.edu
Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**When do I schedule my classes?**
Based on your placement test scores, and the advice of your academic advisor, during Day One of New Student Orientation we will place you in the courses appropriate for your major and also in those courses specifically designed by faculty to meet the needs of first year students. For more information contact the Student Success Center at 724-334-6095.

**Can a new student schedule classes without taking the placement test?**
An invitation to the meet with an advisor during Day One of orientation is triggered by the completion of the online placement test. No test, no schedule. Note: Students who meet the criteria as a returning adult learner or transfer student may have other requirements for course scheduling and should consult with admissions and their academic advisor.

**How important is it for me to submit my medical entrance compliance data on-line?**
It is critical that you complete your immunization information and personal health history form before the first day of class or you may be unable to schedule future classes. Questions? Call 814-863-5623.

**How do I determine what books I need for my classes?**
Your printed class schedule contains a specific course number. Those numbers correspond to books ordered by your instructors. Using the numbers, books can be purchased in the PSNK Bookstore or through a preferred vendor of choice.

**Does being undecided delay my progress toward completing a major?**
No, exploration for a semester or two does not delay entering a major. Be sure to contact Jim Shields in Career Services for help finding the right major for you. Email him at jxs8@psu.edu or call 724-334-6065.

**Do I have to attend New Student Orientation?**
Yes, it is an expectation that all new students regardless of their status attend orientation. This is an extremely important step in your progress and success as a college student. At orientation, you will gain valuable information and have the opportunity to meet other students.

**How do I register for New Student Orientation?**
After you take your placement test you will be invited by email and a postcard to register on-line for New Student Orientation. Students are also sent information to their permanent home address.

**More Questions?** Call the Orientation Hotline at 724-334-6143 or email us at nkorientation@psu.edu.

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**Fall 2014 Welcome Activities**

**Sunday Shopping Trip**
August 24
Clothes, shoes, apartment furnishings, and more! Sign up for our "back to school" shopping trip to the Tanger Outlets in Washington, PA.

**Information & Hydration**
August 25 & 26
Stop by the theatre lobby to meet members of CAB and receive a free gift! Orientation leaders will be standing by to answer your questions!

**T-Shirt Monday**
August 25
Take a break in the study lounge and create a PSNK t-shirt to wear around campus this year. Scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Taco Tuesday**
August 26
Visit the taco bar in Cafe 780 from noon to 1:00 p.m. and meet the Student Life staff and your fellow PSNK students!

**Root Beer Blast/Balloon Artist**
August 27
The Student Government Association wants you to treat yourself to a root beer float! Make your way to Cafe 780 to meet these students and get a piece of balloon art made especially for you!

**Thirsty Thursday**
August 28
Stop by the Junction at 2:00 p.m. The 100 students to stop by the Junction will get a free smoothie and information on upcoming events at PSNK!

**Back to School Bash**
September 3
Enjoy food at the Campus Picnic, listen to the DJ, and try out the crazy inflatables! Stop by club rush to discover our campus clubs & activities!

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**Penn State in Pittsburgh!**
Stop by the office of student life to find out what exiting new events and activities are planned as part of the Penn State in Pittsburgh initiative. Trips to sports events, theatres, city-center and more! Call the Office of Student Life at 724-334-6063 for more information.

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**Contact Us**

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