

How to Ease the Transition from a Satellite Campus to University Park for Penn State Students



Source: Microsoft Clip Art

Transitioning from a Penn State satellite campus to University Park is a big change for most students. Enrollment at satellite campuses ranges from 684 students at Penn State Wilkes-Barre to 4,334 students at Penn State Erie. Students who spend two years at this small-campus atmosphere may have difficulty adjusting to the large University Park campus, with around 42,000 students enrolled.

This manual is intended to assist Penn State students on how to ease this transition. It gives instructions on what to do during three phases: six months - one year before the move, one month before the move, and after the move.

What you will need:

- **A computer with internet access**
- **Transportation to State College**
- **Enthusiasm!**

Six Months – One Year before the Move

1. **Familiarize yourself with the area** – This will make you feel more comfortable when you actually move to State College. If you live close enough:

- Go to a football game
Buy tickets: <http://www.gopsusports.com/tickets/psu-tickets.html>
- Sign up for a tour
Change of campus tours: <https://www.admissions.psu.edu/events/?eventTypeID=33>
- Spend a weekend in State College
Things to do: <http://www.statecollege.com/>

2. **Find a Work-Study Job** – If you plan on participating in work-study:

- Find information about Work Study
Penn State Work Study: http://www.psu.edu/studentaid/aidprog/workstudy_jobs.shtml?reload
- Fill out an application
Elion Application: <http://elion.psu.edu>

Tip: If you don't find a position by two weeks into the fall semester, submit a Work-Study Extension on elion.

3a. Find Off Campus housing

Warning: This should be done far in advance as housing contracts fill up early in State College.

- Housing contracts typically range from August to August, but you can find sublets during other times of the year.
- To live in many downtown apartments, you must fill out an application in October or November to get an apartment for the following August.

Apartments: <http://www.statecollege.com/apartments/>
Craigslist: <http://pennstate.craigslist.org/hhh/>
PSU: <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/offcampus/>
Google Maps: <http://tinyurl.com/25lgwmj>

State College Map:



Source: <http://maps.google.com>

Red Box: This is downtown State College. Apartments here are in high demand. Many apartments here fill up by over nine months in advance. It is convenient to live across the street from campus, but most students share bedrooms due to high rent.

Green Boxes: These apartments are within walking distance of campus, but are cheaper than the downtown apartments and the neighborhoods are quieter.

Purple Boxes: These apartments are within a ten minute bus ride to campus. There are large apartment complexes as well as houses. Many of the larger apartment complexes, such as Nittany Crossing and Lion's Crossing, include amenities such as a pool, tennis courts, and a fitness center.

3b. Find On-Campus Housing:

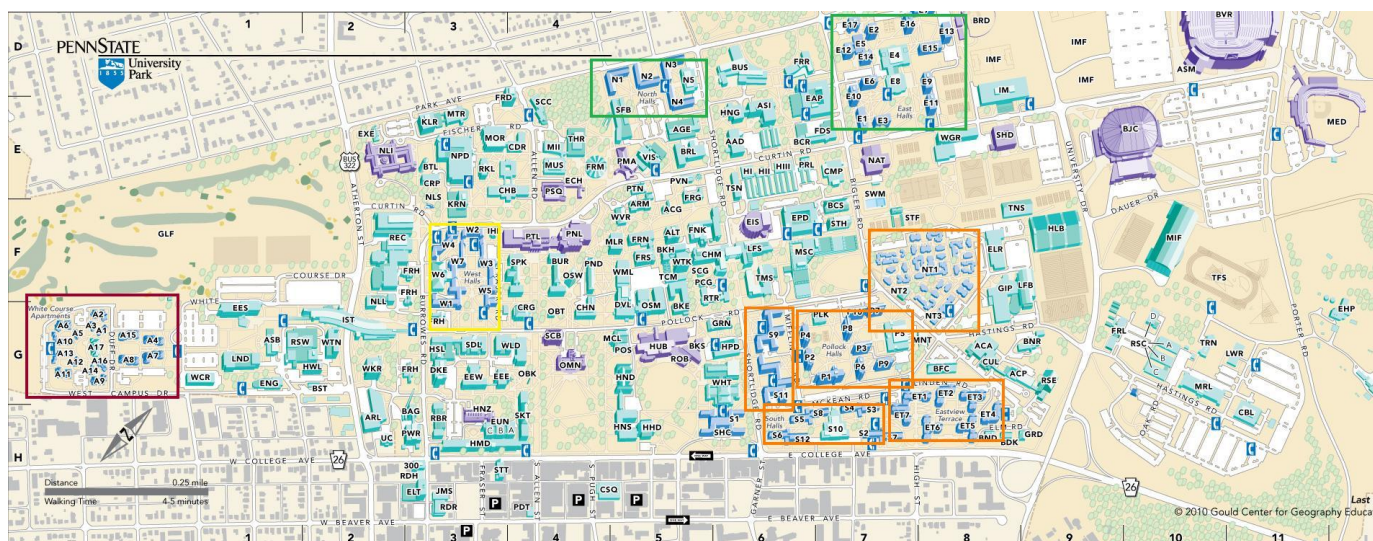
- Add your name to the waiting list starting in February to get on-campus housing.
- If you have questions regarding on-campus housing:

Email: uphousing@psu.edu

Phone number: 814-865-7501

PSU Housing: <http://www.hfs.psu.edu/housing/undergraduates/contracts.shtml>

Map of the University Park on-campus housing:



Source: www.campusmaps.psu.edu

Red box: These student apartments are located on the west side of campus, near Atherton Street and College Avenue. Engineering and Information Science and Technology buildings are located nearby.

Orange boxes: These dormitories are in a central location, nearby to downtown College Avenue and the Hub-Robeson Student Center.

Green boxes: These dormitories are located on the North side of campus, near to Agricultural Science, Food Science, Business, and Arts buildings.

Yellow boxes: These dormitories are located near Engineering and Information Science and Technology buildings, as well as the library.

One Month Before the Move:

1. Find Housing: Hopefully you have housing by now. If not, find it asap!

Tip: If living in State College, consider using a bicycle and taking the bus to get around; parking is limited

2. Find Work - If you plan on working part-time:

- Fill out job applications online
- If possible, take a trip to State College to fill out applications in person.

Centre Daily Times: <http://tinyurl.com/2a5vraw>

Craigslist: <http://pennstate.craigslist.org/jjj/>

State College Businesses: <http://www.statecollege.com/business/>

3. Attend Orientation - Attend the Orientation activities the week before classes start, such as:

- Parent and family information panel
- downtown loop tour
- Change-of-Campus and Transfer Student Connection
- Campus Tour

Orientation: www.psu.edu/ouic/uport/orientation.html

4. Familiarize yourself with the campus

- This will make it easier when you first attend classes
- Get a campus map at the HUB-Robeson center or print one out:

Campus maps: <http://www.campusmaps.psu.edu/print/>

After the Move:

1. Join Clubs – Getting involved in clubs is a great way to meet new people and explore your interests.

PSU Clubs: <http://www.sa.psu.edu/usa/studentactivities/search.asp>

2. Attend the Student Programming Association Events – The SPA organizes events, many of them free, including:

- Distinguished Speakers
- Concerts
- Comedians
- Late Night Activities

SPA: <http://www.spa.psu.edu/>

3. Attend Career Fairs – Attend every career fair! Even if you don't want an internship or job, it's great practice.

Career Fairs at PSU: <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/career/fairs.shtml>

General Information: <http://business.missouri.edu/1719/default.aspx>

4. Take Advantage of Tools for Academic Success:

- The Learning Center at Penn State offers tutoring and study groups

The Learning Center: <http://pennstatelearning.psu.edu/study-group>

Tips for Academic Success: <http://www.psu.edu/dus/academicsuccess/studyskills.html>

Further Information:

Financial Aid:

Phone: 814-865-6301

Email: <https://osa.vmhost.psu.edu/SAContactForm/form/email.cfm>

Website: <http://www.psu.edu/studentaid/>

Degree Programs:

Baccalaureate Programs: http://bulletins.psu.edu/bulletins/bluebook/baccalaureate_degree_programs.cfm

State College:

Official State College website: <http://www.statecollege.com/>

The State Theatre:

Website: <http://www.thestatetheatre.org/>

Phone: 814-272-0606

Hopefully these instructions will make your transition to the Penn State University Park campus easier and less confusing. Remember to keep a positive attitude and before you know it, State College will feel like your second home!