

FIRST WEEK TO-DO LIST

Multicultural Resource Center

220 Grange Building

814-865-1773

www.equity.psu.edu/mrc

@mrcpennstate

Make an appointment with your MRC counselor...



LionPath Student Center: <http://launch.lionpath.psu.edu/>

Penn State Student Technology Guide: <https://connect-to-tech.it.psu.edu/>

- ACCEPT OR DECLINE MY FINANCIAL AID** (Office of Student Aid, <https://studentaid.psu.edu/>)
Sign in to LionPath. Under **Finances**, click *Accept/Decline Awards*. Then click **2019** to view your academic year's aid award. Click on *Accept/Decline Awards*.
 - To accept or decline ALL of your awards:** use the "accept all" or "decline all" buttons. Clicking "decline all" will not decline grants, scholarships, or Parent PLUS Loans you may have been awarded.
 - To accept a single award:** check the "Accept" checkbox next to the award name.
 - To decrease an award:** first check the *Accept* checkbox; then you can decrease the award under the "Accepted" column. If you decrease or decline any awards, you cannot increase them after clicking "Yes."
 - To decline an award:** check the *Decline* checkbox next to the award name. Keep in mind that if you choose to decline an award, *you are declining it for the whole year*.
 - ✓ **Note:** If you need to reinstate the aid you declined, you must contact the Office of Student Aid.
 - ✓ **Note:** Most scholarships and grants will automatically be accepted (no need to click on accept). However, some scholarships request that you submit a thank you note before it will show as accepted. You can verify if a scholarship thank you note is required via your **LionPath Student Center > Holds**

- COMPLETE MY ACCEPTANCE OF STUDENT LOANS**
Once you, as a first-time borrower, accept your loans through LionPath, you will need to complete **Entrance Counseling** and sign a **Master Promissory Note (MPN)** at StudentLoans.gov. You will need your FSA ID to complete both (if you don't remember your ID, visit www.StudentAid.gov/fsaid).
 - Sign in and Click on *Complete MPN*
 - Select loan option *Subsidized / Unsubsidized*
 - Follow the four-step process to sign your MPN

- ✓ **Entrance Counseling Form** (PSU will be notified within 3-5 business days after completion)
 - Sign in and Click on *Complete Counseling* and then *Entrance Counseling*
 - Select *Pennsylvania State University* and *undergraduate student*
 - Follow the five step process to complete your Entrance Counseling form

We strongly recommend that you **DO NOT** modify the recommended loan amounts until you have reviewed all of your educational expenses for the year, including tuition, fees, room and meals, books, supplies, transportation, and personal expenses.

To-Do List Continued...

- ❑ **PAY MY UNIVERSITY BILL** (using LionPath)
Under **Finances**, select *Manage My Account/Make a Payment*. Under **Your Account**, select *Make a Payment*. NOTE: You can grant your parents access to your bill in the **Authorized Payers** section.
- ❑ **INSTALLMENT PLAN** (using LionPath)
If you want to use the Penn State installment payment plan, you must pay using an eCheck or a Credit Card, and agree to sign up for auto-deduction for the remaining installments. You will need to pay one-fourth of your balance, plus a \$45 enrollment fee. To enroll, under **Finances**, select *Manage My Account/Make a Payment*. Under **Installment Payment Plan**, click on *Enroll in Penn State Fall 2019 Installment Payment Plan*.
- ❑ **ADDRESS FINANCIAL AID QUESTIONS**
Visit the Office of Student Aid (3rd floor, Shields Bldg.) for assistance in addressing your financial aid questions. You can also visit your MRC counselor (220 Grange Building) for help.
- ❑ **eREFUND** (using LionPath)
If you want your refunds deposited directly to your bank account, under **Finances**, select *Manage My Account/Make a Payment*. Then, select *eRefund*. If you DON'T sign up for eRefund, any refund you might receive will be sent, as a check, to your permanent home address.
- ❑ **FIND OUT ABOUT PARENT PLUS LOAN OR ALTERNATIVE LOANS**
If parents are interested in a *Parent PLUS Loan*, visit the Office of Student Aid web site, at <http://studentaid.psu.edu/types-of-aid/loans/parent-PLUS>. After a PLUS Loan has been approved, parents must follow the same instructions to sign the MPN (but using their own FSA ID). *Alternative Loan* information is available at <http://studentaid.psu.edu/types-of-aid/loans/private-alternative>.
- ❑ **FIND A JOB!**
If you have a *Federal Work-Study – On Campus (FWS)* financial aid award, you can search for jobs by visiting the **PSU Job Search site** (<https://psu.jobs/>). Click on *Work-Study Jobs*, select **University Park** campus, and search for jobs that might interest you. If you do not have FWS in your aid award, you can search for *non-FWS* jobs at <http://studentaid.psu.edu/types-of-aid/employment/other>.
- ❑ **COMPLETE THE IMMUNIZATION VERIFICATION FORM**
First year students must complete a three-step process to submit immunization information. There is also a Meningococcal Requirement. For information and to access the Immunizations Verification Form, visit https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/health/immunizations/imm_submission.shtml
- ❑ **SUBMIT OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO PENN STATE**
Outside scholarships can be walked to the **Bursar Office** (First Floor, Shields Bldg.), or sent to **Student Financial Services, Attn: Outside Scholarships, 108 Shields Building, University Park, PA 16802**. We recommend that you make copies of any scholarships you send Penn State and add your name and PSU ID to the letter. For information on external awards, visit <https://bursar.psu.edu/external-awards-0>.
- ❑ **VERIFY I'M TAKING THE RIGHT COURSES OR MAKE CHANGES TO MY SCHEDULE**
If you need help with your academic schedule, visit your College's Advising Office or the Division of Undergraduate Studies (1st floor, Grange Building.) to meet with your academic adviser, or an on-call adviser. For a list of academic advising centers, visit <http://advising.psu.edu/advising-centers>.

We are here for you! Visit your MRC counselor for assistance navigating any of these tasks.

THE MRC WISHES YOU A SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC YEAR!