

Through timely, strategic initiatives such as these, Educational Equity, Student Affairs, and Undergraduate Education are pursuing a vision for the Penn State experience defined by world-class academics, diversity and inclusion at all levels, and wide-ranging opportunities for learning and growth. Together, these three areas ensure that students are challenged intellectually while receiving the support they need to thrive. Because of the life-changing experiences University Programs makes possible, our students leave Penn State prepared not only to succeed, but to soar.

## YOUR GIFT TO UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

University Programs would not be as strong as it is today without gifts from alumni and friends, and private support will remain essential as we seek to grow and enhance our programming. During the *Greater Penn State* campaign, we are seeking gifts that will advance our vision of a world-class learning experience at Penn State.

To discuss how you can support University Programs, contact:

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To learn more about Student Affairs, Educational Equity, and Undergraduate Education, visit [studentaffairs.psu.edu](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu), [equity.psu.edu](http://equity.psu.edu), and [undergrad.psu.edu](http://undergrad.psu.edu).

To learn more about *A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence*, visit [greaterpennstate.psu.edu](http://greaterpennstate.psu.edu).



## UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS: Shaping a World-Class Learning Experience

With more than 160 baccalaureate degree programs, 1,000+ student clubs and organizations, and countless opportunities for students to explore their interests and spread their wings, the Penn State experience is dynamic, multifaceted, and global. Every facet of this experience is shaped by University Programs, which pursues a vision of a Penn State education that combines academic rigor with rich opportunities for engagement and growth beyond the classroom, and which helps to make these opportunities available to students from many diverse backgrounds. Comprising Educational Equity, Student Affairs, and Undergraduate Education, University Programs oversees a range of activities and initiatives—and nearly 800 student scholarships, program support funds, and grants—which enhance our students' success and well-being, both at Penn State and in their lives beyond. Through *A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence*, a fast-paced campaign focused on the three imperatives of a public university, alumni and friends can partner with University Programs to create even more transformative experiences for students; to extend our students' impact on the world; and to ensure that Penn State's opportunities remain available to individuals from every economic background.

### EDUCATIONAL EQUITY *Fostering Diversity and Inclusion*

The Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity serves as a catalyst and advocate for Penn State's diversity and inclusion initiatives, working to ensure that the Penn State community is a welcoming environment for all. The programs and services Educational Equity provides include pre-college access programs; student success programs; faculty support; President's commissions for equity; strategic planning and

assessment; and advocacy and leadership to increase Penn State's capacity for diversity and inclusion at all levels. Educational Equity leads the University's efforts to support underrepresented racial/ethnic communities, women, LGBTQA persons, military veterans, persons with disabilities, and low-income, first-generation students. Here are just a few of the initiatives overseen by this office:



A **GREATER  
PENN STATE**  
FOR 21<sup>ST</sup>  
CENTURY  
EXCELLENCE

### **Pre-college Access**

Through resources and initiatives such as the Educational Opportunity Center, Upward Bound, and Talent Search, the University—in partnership with the federal government—is encouraging high school students from low-income areas across the Commonwealth to pursue higher education. Originally created as part of Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty in the 1960s, these pre-college access programs help students to gain the motivation, academic skills, and practical knowledge they will need to continue their education beyond high school.

### **Student Success**

Educational Equity is committed to helping students of all backgrounds and abilities to succeed at Penn State. The Multicultural Resource Center (MRC) assists students from diverse cultural backgrounds in meeting the challenges of attaining a degree at a large and complex institution like Penn State. The Student Disability Resources office provides an inclusive campus community for students with disabilities, and ensures equal access, full participation, and reasonable accommodations for students’ academic pursuits.

### **Veteran Students**

Educational Equity provides resources to maintain and enhance Penn State’s position as a top educational destination for our nation’s servicemen and servicewomen. Through outreach and one-on-one counseling, the staff within the Office of Veterans Programs help both prospective and current veteran

students to navigate the transition from military to student life and to make the most of the educational benefits available to them and their families.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

### *Enriching the Student Experience*

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The many units in Student Affairs work in concert to provide programs and services that support, challenge, and encourage students as they expand learning beyond their classwork, develop their personal and professional understanding and skills, and achieve the success they seek both at Penn State and in their lives beyond. These opportunities deeply enrich the Penn State student experience and elevate the value of a Penn State degree. They also encourage a safe and healthy learning environment, in which students can explore endless interests, find their niche within the large and diverse Penn State community, and form lasting relationships. Here are several key areas in which Student Affairs is engaged:

#### **Leadership and Citizenship**

Much of student learning takes place outside the classroom. Through Student Activities, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Residence Life, and other offices, Student Affairs ensures that students have rich and varied opportunities beyond the classroom to build community with fellow students; to develop skills such as critical thinking, decision-making, creative expression, teamwork, and conflict resolution; and to grow as citizens and leaders.

### **Health and Wellness**

Good physical and mental health is important for academic success. University Health Services, Health Promotion and Wellness (HPW), Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), and Campus Recreation provide resources and opportunities to help students form healthy habits, achieve emotional and mental wellness, and maintain an active lifestyle. In addition, through programs such as the Collegiate Recovery Community and targeted initiatives in CAPS and HPW, Student Affairs is working to reduce the harm associated with the use of alcohol and other drugs.

### **Community and Advocacy**

We want all students to feel safe and included at Penn State so they can focus on learning, creating friendships, and growing personally. The Center for Spiritual & Ethical Development, the LGBTQA Student Resource Center, and the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, among others, focus on fostering diverse communities. Offices such as Sexual Misconduct Prevention & Response, the Gender Equity Center, and others provide support and advocacy to students dealing with sexual or gender-based harassment and related issues.

## **UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION**

### *Advancing Academic Excellence and Innovation*

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The Office of Undergraduate Education’s University-wide initiatives are designed to ignite curiosity and expand opportunities that in turn increase accessibility, promote engagement, and empower students to succeed in a rapidly changing world. These transformative experiences encourage meaningful reflection on their place in the world and promote the intellectual, professional, and social growth that are central to Undergraduate Education’s mission.

From orientation programs, to financial literacy, to undergraduate research, the unique services provided by Undergraduate Education allow students to explore, discover, and excel on campus and contribute as citizens in communities across the globe. The Office of Undergraduate Education is current-

ly piloting multiple innovative programs to further University strategic priorities and advance student academic success, including:

### **Access and Affordability**

Undergraduate Education is working at the forefront of the University-wide effort to keep Penn State’s doors open to qualified students from every economic background, launching several pilot programs to advance access and affordability. The Student Transitional Experiences Program (STEP) helps students who transition to University Park from another Penn State campus; Complete Penn State supports students who are at risk of not graduating as a result of financial hardship; and raise.me enables low-income students to earn college scholarships through their performance in high school.

### **Student Success and Financial Literacy**

Recognizing that academic success and financial literacy are deeply intertwined, Undergraduate Education makes available integrated services to promote both student academic success and financial wellness and security. An integrated and comprehensive program provides academic and curricular advising, guidance in study skills, and supplemental instruction and tutoring in a range of subject areas, along with counseling on money and debt management, personal budgeting, and student loan repayment strategies in an effort to support financial success beyond Penn State.

### **Student Engagement and Learning**

The Student Engagement Network is a University effort to create pathways to engaged learning for students, resources to assist faculty in supporting this learning, and connections with the community and other partners. Student engagement represents all experiential learning endeavors that complement classroom learning, deepen the educational experience of students, and create meaningful impact in the community. Student engagement opportunities include civic engagement, study abroad, service learning, undergraduate research, and many more.

