Federal Student

FAQs
Is This the Real Penn State?

Penn State World Campus is one of Penn State’s 25 campuses, and its classes are taught completely online. World Campus students are held to the same rigorous standards as students taking courses on campus. As World Campus students, their transcripts and their diplomas look the same as any other Penn State student’s. There will be no indication that they studied online.
Can Penn State World Campus help me build Mission-Critical Occupations (MCO) skills?

The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security have designated Penn State as a National Center of Academic Excellence in information assurance education.

Undergraduate Programs

- Bachelor of Science in Security and Risk Analysis – Information and Cyber Security Option
- Undergraduate Certificate in Security and Risk Analysis
- Security and Risk Analysis Minor
Programs: Cybersecurity

Can Penn State World Campus help me build Mission-Critical Occupations (MCO) skills?

The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security have designated Penn State as a National Center of Academic Excellence in information assurance education.

Graduate Programs

- Master of Professional Studies in Information Sciences — Cybersecurity and Information Assurance
- Graduate Certificate in Enterprise Information and Security Technology Architecture
- Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Information Systems
  - Cybersecurity
Can Penn State World Campus help me build Mission-Critical Occupations (MCO) skills?

The School of LER faculty has an extensive range of expertise in fields such as employment and labor law, international human resources and employment relations, organizational behavior, and workforce diversity.

Associate
- Labor and Employment Relations

Undergraduate
- Bachelor of Arts in Labor and Employment Relations
- Bachelor of Science in Labor and Employment Relations
- Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Leadership
- Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership
- Undergraduate Certificate in Labor Studies and Employment Relations

Minors
- Labor Studies and Employment Relations
- Organizational Leadership

Graduate
- Master of Professional Studies in Human Resources and Employment Relations
- Graduate Certificate in International Human Resources and Employment Relations
Can Penn State World Campus help me build Mission-Critical Occupations (MCO) skills?

- **Undergraduate Certificate in ERP Certificate with SAP with a focus on acquisition and purchasing**
- **Master of Professional Studies in Supply Chain Management**
- **Graduate Certificate in Supply Chain Management**
- **Supply Chain and Information Systems Minor**
Programs: Project Management

Can Penn State World Campus help me build Mission-Critical Occupations (MCO) skills?

- Master of Project Management
- Graduate Certificate in Project Management
Programs: Accounting, Analytics, and Statistics

Can Penn State World Campus help me build Mission-Critical Occupations (MCO) skills?

- Bachelor of Science in Accounting
- Master of Professional Accounting
- Master of Professional Studies in Data Analytics
- Master of Professional Studies in Data Analytics – Business Analytics Option
- Master of Applied Statistics
- Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics
Programs: Economics and Finance

Can Penn State World Campus help me build Mission-Critical Occupations (MCO) skills?

Economics

- Bachelor of Arts in Economics
- Bachelor of Science in Economics
- Economics Minor

Finance

- Bachelor of Science in Finance
- Undergraduate Certificate in Financial Planning
- Finance Minor
- Master of Finance
Programs: STEM and Leadership

Can Penn State World Campus help me build Mission-Critical Occupations (MCO) skills?

World Campus programs are well aligned with mission-critical skills gap closure.

S–T–E–M and Leadership Competencies

- Energy and Sustainability Studies – 12 programs
- Geospatial – 8 programs
- Technology and Sciences – 16 programs
- Engineering – 7 programs
- Business and Management – 38 programs
- Liberal Arts and Communications – 11 programs
- Law and Public Policy – 14 programs
- Health and Family Services – 9 programs
- Nursing – 9 programs
- Education – 21 programs
Programs: Homeland Security

Does Penn State World Campus have programs to address skills gaps at my agency?

The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security have designated Penn State as a National Center of Academic Excellence in information assurance education.

Undergraduate Programs
- Homeland Security Minor

Graduate Programs
- Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security
- Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security – Geospatial Intelligence Option

National Cybersecurity Workforce Framework
Can Penn State World Campus help me build Mission-Critical Occupations (MCO) skills?

The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security have designated Penn State as a National Center of Academic Excellence in information assurance education.

Graduate Programs

- Graduate Certificate in Agricultural Biosecurity and Food Defense
- Graduate Certificate in Geospatial Intelligence Analytics
Can Penn State World Campus help me build Mission-Critical Occupations (MCO) skills?

The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security have designated Penn State as a National Center of Academic Excellence in information assurance education.

Graduate Programs

- Graduate Certificate in Homeland Security
- Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Information Systems Cybersecurity
- Graduate Certificate in Public Health Preparedness: Disaster and Bioterrorism
When Are Undergraduate Admission Deadlines?

Fall semester application deadline: June 30
Courses run August–December

Spring semester application deadline: October 31
Courses run January–April

Summer semester application deadline: March 15
Courses run May–August

Based on availability, undeclared students can register for courses right up to the day before those classes begin.

Prerequisites and application requirements for admission to our Graduate Schools vary by program. For help with admissions, email wdadmissions@outreach.psu.edu or call 814-863-5386.
How Is the Tuition Reduction Applied?

There is nothing you need to do to ensure that those who are eligible receive the tuition reduction.

• As part of the Penn State World Campus educational alliance with the Federal Government, Federal employees, their spouses, and legal dependents will receive a 5% tuition reduction of Penn State World Campus tuition rates. The Penn State's tuition rates vary by student level, program, residency, and primary campus location. If your primary campus location is not Penn State World Campus, the tuition reduction for World Campus courses will be calculated based on the World Campus tuition rate and not on your primary campus tuition rate.

The student simply needs to submit the Federal Government Tuition Reduction form, downloadable from the Federal Employee, Spouse, and Dependent landing page.
Tuition Reduction Eligibility

1. To qualify for the tuition reduction, the student must be an employee of the Federal Government or the spouse or legal dependent of a currently employed federal employee (at the time of enrollment).

2. Dependent eligibility: The sponsoring federal employee must be entitled to claim an exemption for a legal dependent on their federal tax return and that dependent cannot claim a personal exemption on his or her own tax return.

3. Students already receiving similar Penn State institutional scholarships or grants may not be eligible for the tuition reduction.

4. A Tuition Reduction Form must be completed and submitted to Penn State World Campus each semester that the student wishes to receive the reduction.

5. The Pennsylvania State University must be notified within 14 days of any change in employee or spousal/dependent status.

6. Government contractors are not eligible for the tuition reduction.
How Do I Apply?
How Do I Apply?

Send official transcripts

High school/GED

College

Military

SAT/ ACT
Can I Transfer Credits?

For a course to qualify for credit:

From a regionally accredited school

Grade earned must be a C or higher

Equivalent to a Penn State course

Must be useful in your program of study

Visit Penn State’s Course Transfer page.
Can I Use International Credits?

What if an agency employee has educational credits from another country and wants to take advantage of this program?

*International Requirements*

*High School Credentials*

If your country is not included in these lists, please contact an international counselor at 814-865-5471 (select option 7 from the menu and ask to speak with an international counselor).
Are There Alternative Ways to Earn Credit?

**CLEP:** The [College-Level Examination Program](https://www.collegeboard.org) gives you the opportunity to receive college credit for what you already know, by earning qualifying scores on any of 33 examinations.

**Credit by Examination:** Penn State World Campus students can earn additional credits, to fulfill degree requirements, through successful completion (C or better) of a comprehensive examination, which is a substitute for completing the usual requirements of a course.

**Prior Learning Assessment (PLA):** Penn State may review your background and experience to determine if you can receive credit toward an existing Penn State undergraduate course of study. This process requires you to submit a portfolio containing documents and information that provide evidence of mastery of specific course requirements.
Who Can I Contact?

Admission Services
wdadmissions@outreach.psu.edu
814-863-5386
worldcampus.psu.edu

We are available: Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. (ET)

Friday
8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (ET)

Live chat with us on our website!
What Student Services Are Available?

- Tutoring
- Scholarships
- University Libraries
- Advising
- Financial Aid Technology Support
- Student Clubs
- Disability Services
Are There Programs for Military Students?

**Serving Our Military and Veteran Students**

Designated military staff
- Admissions
- Student aid
- Advising career services
- Disability services

Military student support

Office of Veterans Programs
Will I Have an Adviser?

- Plan academic program
- Meet degree requirements
- Achieve academic goals
- Assist you in getting involved in the Penn State community
- Prepare you for graduation!
- We are there when you need help!

PennState World Campus
Can I Receive Financial Aid?

FAFSA
Financial literacy
Direct and indirect costs
Budgeting

Deferred Payment Plan
Penn State offers a deferred payment plan that allows you to pay your tuition bill in installments over three months.

Read about other payment options.

Scholarships
Military benefits
TAA/WIA

financialaid@outreach.psu.edu
Financial Aid

Should I wait until I’m admitted to Penn State before I apply for student aid?

You do not need to wait; you can complete your FAFSA anytime. Once you have been admitted, Penn State will receive your FAFSA and notify you of your financial aid eligibility.
Financial Aid

I have applied for financial aid. How long do I need to wait until I’m notified of my eligibility?

The Office of Student Aid begins notifying students of their financial aid eligibility as early as March for the upcoming fall semester. If you are a new student admitted for the spring semester, you should receive notification approximately three weeks after your FAFSA has been submitted. Summer semester awarding begins in April.
Financial Aid

What if I have already sent my FAFSA to another school and want to transfer my information to Penn State?

You should log in to your FAFSA and make a correction by going to the school information section and adding Penn State’s school code (003329). Ensure that you have successfully submitted the correction by reviewing your confirmation page. Penn State will receive your FAFSA information within a week. You cannot receive aid at two schools at the same time. Transfer students should contact our office to make certain of their eligibility.
Useful Financial Aid Links

Office Contact
financialaid@outreach.psu.edu

Information about Penn State processes, eligibility, types of aid, tutorials for common aid questions, etc.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Complete Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Notes

Toll Free: 800-252-3592
Direct Line: 814-867-4244

Penn State World Campus Scholarships

Financial Literacy Workshops and Webinars

TAA and WIA information

Military Benefits

Military Grant-In-Aid
Can I Qualify for Scholarships?

Finding scholarship information

Internet searches: Most scholarships are awarded six months to one year prior to the start of the semester or academic year of the award. Don’t pay. Penn State does not endorse any scholarship search engine that charges a fee. You should never have to pay for a scholarship search.

The Office of Student Aid recommends the following FREE scholarship search engines:

- FastWeb
- The College Board
Is Tutoring Available?

“"The tutor was knowledgeable and patient and very willing to help me out.”"

—Penn State World Campus student

Penn State Learning
One-on-one sessions scheduled

Tutor.com
One-demand

Tech Tutors
Technology training
Can I Join the Alumni Association?

Join a truly global network

As a Penn State graduate, you’re part of a group of more than 658,000 alumni worldwide. Being part of this network is a great way to establish professional relationships and advance your career. You can further strengthen your ties to Penn State by joining the Alumni Association and participating in alumni events, online and in person.
Are There Library Resources?

8th largest research library collection in North America
Books, e-books, DVDs, electronic journals, research databases
Distance delivery services
Access to reference librarians
Are There Services for Students with Disabilities?

Focus on functional limitation instead of the disability
Major life activities
Major bodily functions
Temporary disability

Disability Contact Liaison
Terry Watson
tlw37@psu.edu
814-863-3070 (V/TTY)

Scholarships

“I am deaf with a cochlear implant. What I discovered was that Penn State has an Office for Disability Services. They have provided captions for videos for me, as well as transcripts for every video in my lessons. I mean EVERY video. It was a great help.”

—Stephen Verigood
B.S. in Psychology
Can I Join an Organization or Club?

“The World Campus Blue & White Society made me feel part of the University right from my living room in Miami, Florida. I got involved in the monthly meetings and even ran for office and became secretary.”

— Nabilah Baig, Master of Public Administration
How Does Online Learning Work?

Course structure:

Asynchronous learning
- Specified due dates
- Log in at convenient times

Each course will be different but similar
- Example: Some courses require proctors
- Example: Some require textbooks

10–12 hours per week
How Does Online Learning Work?

Important student systems:

**LionPath** – self-service, web-based system for students, advisers, and faculty

**WebMail** – Penn State email account

**Online Course Management System** – You will manage all course work within this environment.
How Long Will It Take Me?

**Associate:** 60 credits

**Bachelor’s:** around 120 credits

The length of your program will depend on:

- number of credits you transfer into Penn State
- number of credits you are able to take each semester
- how many semesters you attend during each academic year
How Much Will My Degree Cost?

If you have 59 or fewer credits:
Tuition rates are for the 2016–17 academic year and are assessed every semester of enrollment.
If you are taking fewer than 12 credits per semester: $542 per credit
If you are taking 12 or more credits per semester (flat rate): $6,587

If you have 60 or more credits:
Tuition rates are for the 2016–17 academic year and are assessed every semester of enrollment.
If you are taking fewer than 12 credits per semester: $584 per credit
If you are taking 12 or more credits per semester (flat rate): $7,129

Info Technology Fee:
The information technology fee is assessed every semester and is automatically added to your semester bill.
9 or more credits: $252
5 to fewer than 9 credits: $189
Fewer than 5 credits: $86
Is There a Help Desk?

World Campus HelpDesk Resources
Penn State Access Account
Canvas
Penn State email
General operating system (Windows/Mac OS) questions
General web browser questions
Software
Available 7 days a week!
# What Are the Tech Requirements?

| Operating System       | Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8*; Mac OS X 10.4 or higher  
<table>
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<th>*Windows 8 support excludes the tablet only RT version</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Processor</td>
<td>2 GHz or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>1 GB of RAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard Drive Space</td>
<td>20 GB free disk space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Browser</td>
<td>We recommend the latest Canvas-supported version of Firefox or Internet Explorer. To determine if your browser fits this criterion, please refer to <a href="#">Which browsers does Canvas support?</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Plug-ins               | Adobe Reader [Download from Adobe]  
|                        | Flash Player (v7.0 or later) [Download from Adobe]  
|                        | Apple QuickTime [Download from Apple] |
| Additional Software    | Microsoft Office (2007 or later)                          |
| Internet Connection    | Broadband (cable or DSL) connection required               |
| Printer                | Access to graphics-capable printer                         |
| DVD-ROM                | Required                                                  |
| Sound Card, Microphone and Speakers | Required                          |
| Monitor                | Capable of at least 1024 x 768 resolution               |
Useful Links

How Online Learning Works
Unofficial Credit Evaluation
Transferring Credits, Military Credit, CLEP and DSST Testing
Military Information
Undergraduate Academic Calendar
Payment Options

International Admission Requirements
Required International Credentials by Country
Alternative Ways to Earn Penn State Credits (CLEP, etc.)
Course Management System: Canvas
New Student Orientation
Tutoring Services