About the College

Lori J. Bechtel-Wherry, Chancellor and Dean, Penn State Altoona

Penn State Altoona is a multi-campus, four-year college of Penn State. Penn State Altoona cultivates a vibrant learning environment through excellence in teaching, research, and creative activities, and offers the advantages of an intimate college teaching environment with the readily available resources of a major research university. Situated in the beautiful Allegheny Mountains of Central Pennsylvania, Penn State Altoona offers over 20 majors and six associate degrees in four academic divisions: Arts and Humanities; Business, Engineering, and Information Sciences and Technology; Education, Human Development, and Social Sciences; and Mathematics and Natural Sciences. The College also provides the first two years of more than 160 Penn State baccalaureate majors. Penn State Altoona is located 40 miles from University Park, the flagship campus of Penn State, and our proximity presents students and faculty with many opportunities for mutual collaboration and engagement.

Mission and Goals

Penn State Altoona’s mission is to cultivate a vibrant learning environment through excellence in teaching, research, creative activities, outreach and the advancement of personal, social, and intellectual growth, and to empower a diverse student body with the knowledge and skills to be critical thinkers, lifelong learners, and civically-engaged global citizens.

Departments and Schools

Division of Arts and Humanities

The Division of Arts and Humanities provides high-quality teaching and programs that allow students to process and document the human experience. Courses equip students with the critical thinking, oral and written communication, ethical decision-making, and creative problem-solving skills necessary for meaningful engagement with the world and professional success.

Division of Business, Engineering, and Information Sciences and Technology

The Division of Business, Engineering, and Information Sciences and Technology offers high-quality, accredited, diverse programs; exciting student activities; and modern facilities. Our deep dedication to teaching enables our students to excel in the fields of business, engineering, engineering technology, rail transportation engineering, or information sciences.

Baccalaureate Degrees

- Accounting, B.S. (Altoona)
- Biology, B.S. (Altoona)
- Business, B.S. (Altoona)
- Communications, B.A. (Altoona)
- Criminal Justice, B.A. (Altoona)
- Criminal Justice, B.S. (Altoona)
- Elementary and Kindergarten Education, B.S. (Altoona)
- English, B.A. (Altoona)
- Environmental Studies, B.A.
- Environmental Studies, B.S.
- History, B.A. (Altoona)
- Human Development and Family Studies, B.S. (Altoona)
- Integrative Arts, B.A. (Altoona)
- Kinesiology, B.S. (Altoona)
- Letters, Arts, and Sciences, B.A. (Altoona)
- Mathematics, B.A. (Altoona)
- Mathematics, B.S. (Altoona)
- Political Science, B.A. (Altoona)
- Psychology, B.A. (Altoona)
- Psychology, B.S. (Altoona)
- Rail Transportation Engineering, B.S.
- Science, B.S. (Altoona)
- Security and Risk Analysis, B.S. (Altoona)
- Visual Art Studies, B.A.
Campus requests for non-academic reasons (e.g., participation in a club, academic progress at their current and proposed campuses. Change of
is based on whether or not a student can schedule classes and make
Campus and complete your degree at another campus. The process
Change of Campus offers the opportunity to begin at one of our
College Procedures

Academic Warning
A student who fails to earn a 2.00 cumulative grade-point average will
be placed on academic warning. A student placed on academic warning
will have a hold placed on registration and will be required to meet with
an academic adviser in order for this registration hold to be removed. To
remove academic warning, the cumulative grade-point average must be
2.00 or higher.

Academic Suspension
A student in academic warning who fails to maintain a semester grade-
point average of 2.00 or higher will be academically suspended. A student
who has been academically suspended may not schedule courses at
the University for two consecutive semesters. (Note: Summer session is
equal to one semester.)

Academic Warning
READ SENATE POLICY 54-20: ACADEMIC WARNING (http://
senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/54-00-
academic-progress/#54-20)

Academic Suspension
MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACADEMIC SUSPENSION (http://
altoona.psu.edu/offices-divisions/academic-affairs/registrar/student-
forms-procedures/academic-suspension)

READ SENATE POLICY 54-40: ACADEMIC SUSPENSION (http://
senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/54-00-
academic-progress/#54-40)

Change of Campus
Change of Campus offers the opportunity to begin at one of our
campuses and complete your degree at another campus. The process
is based on whether or not a student can schedule classes and make
academic progress at their current and proposed campuses. Change of
Campus requests for non-academic reasons (e.g., participation in a club/
sport, employment, housing, or to enroll in classes for a minor) will not be
approved.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CHANGE OF CAMPUS (http://
altoona.psu.edu/offices-divisions/academic-affairs/registrar/change-of-
campus)

Concurrent Majors
A Concurrent Majors Program is one in which students take courses
to concurrently meet the requirements of at least two majors, with
graduation for all majors in the program occurring during the same
semester. Baccalaureate or associate degree students can earn degrees
in more than one Penn State major. When completing concurrent majors,
students simultaneously complete all academic requirements for their
majors with two (or more) degrees in the same semester. Students apply
for concurrent majors in the Update Academics module of LionPATH.
Students should meet with their advisers for more information and to
discuss any program limitations.

READ SENATE POLICY 60-00: COMPLETING MORE THAN ONE
UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR PROGRAM (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-
and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/60-00-completing-more-than-one-
undergraduate-program/#60-00)

Resources
Wilbur K. Kraybill Academic Advising Center
The Wilbur K. Kraybill Academic Advising Center is staffed by
professional Division of Undergraduate Studies advisers. The advisers
serve to provide information regarding academic policies and procedures,
assist in developing short-term/long-term academic planning, and refer
students to campus resources. Our mission is to provide students with
access to well-informed academic advisers who will assist them as they
explore, develop and implement realistic educational goals and plans.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE WILBUR K. KRAYBILL ACADEMIC
ADVISING CENTER (http://altoona.psu.edu/offices-divisions/academic-
affairs/advISING)

Learning Resources Center
The Learning Resources Center (LRC) helps Penn State Altoona students
to be successful in learning. All of our services are free to Penn State
Altoona students, and the simplest way to get started is to come and visit
us. The LRC is located on the first floor of the Eiche Library building. Most
of our tutoring is handled by professional tutors or by instructors from the
discipline. In some subjects, we also offer peer tutoring.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER
(http://altoona.psu.edu/offices-divisions/academic-affairs/learning-
resources-center)

Engaged Scholarship
Penn State Altoona students have a multitude and variety of
opportunities to participate in activities outside of the classroom. These
out-of-class activities are designed to complement in-class learning. The
activities and experiences vary widely, but common examples include
study abroad/study away (both domestic and international travel),
aademic internships/clinical work, research/creative activities, and
community-based studies.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP (http://
altoona.psu.edu/out-of-class-learning)
Health and Wellness Center
Our nationally-accredited Health and Wellness Center is committed to promoting the health, wellness, and safety of our campus community. Our services include health, counseling, disability, and psychiatric and psychological services, as well as health education and other primary prevention programming.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER (http://altoona.psu.edu/offices-divisions/student-affairs/health-wellness)

Center for Student and Civic Engagement
The Center for Student and Civic Engagement at Penn State Altoona is committed to providing opportunities for students to connect to the communities they are a part of while affecting positive growth and change for both the student and the community!

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CENTER FOR STUDENT AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (http://altoona.psu.edu/offices-divisions/student-affairs/student-civic-engagement)

Honors Programs
Schreyer Honors College
The Schreyer Honors College, regarded as one of the nation’s top programs of its kind, promotes achieving academic excellence with integrity, building a global perspective, and creating opportunities for leadership and civic engagement. Schreyer Scholars, including Gateway Scholars admitted after their first or second year of enrollment, are a diverse and motivated group of approximately 2,000 students at University Park and 20 Commonwealth campuses. The College strives to educate students who will have an important and ethical influence in the world, to improve educational practice, and to continue to be recognized as a leading force in honors education nationwide.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHREYER HONORS COLLEGE (http://www.shc.psu.edu)

Honors at Penn State Altoona
The Altoona Honors Program provides an enriched academic experience for high-achieving, motivated students. The program offers students who qualify with opportunities to shape their coursework, research, and creative efforts in ways that help them best meet their academic and professional goals.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HONORS AT PENN STATE ALTOONA (http://altoona.psu.edu/offices-divisions/academic-affairs/honors-program)

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