University admissions are governed by the following general policies: to year, from location to location, and from program to program, all although specific applications of these policies may vary from year
governed by policies established by the University Faculty Senate.

We are looking for students that want to share in the passions and
talents of our Penn State community. Discover how your Penn State years
will not only shape your academic and career pursuits, but will broaden
your perspective, establish life-long connections, and set the stage for
your future.

Find your place at Penn State.

Steps to Apply
Learn the first steps to apply to Penn State and more about the
University on the Undergraduate Admissions website (https://
admissions.psu.edu/).

Statement of Basic Academic Admission Policies
Admission to credit courses or degree candidacy at Penn State is
governed by policies established by the University Faculty Senate.
Although specific applications of these policies may vary from year
to year, from location to location, and from program to program, all
University admissions are governed by the following general policies:

1. As an institution of higher education, Penn State is committed to
making post-high school education available to all who possess
a high school diploma or its equivalent without regard to personal
characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications.
Penn State does not discriminate against any person because of age,
ancestry, color, disability, national origin, race, religious creed, sex,
sexual orientation, or veteran status.

2. The primary responsibility of the University is to residents of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Consequently, within limits
expressed from time to time by the Board of Trustees of the
University, preference shall be given to Pennsylvania residents in the
various admissions processes.

3. In order to meet the variety of goals and objectives of the population,
the spectrum of offerings is designed to enable persons with a
variety of objectives—both degree and non-degree—to receive a
higher education. Although access to educational opportunities of
the University is open to all, courses offered for credit are available
to those holding a high school diploma or its equivalent. Policies
governing admission to degree candidacy are established by the
University Faculty Senate (with a delegation of policies governing
admissions to graduate programs to the Graduate Faculty of the
University) under a general policy of offering admission to those
whose past academic performance indicates a reasonable probability
of success.

4. Undergraduate students are admitted to either baccalaureate degree
candidacy or associate degree candidacy. To be admitted to degree
candidacy, the individual must present an academic performance
record that indicates a reasonable probability of their success in
their chosen program. In the case of first-year student admission to
undergraduate degree candidacy, performance is measured through
a holistic assessment. In the case of advanced standing admission,
performance is measured either through success in non-degree
programs and courses of the University or by success at some other
institution of higher education.

5. Within the space available in particular programs and at particular
locations, admission shall be offered preferentially to those whose
performance record indicates the highest probability of success in
the chosen program—with this process continuing until all available
spaces are filled. Although exceptions to this policy may be made
from time to time (for example, recipients of scholarships with
restricting qualifications), these exceptions may be made only for
applicants who meet at least the minimum admission and entrance
requirements.

6. If a college or school requires restrictions on its baccalaureate
admissions, the priorities or targets established must include
provisions to consider qualified students in each of these groups:

- Admissions Group I - First-year Admissions: Applicants who hold
  a high school diploma or equivalent, who present fewer than
  18-semester credits of baccalaureate work (from Penn State or
  another regionally accredited institution), who meet minimum
  college or school entrance requirements, and who meet minimum
  college or school admission standards.

- Admissions Group II - Penn State Advanced Standing Admissions:
  Applicants who (1) request baccalaureate degree re-enrollment,
  presenting 18 or more semester credits; (2) request a change
  from Penn State associate degree to baccalaureate degree
  status, presenting 18 or more applicable semester credits;
  (3) request a change from Penn State provisional degree to
  baccalaureate degree status, presenting 18 or more applicable
  semester credits; or (4) request a change from Penn State non-
  degree to baccalaureate degree status, presenting 18 or more
  applicable semester credits. In all advanced standing admissions
  at Penn State, the student must have a grade-point average of at
  least 2.00 and must meet the minimum entrance and advanced
  standing requirements of the college or school. However, a Penn
  State student who has had an interruption in enrollment of no
  fewer than four calendar years and whose cumulative grade-
  point average is less than 2.00 may petition for re-enrollment with
  academic renewal in accordance with Senate Policy 57-00.

- Admissions Group III - Other Advanced Standing Admissions:
  Applicants who have not been students at Penn State and
  request baccalaureate degree status at Penn State, presenting 18
  or more applicable semester credits from a regionally accredited
  institution. In all advanced standing admissions, it is understood
  that the applicant must have a cumulative grade-point average of
  2.00 as computed at Penn State and meet the minimum entrance
  and advanced standing requirements of the college or school.
  However, a student who has not met the entrance requirements
  or achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 2.00 (on a 4.00
  scale) for all graded courses taken at all institutions previously
  attended, and who has had a four-calendar-year absence from
  the institution(s), may apply to enroll in credit courses as a
  provisional student in accordance with Senate Policy 10-00. An
  applicant who has had an absence from the institution(s) of
  fewer than four calendar years, and who has not met the entrance
  requirements or has achieved a cumulative grade-point average of
  less than 2.00, may apply to enroll in credit courses as a non-
  degree student in accordance with Senate Policy 14-00.

- Within these three groups, no special consideration will be given
to any group; applicants will be admitted to the college or school
on the basis of academic competition (e.g., SAT I scores, grade-
point averages, grades in required courses in the college or other degree-granting units, and other evidence predictive of baccalaureate degree performance where available, valid, and reliable).

7. To ensure a proper educational mix of students and to further broaden the educational opportunities offered by the University, the University Faculty Senate and the University administration from time to time may authorize various specialized programs. These programs may permit applicants who do not meet the basic qualifications for admission to degree candidacy to be admitted to such candidacy. These programs may also permit, in selected situations, exceptional students who have not earned a high school diploma or its equivalent to enroll in University credit courses. Such specialized programs may include up to 10 percent of the total admissions group for the University in any one year and up to the maximum of 15 percent of the admissions to any geographic location of the University.

8. Within this general policy, the colleges and school of the University, with the concurrence of the University Faculty Senate, may impose certain educational background requirements (Carnegie Units) that must be completed by an individual before being admitted to degree candidacy.

**Admission Requirements**

**Minimum Requirements for Admission to Degree Candidacy**

To be eligible for admission consideration to the University as a degree candidate, either as a beginning student or as a student with advanced standing, an applicant must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Graduation from an accredited secondary school. Penn State requires proof of graduation or a GED for admission to four-year degree programs.

2. Completion of the required units of preparatory work as indicated under the heading Minimum Carnegie Units.

A secondary school diploma issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, or appropriate authority in another state, may be accepted as equivalent to graduation from an accredited secondary school and as equivalent to the minimum secondary school units required for admission, as indicated under the Minimum Carnegie Units heading, with the exception of math and world language.

The University accepts the definition of a secondary school unit as established by the Carnegie Foundation. A unit represents a year of work in a subject in a preparatory school or secondary school, provided that the work done in that subject is approximately one-fourth of the total amount of work regularly required in a year in the school.

The University reserves the right to deny admission to any applicant for admission for any reason the University determines to be material to the applicant's qualifications to pursue higher education.

Admission to degree candidacy is specified in terms of enrollment in a college or school of the University or in the Division of Undergraduate Studies. Entrance to a baccalaureate major is a subsequent step that normally occurs near the end of the second year of study. Both for admission to a college or school and for entrance to a major, a student must satisfy the requirements of the University, of the particular college or school, and of the major area. In special circumstances, the University may need to further restrict admissions to a college or school and entrance to majors because of space limitations.

**Baccalaureate and Associate Degree Programs**

Review the basic requirements for two-year and four-year degrees, as well as the additional requirements for special programs.

See the minimum number of secondary school units required for admission consideration to a baccalaureate degree program on the Admission Requirements page (https://admissions.psu.edu/apply/requirements/4year/).

See the minimum number of secondary school units required for admission consideration to an associate degree program on the Admission Requirements page (https://admissions.psu.edu/apply/requirements/2year/).

**First-Year Admission**

An applicant for admission as a beginning student in the first-year class must meet the minimum requirements for admission to degree candidacy prior to the time of matriculation. All offers of admission are conditional until these requirements have been met.

Each applicant is evaluated on the basis of a holistic assessment. Admission decisions are made on the basis of this holistic assessment in relation to the requested area of enrollment (academic program), space availability, the quality of the credentials presented by other applicants, and such other academically relevant information deemed appropriate by the Undergraduate Admissions Office and approved by the Senate Committee on Admission, Records, Scheduling, and Student Aid.

When openings at the requested location or in the requested program of the University are filled, qualified applicants will be offered admission to their alternate choice of program or location or notified of campuses where openings still exist.

**College Entrance Tests**

Applicants for first-year admission to the University are required to submit scores of the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) of the College Entrance Examination Board or the American College Test (ACT). SAT or ACT results of the junior-year testing periods are recommended. Exceptions to the requirement for scholastic assessment test scores will be granted to adult learners who have been out of high school for five or more years or are veterans with four or more years of service. Exceptions to the required courses completed also may be granted. Adults may be requested to submit a statement of personal goals or to participate in an interview.

**Selection of the Area of Enrollment**

It is necessary for an applicant to indicate one of the academic units of the University in which they want to study. If an applicant is undecided about the choice of an academic unit, they may seek enrollment in the Division of Undergraduate Studies.

**Changing the Area of Enrollment**

An applicant who has been admitted to an academic college or unit of the University may not change to another without satisfying entrance requirements of the college or other academic unit of the University.

**Previous Attendance at Another College**

An applicant must state on their application whether they have ever attended any other college or university. Failure to indicate, at the time of application, previous registration at another college or university may result in refusal or cancellation of admission. An applicant who has attempted fewer than 18 semester credits at another regionally
A person enrolled in a course who is not a degree candidate or degree-seeking student conditionally enrolled in DUS is classified as a nondegree student. A nondegree student must either hold a high school diploma or its equivalent to take undergraduate courses. Exceptions may be made according to the discretion of the registrar. Penn State offers a similar class and the course grade earned is equivalent to a grade of A, B, or C at this University. The credits also must be useful to the student’s program of study. An academic adviser determines which of the transferable credits are applicable to the program of study at Penn State. Credits are transferred, but grades and grade-point average are not. Advanced standing students enter the University without an average and their average begins with the completion of their first semester of study at Penn State.

Under certain circumstances, the University may need to restrict advanced standing admissions to a particular college or school because of space limitations.

Entrance to a major is an additional step beyond admission to a college or school. It involves additional academic requirements and may be subject to additional restrictions because of space limitations.

Application Procedure
In all cases where work has been taken at other institutions, an official transcript from each place of attendance must be submitted directly to the Undergraduate Admissions Office by the registrar of the institution. An applicant currently attending another institution also must provide a schedule of courses in progress or to be completed before enrollment at Penn State, including course name, number, description, and number of credits. The applicant’s secondary school record must be submitted directly to the Undergraduate Admissions Office by the secondary school. The Undergraduate Admissions Office may require the applicant to send a description of the courses that they have taken at the college previously attended. All credentials become part of the permanent records of the University.

Entrance to a Major
An advanced standing degree candidate may be admitted to a college or school of the University. To be eligible for entrance to a major, a student must meet the entrance-to-major requirements of the University, of the college or school, and of the program area. Under certain circumstances, further restrictions or exceptions on entrance to majors may be required because of space limitations. Students are expected to work with advisers and to utilize current information about entrance requirements and restrictions when exploring academic program alternatives and making program and course selections.

Changing the Area of Enrollment
An applicant who has been admitted to an academic college, school, or major of the University may not change to another without satisfying entrance requirements of the college/school and major to which they want to transfer.

Degree-Seeking Student Conditionally Enrolled in Division of Undergraduate Studies
An applicant seeking to pursue a degree program and holding a high school diploma or its equivalent may be admitted to enroll in credit courses at the University as a degree-seeking student conditionally enrolled in the Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS). A degree-seeking student in DUS with conditions is considered a regular student for registration and academic advising and is entitled to all services provided to all students of the University. A degree-seeking student conditionally enrolled in DUS who is admissible to the University may enroll in credit courses if the following criteria are met:

1. The applicant provides evidence of academic success based on credentials submitted with the application; however, does not meet all criteria specified in Senate Policies 05-00 and 06-00: Degree Candidates (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/05-00-and-06-00-degree-candidates/).
2. The applicant has not been dismissed for unsatisfactory scholarship from any other college or university previously attended.
3. The applicant has not been dismissed or suspended for nonacademic reasons from any college or university.
   a. An applicant who has any criminal or disciplinary issues and is not in good standing at another accredited college or university must have received clearance from the Office of Student Conduct.

Nondegree Students
A person currently participating in a nondegree student program must either hold a high school diploma or its equivalent to take undergraduate courses. Exceptions may be made under certain circumstances, the University may need to restrict advanced standing admissions to a particular college or school because of space limitations.

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An applicant seeking to pursue a degree program and holding a high school diploma or its equivalent may be admitted to enroll in credit courses at the University as a degree-seeking student conditionally enrolled in the Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS). A degree-seeking student in DUS with conditions is considered a regular student for registration and academic advising and is entitled to all services provided to all students of the University. A degree-seeking student conditionally enrolled in DUS who is admissible to the University may enroll in credit courses if the following criteria are met:

1. The applicant provides evidence of academic success based on credentials submitted with the application; however, does not meet all criteria specified in Senate Policies 05-00 and 06-00: Degree Candidates (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/05-00-and-06-00-degree-candidates/).
2. The applicant has not been dismissed for unsatisfactory scholarship from any other college or university previously attended.
3. The applicant has not been dismissed or suspended for nonacademic reasons from any college or university.
   a. An applicant who has any criminal or disciplinary issues and is not in good standing at another accredited college or university must have received clearance from the Office of Student Conduct.

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A person currently participating in a nondegree student program must either hold a high school diploma or its equivalent to take undergraduate courses. Exceptions may be made under certain circumstances, the University may need to restrict advanced standing admissions to a particular college or school because of space limitations.
by the Undergraduate Admissions Office for students currently enrolled in high school (dual-enrollment students).

A nondegree student who has not been academically suspended or dismissed may enroll in any number of credits, not to exceed the typical semester credit load of a full-time student if criteria 1, 2, and 3 are met. Nondegree students who change from degree candidates to nondegree or who intend to become degree candidates must also meet criterion 4.

1. The student has completed the prerequisites for the courses to be scheduled or has obtained permission from the instructor to schedule the course.
2. Space is available after degree candidates have been accommodated.
3. The student has not been dismissed or suspended for nonacademic reasons from any college or university. An applicant not in good standing at another accredited college or university for disciplinary reasons must consult with the director of the Office of Student Conduct for admissions clearance.
4. The student has obtained academic advising/counseling from an adviser/counselor designated by the academic unit to which admission, or reinstatement and re-enrollment, is desired.

Note: A student must be admitted, or reinstated and re-enrolled, as a degree candidate to apply the credits earned as a nondegree student toward fulfilling the requirements for a degree. The dean of the college of enrollment shall decide which credits may be used to fulfill the degree requirements.

Limitations to Enrollment as a Nondegree Student
A student in nondegree status may remain in that status for a maximum of 30 credits, at which time the student must be accepted into a degree program to continue taking credit courses at Penn State. If a student in nondegree status is not eligible for a degree program after completing 30 credits in that status, s/he may continue to take credit courses at Penn State only as long as a semester grade point average of more than 2.00 continues to be earned and the student has the written support of the major s/he intends to enter or re-enter. In this situation, the student must enter a degree program immediately upon reaching eligibility. Nondegree students whose cumulative grade point average is below 2.00, who have reached the 30-credit limit, are not eligible for a degree program and will be dismissed from the University at the end of the semester and may only re-enter the University through academic renewal (as defined by Senate Policy 54-90: Academic Renewal [https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/54-00-academic-progress/#54-90]). Nondegree students who have reached the 30-credit limit, are in good academic standing (defined as at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average), and do not intend to earn a degree may self-identify and continue taking credit courses at Penn State as an “enrichment course taker” for as long as a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 is maintained.

A student must be admitted or re-enrolled as a degree candidate to apply the credits earned as a nondegree student toward fulfilling the requirements for a degree. The dean of the college or school of enrollment shall decide which credits may be used to fulfill the degree requirements.

A nondegree application can be obtained on the Office of the University Registrar website (https://registrar.psu.edu).