

Penn State-Behrend Crime Statistics

WELCOME TO PENN STATE!

While you'll focus primarily on your classes, the environment that supports classes and other activities is a significant part of your education. We want these experiences to be meaningful, safe, and memorable. This publication describes some of the programs Penn State has developed to provide a safe, supportive environment.

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, is a four-year teaching and research university located in suburban Erie in northwestern Pennsylvania. The campus is home to approximately 1100 undergraduate students who reside in the college's residences. The remainder of the 3,200 Penn State-Behrend students reside in the surrounding region, 1200 of them full-time students. The College employs 364 faculty and staff members to support its activities.

RESOURCES

The office of Police and Safety at Penn State-Behrend includes a manager of Police and Safety, four full-time Police Service Officers, who supervise the various patrol shifts, one full-time and two part-time Community Service Officers and one full-time and one part-time Property Protection Guards who provide service twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. In addition, the office employs eight student auxiliary officers to provide parking enforcement and security services, as well as vehicle and crowd control at special events. The manager, Police Service Officers, and all officers must satisfy the requirements of the training course which is mandatory for municipal police officers in Pennsylvania prior to being assigned to duty. All officers are given required in-service training to maintain their certification. A number of officers have attained or are seeking post-secondary education and/or specialized training in law enforcement.

The office of Police & Safety maintains an excellent working relationship with the Pennsylvania State Police and the nearby municipal police departments. Due to size constraints on personnel and resources, it is the college's policy to request assistance from The Pennsylvania State Police in all major felony incidents. The office may also draw upon the resources of the Pennsylvania State Police and nearby police departments for mutual aid in an emergency. Contained within the office's mobile unit there is a radio with direct contact with East County Communications Center, which coordinates fire, ambulance and police response.

At Penn State-Behrend, the office buildings are open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and the academic buildings are generally open from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. These facilities are intended for use by students, employees, and guests of the university. Access to an individual classroom is limited to those enrolled in the course. Likewise, access to most programs is limited to those who are enrolled in the program. Access to residence halls is limited to residents and their invited guests by posted signs at the living areas.

To make it as convenient as possible for students, employees, and guests to report criminal or other unusual incidents, the campus emergency number for police, fire, and ambulance is posted on telephones in the office and residence-hall rooms.

THE LAW AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES-ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND WEAPONS

The use, possession and distribution, on university property of beverages containing alcohol must comply with Pennsylvania law and with the university's policies and rules. Misconduct that may result in disciplinary action and penalties, including separation from the university, includes:

- The purchase, consumption, possession, or transportation of beverage alcohol by anyone under the age of 21;
- The furnishing of beverage alcohol to anyone under the age of 21;
- The possession of beverage alcohol in residence hall rooms except by residents and guests 21 years of age or older in a room assigned to those 21 years of age or older;
- The purchase, service, possession, or use of beverage alcohol by any registered undergraduate student organization on the premises of the university.

The purchase, consumption and possession of beverage alcohol is permitted by those who are 21 years of age or older in facilities licensed by the state, by adult graduate students and organizations when no monetary charge is made for admission to the function and the function is not open to the public, and by people 21 years of age or older when permission is acquired under policy.

Penn State does not condone the medically unsupervised use, possession, sale, manufacture or distribution of drugs that are illegal, that may involve medical or psychological hazards to the individual, or that may lead to interference with the rights or privileges of others. When such activity occurs on campus, the college will initiate appropriate measures which may include disciplinary action.

The use, possession, or carrying of firearms, hand billies, dirk knives, or other dangerous knives, explosives, or weapons while on university-owned or controlled property, or at university-sponsored or supervised activities, is forbidden. The only exception is for authorized law-enforcement officers or other persons specifically authorized by the university.

Officers at Penn State-Behrend College do not routinely carry firearms.

To provide for the safety of the members of the university community and its property, Penn State has set minimum standards of conduct for members of the community and for those seeking admission to that community. A pre-admission review is required when known facts suggest an applicant's behavior may, as a student, endanger the health and safety of the university community members, jeopardize the property of the university or its members and visitors, or adversely affect the educational mission of the university. Many employees of the university have their backgrounds checked for criminal convictions prior to employment; the employment application specifically asks potential employees if they have ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation. Conviction of a serious crime is grounds for immediate discharge of a Penn State employee.

CAMPUS FACILITIES

Penn State-Behrend facilities are maintained and their security is given consistent attention in the interest of students, staff, and faculty. The Office of Police and Safety routinely records security and safety lapses and forwards that information to the appropriate administrative unit for their review and correction. People have access to buildings for study, work or teaching activities, but not unrelated functions. Therefore only those who have demonstrated a need are issued keys to the building.

Landscaping and outdoor lighting on the campus are designed for security, with the attempt to provide pedestrians peace of mind. Sidewalks are designed to provide well-traveled lighted routes from parking areas to buildings and from building to building. Grounds-keeping personnel trim shrubs from sidewalks, walkways and building entrances to provide a well-lighted route to buildings. All campus walkways are inspected at least twice annually to ensure adequate lighting. Burned-out lights are replaced promptly.

As needs are identified, new sidewalks are installed. New street lights and pedestrian walkway lights are added as new parking and walk areas are developed or as roadways are changed and playing fields are relocated.

LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS

Penn State-Behrend has a variety of living accommodations available, including residence halls, and apartment buildings. There are approximately 1100 room assignments available to the undergraduate students who reside on campus.

Each residential area is supervised by a live-in professional staff member, and additionally staffed by undergraduate student resident assistants. All levels of staff are trained in their responsibilities. The Office of Police and Safety periodically provides additional training for staff members on safety and security measures.

At the beginning of each semester, resident assistants discuss policies and procedures, including safety and security, with students living on campus. All resident students have access to Policies and Rules, Guide to Residence Living, and Terms, Conditions, and Regulations of the Housing Contract, which describe various University, housing and security regulations and their enforcement. In addition, programs sponsored by the Residence Life staff throughout the year include "Personal Safety Tips," "Date and Acquaintance Rape," and "Operation I." These programs often are presented or cosponsored by the Office of Police and Safety.

Only residents and their invited guests are permitted in the living areas of the residence halls. It is the resident's responsibility to ensure that his or her guest is aware of the University and residence hall policies. It is each resident's responsibility to challenge or report individuals who cannot be identified as a resident or guest of a resident. When the Office of Police and Safety receives a report of an unescorted person in a resident hall, an officer is sent to identify that person.

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