

# HOW TO

## Shop ‘til you drop, Behrend style

Welcome to Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. If you’re new here then thanks for choosing us, if you’re returning thanks for coming back and not going to State College. Either way you’ll probably need some supplies. So heres a list of places close to campus to get things for class and life in general.

### On Campus

To start off, the closest place to get items you might need for classes is the Bookstore. It’s located in the lower level of the Reed Union building right at the end of the stairs coming from Bruno’s. The Bookstore is the easiest way to get the books you need for class, with tags labeling each class’s books. They also make sure to have the right editions and they try to have them in stock at all times. Another thing to keep in mind is the fact that since the bookstore is technically a Barnes and Noble College Bookseller, you always can use Barnes and Noble Gift Cards. So when you go to Giant Eagle to buy your groceries and earn those fuel perks, you can earn even more by getting gift cards for when you buy your books.

### Buffalo Road

Well, for those of you with a car or are friendly with someone who has one, you can head off campus for supplies. Traditionally Wal-mart has been on the top of student’s lists of places to stop and shop. With their low prices on food and such, they can help you save every penny you get from mom and dad. The closest one is located on Buffalo Road. To get there from campus, head out the main entrance (Jordan Rd) and head straight across the road. You’ll have to be careful you don’t drive up the wrong road. Keep heading on that road until you come to Reese Road, then take a rightt. Keep a look out for Hannon Road, that will be a left turn. After that will be the famous Buffalo Road, take a right and keep going until you see the Walmart, it will be on your right.

### Millcreek

If you want a bit more diversity in your shopping, there’s a nice little place a short drive away. It’s call the Millcreek Mall, and it’s really the only shopping center in Erie. The Millcreek Mall, has around 175 stores in its complex, not to mention a movie theatre, with cheap tickets. The Millcreek Mall is great if you need to find something that the stores on Buffalo Road don’t carry. Getting there is easy, provided your car can handle highway speeds and I-90 is not closed due to snow or some snow-related accident.

Leave campus and head towards I-90, basically a right turn out of campus. Once you get there, head west, try not to get run over by the semi-trucks. You’ll reach exit 24 - get off there, stay in the left lane. There’s right turn on red but it’s short light. Keep heading straight on Peach Street, you’ll see a lot of restaurants and other places, a Walmart, a Circuit City, a Home Depot and a Best Buy; once you pass Best Buy keep a lookout, you’re almost there. Coming up soon is the Millcreek Mall, you can either turn and head towards I-79 and head towards some of the other shops, or go straight. They both work.

## Succeeding in the art of decorating the dorm

By Rachel Reeves  
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You spend weeks collecting supplies and decorations, hours packing, sleepless nights worrying about what you might have forgotten. Then on moving day, you load your car to the ceiling with everything that you could possibly need for the next year. And when you finally open the door to your new, highly anticipated dorm room you find ... a prison cell.

That’s ok.  
Because with some careful thought, a little bit of time, and lots of double-sided sticky tape, you can create a personalized, comfortable space out of those bare brick walls. Here are some tips and tricks from someone who learned the hard way - trial and error.

### Wall hangings

Posters, pictures, calendars, flags, mirrors, you name it. The best way to get these to stay on your walls is with some double-sided foam tape. Not masking tape, not duct tape, not double-sided scotch tape. Not nails or hooks, double-sided foam tape. You can pick it up pretty much anywhere, and although it’s more expensive it’s the only thing that will safely see your hangings through the year.

### Lighting

Fluorescent lights are miserable. Use your desk lamp for extra light, or get a floor lamp if you have the room. Try to leave your windows open as much as possible – it’ll make your room feel bigger. And white Christmas lights make a room more pleasant any time of the year. Just tuck them up into the ceiling tiles to line the edges of your room.

### Windows

We don’t recieve much light here in Erie, so take advantage of it when you’ve got it. But since you’ll have your blinds down at night, curtains make that entire wall a lot easier on the eyes. Try for sheer curtains so that you can still get some sun during the daylight hours, and brighter colors will keep the claustrophobia away.

### Bedding

Your bed is the most important piece of furniture, because in a dorm room it’s pretty much all you have. Pick your comforter wisely, and keep in mind that it’s going to go through hell. Stains will accumulate like crazy from meals, coffee spills, and pen and highlighter marks from studying. Having a spot stain treatment helps, like the Tide To-Go Pen, and be prepared to wash it.

### Desk

Your desk is what you end up seeing the most of, second only to your bed. Compared to the amount of materials you need to store you don’t have a lot of space to work with. Organizing sucks, but it’s your best bet for making that half of your room functional and bearable. Bookends are a wonderful invention that should be taken advantage of, as long as you get heavy-duty ones. Textbooks are heavy, in case you hadn’t noticed.

THE BEHREND  
BEACON

FOUNDED IN 1948

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You’re at least 18 because you’re in college, so vote. Not registered in Erie County? Then here’s how to obtain an absentee ballot. Not registered in any county? Then wake up.

- \*You can register for an absentee ballot any-time after Jan. 1.
- \*You can register for an absentee ballot in person, by phone, by mail, or by contacting your county voter registration office in you registered county;
- go to <http://www.scvotes.org/howtoregister> for more helpful information
- \*You can register for an absentee ballot if you are already a voter, or an immediate family member can do this for you
- \*If you register via mail, it must be recieved four days prior to the election
- \*If you register in person, it must be done by 5 p.m. before the day of the election

Hey. Write for your paper. It doesn’t matter what your major is, writing for your school paper will provide you with active experience that you will take with you forever. Become involved and aware of what happens daily on your college campus.

## Classes and books aside, this is your life, so live it

By Ryan P. Gallagher  
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If you’re new to the Penn State Behrend campus, here are a few tips to make your transition to this new life a bit more simplistic. Hitting topics like scheduling, picking the ideal classes for your major based on what class you fall in, having one of the most memorable years of your youth, and so on, I will try to make some sense of things through the eyes of a Behrend student set to graduate in December.

Before my advice can even begin to assist you, there is one thing I must say that exceeds the importance of anything else. If you are a freshman, and feel like the classes you instinctively want to take due to personal interest are never available, do not become upset. This happens on an ordinary, annual basis. Your first year will consist of taking the general educational classes that you thought you left behind in high school. However, the most crucial part of your first year in the collegiate world is to trudge through these boringly, redundant classes that never seem to be what you signed up for, while wondering if college truly may be the biggest political scam ever. Okay, I’m half joking because there will be some classes that you inevitably will appreciate. I am simply giving you a preview of the reality that will soon close upon this dying summer (side note: I honestly hope that each and every one of your classes is magnificent in every aspect, I’m just saying don’t plan on it).

So if making it through your gen. ed. classes is the first step to a successful start to college, what’s the second? Having a good time. Hell, having a great time if you separate your good times in moderation. What I mean is, get your work done, but please do not make your work your life; work will be your life soon enough, no reason to rush. Professors and advisors may disagree, but speaking from the heart of a real student, it is essential to make friends, go out, and have a good time. As obvious and broad as that statement is, that’s the best way to say it. If the library is your home all day, then don’t make the study lounge your home every night- you only live this once, live it like you never want to lose it.

Wandering back to the subject of classes, if you feel that you don’t belong in a particular lecture, or if there could be a better professor for you, then talk to your advisor! There’s no sense in sitting through a class that may actually be wrong for you. I realize I said earlier that you will take classes you may think are absolutely, absurdly, pointless, but sometimes mistakes can be made and it can be a good idea to sit down with your advisor and attempt to figure out a better way. Signing up for a different class isn’t as hard as you think.

Here’s an easy way- go to google.com and search for “schedule of courses”- this will bring you to an easy scheduling page (it’s the first hit). Next, fill in your campus location (Behrend) and the subject (i.e. Comm, Chem, Kines). This will show you all of the courses offered in this area, and from there you can just copy the course number and place it under add/drop on elion.psu.edu. This may not be the standard way of doing this, but it’s how I do it and it works fine.

I suppose my ultimate point is that this is the first year of your entire life if you think about it in very immense and real terms. It is crucial to make sure everything goes smoothly or it could just be a frightening preview of what could potentially be the rest of your life.

Be social. Ask questions. Talk to your professors. Talk to your classmates. Talk to the people that live in your dorm. Talk to the people that don’t live in your dorm. Join groups on campus. Join groups off of campus. If you go into this experience with the right state of mind, it will be the most mind-opening, memorable adventure of your life.

## Top Five Best Foods to Eat On Campus

by The Beacon Staff

5. Hummus Chips
4. Ice cream bar in Dobbins
3. The Wok in Dobbins
2. The Sub Line at Brunos
1. The Chicken Wrap at Brunos