

Announcements:

**C u r r e n t l y
s e e k i n g
w r i t e r s**

The Fourth Wall is seeking writers for all sections, including sports and arts & entertainment. We also need general writers on assignment and general article writers. There are openings for regular columns, such as a political column, humor column, advice column, and cartoons. All students are welcome regardless of major. Writers are not required to submit articles on a regular basis.

To make this paper successful, we need you to participate by writing in your opinions, concerns, and comments. Interested parties should send emails to fourthwall@psu.edu.

Students wishing to place advertisements can submit them to: jmz5027@psu.edu for consideration. This is a free service for stu-

Mission Statement

The Fourth Wall was established to provide a responsible forum for dialogue within the student community and for the free expression of considered ideas; to build community; to promote student involvement in activities and issues that have an impact on students' lives; and to disseminate information about campus activities, organizations and events. This is our chance, as students, to say what we really think.

Major and Assignment Questions at Mont Alto

By Guest Writer: Linda Monn, Mont Alto Registrar

Students admitted to Penn State who are planning to obtain a baccalaureate degree are initially assigned to a campus at which they will remain until it is academically necessary for them to continue their degree program at another campus. In most cases, students are expected to remain at their initial campus for two years. Most students working toward an associate degree finish at the campus at which they were initially admitted. Generally, students who begin at a campus that has their degree program will remain at that campus until degree completion.

Entrance to Major (ETM) is the process that students go through to request their major and the campus location at which they intend to finish their degree. ETM occurs during spring of their sophomore year. There are a few exceptions, but generally baccalaureate degree seeking students are admitted into a College at Penn State, not directly into a major. During the end of December and the first few weeks of the spring semester, sophomores must go onto eLion and select "Entrance to Major." They then enter their three major preferences, in order of their preference. There are many majors in which students must have successfully completed specific courses and must have

obtained a specific cumulative grade point average (gpa) in order to get into their desired major. Students typically receive the results of their ETM request in the first two weeks of March. If successful, they will enter their major and, if appropriate, will change campus location the following fall semester.

Students must work with their academic advisor to be sure that they are making good academic progress and have completed all necessary conditions for enrollment into their major by the time they go through ETM. The following web site lists all Penn State majors and the academic requirements for each major:

<http://www.registrar.psu.edu/progsumm/index.html>. All students should be using a Degree Audit to help track their academic progress. Students may print a Degree Audit on eLion or obtain one at the Records Office in Conklin. Degree Audits may be run for any major, giving students the option of exploring different majors and knowing how the courses that they have already completed will fulfill specific requirements for that degree.

There are some majors in which students must change locations earlier than two years. In those cases, there is a clear academic need to go to another campus. Students in that situation should meet with their academic advisor for help in completing a "Change of

Assignment" (CHOA) form; the student and advisor sign the form, and then the student is responsible for taking it to the Registrar's Office in Conklin for signature and processing. The Advisor and the Registrar must both sign the form before the request will be processed. The receiving campus must then accept the student academically in order for the student to move to that campus. The receiving campus may deny the request. If needed, students should obtain housing at their new location, but should never assume that obtaining housing means that they have been accepted by that location; the academic CHOA form is the only way to be accepted at another location other than ETM.

If students want to remain at their initial campus longer than the expected period of time for their major, they may request to do so. These requests will be granted as long as the student is able to maintain good academic progress.

Students who are in a College and want to change into another College may do so prior to going through ETM. This is accomplished by meeting with an advisor in the College in which they wish to move into and completing a "Change of Major" form and taking it to the Records Office in Conklin. (There is a list of advisors in each College on the Records Office web site: <http://www.ma.psu.edu/Academics/registrar.htm?cn21A>.)

It is best, and in some cases mandatory, that students be in the College (or in The Division of Undergraduate Studies - DUS) in which their desired major is located before going through ETM. The Smeal College of Business Administration is an example of a College that will not accept students into one of their majors unless they are actually in the College or in DUS prior to going through ETM.

Students may take summer courses at any Penn State location without going through the change of assignment process. Students are then expected to return to their initial campus for the following fall semester. Taking a summer course at another location does not change a student's location.

We will consider requests for early change of assignment to another Penn State campus, but in most cases they will be denied unless it is academically necessary or there is a financial reason or an extenuating circumstance. In many cases, students will be requested to submit documentation for extenuating circumstances.

If you have questions about Entrance to Major and/or Change of Assignment, feel free to stop by the Records Office for answers or contact the Registrar, Linda Monn, by phone or e-mail. (717-749-6191 or LSM4@psu.edu)

The Fourth Wall is the monthly student newspaper for the Mont Alto campus of The Pennsylvania State University. Letters to the Editor, comments, and queries may be addressed to Justin Zickar, Editor-in-Chief (jmz5027@psu.edu).

Mail can be sent to: The Fourth Wall, Campus Life Office, 1 Campus Drive, Pennsylvania State University Mont Alto, Mont Alto, PA 17237.

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