

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 1200 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 Guard 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 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 and 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, disk 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 offices 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 member 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 function. 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 insure 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 1200 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 ID". 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 ability 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.

Residence Halls

Our three traditional residence halls accommodate 620 undergraduate students. Men and women live on separate sides of the same residence hall with a lobby area in between. All three of these buildings are locked between midnight and 7:00 a.m. Both men's and women's living area have security doors that remain locked twenty-four hours a day. A security Night Assistant is stationed in the lobbies from 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. to monitor persons entering the hall. All exterior doors in these buildings are equipped with dead-bolt locks and all windows in the living areas can be locked.

Our three new, suite-style, residence halls house 195 undergraduate students in units of four rooms, accommodating two students each, and two bathrooms on each corridor. These buildings have central lobbies with locked corridors leading to the bedrooms. Each bedroom is secured by a dead-bolt lock. Guests can gain entrance to the vestibule where they can call the resident they are visiting. The residents then can come to the vestibule to provide access to their guests through the interior entrance which remains locked at all times.

Apartment Buildings

The Penn State Behrend Apartment buildings house 32 students each, totalling 288 upperclass students. Each individual apartment has two bedrooms, occupied by two students each, a bathroom, kitchen and living room area. Each exterior door and individual bedroom door is equipped with dead-bolt locks which can be secured 24 hours a day. Laundry rooms in the basements of Packett and Yarnell Halls are locked at all times. Access can be gained to those areas by residents' apartment keys.

During low-occupancy periods, such as holidays and breaks, apartment residents are allowed to remain on campus even though a minimum of student services are available. They are informed by letter of emergency procedures in effect during these periods.

Continuing Education

The Penn State Downtown Center is located at 154 West 9th St., in downtown Erie, seven miles from the campus of Penn State-Behrend. This facility is used by students for day and evening classes. Security at Continuing Education is overseen by the Office of Police and Safety. A property Protection Guard provides services for all evening classes, with Erie City Police providing services during the day. An excellent working relationship is maintained with the Erie City Police. The facility is open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays, and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. All Penn State-Behrend policies and regulations apply to this facility.

Crime Statistics

Crime statistics are reported to The Pennsylvania State Police for annual publication in "Crime in Pennsylvania", the Uniform Crime Report for the Commonwealth. These statistics also are available in the U.S. Department of Justice publication, "Crime in the United States", which is available at all public libraries and most law enforcement agencies within the United States. Crime statistics also are available by writing to the Department of University Safety, The Pennsylvania State University, 229 Grange Building, University Park, PA 16802-6701.

These policies and procedures are subject to change at any time.

Revised 1992

The Pennsylvania State University, is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. The Pennsylvania State University does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Direct all affirmative action inquiries to the Affirmative Action Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 201 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802-2801.

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