

FAQs | 2014 Pitt-Johnstown Academic Planning Days



ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER (ASC)

Q: Can I enter college as an *undeclared* major?

A: Absolutely! In fact, most college students will change their majors at least once in their college careers. Entering as an undeclared major allows you to explore your strengths and options as you take general education courses that will count once you declare your major.

Q: Can I change my major after I start classes?

A: Yes! In fact, many students do so. As the first year progresses, you will explore new interests and better understand course requirements for majors. Academic advisors and ASC counselors can help with the exploration process.

Q: How can I find out the name of my academic advisor?

A: The relationship with your academic advisor can be one of the most beneficial of your college career. To find your advisor's name, go to the Pitt Portal (my.pitt.edu) and access your Student Center. Your advisor's name will be listed in the lower right-hand corner.

Q: Do I really need to spend three hours outside of class for every hour I spend in class?

A: This is a good guideline to follow. It actually could be more or less time depending upon course difficulty, your skill and interest levels, nature of grading opportunities, etc. Time investment required for good grades is one of the biggest differences students experience in making the transition from high school to college. Your instructor's role is to impart information and ideas during class time—your role is to learn the content and, ideally, master content before the next class session.

Q: What if I begin to struggle with a class?

A: The good news is you have lots of options—if you take action. Talk with your instructor during his/her office hours. Doing so helps you gather practical guidance and helps you to build a connection with the instructor. Seek help from an ASC counselor—you likely will need to adapt your study approach. Pick up a tutor—and try to do so as soon as possible in the semester. You also have an option to drop a class during the first two weeks of classes—or after that point, withdraw from the course in order to avoid a failing grade. Seek advice from your instructor and/or ASC staff.

Q: What is CAS 0001: University Scholarship?

A: All first-year students with fewer than 12 college credits are required to take CAS 0001, designed to help with the academic and personal transition from high school. The course, using the required summer read *The Element*, prompts you to consider a major and to start developing a path toward career success. The course, worth one credit, carries a letter grade.

Q: Is tutoring available?

A: Yes, and it is free to all full-time students! We offer one-on-one tutoring, small group tutoring for some subjects, and drop-in tutoring in math, chemistry, writing, and public speaking. Drop-in tutoring means you can “drop in” and leave after you have received help during designated time slots.

Q: How can I request an individual tutor?

A: Visit the Campus Services Module at <http://CampusServices.upj.pitt.edu> and log on using your user name and password. Click “Academic Success Center—Tutor Services” and complete the rest of the information. You will then be matched with a tutor and provided with his/her contact information.

Q: Who seeks tutoring?

A: In college, students seek a tutor in order to maximize their Grade Point Average—not necessarily to avoid a failing grade. In fact, many of our students who tutor in one area seek tutoring in other subjects in order to maximize their likelihood of success.

BOOKSTORE

Q: What are the Bookstore hours?

A: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Convenience Store hours will be posted at the beginning of each term.

Q: How do I know what textbooks are required for my classes?

A: Follow these steps: Log on to the Pitt Portal (my.pitt.edu) using your University user name and password > Go to the Student Center Login and select “Self-Service” > Find the box that says “Enrollment” > click on “My Class Schedule” > Select box “View Textbook Summary” to view textbook information.

Q: What methods can I use to purchase my books at the Bookstore?

A: You can purchase your books at the Bookstore by cash and financial aid vouchers. We also accept personal checks, MasterCard, Visa, and Discover; these methods of payment must be accompanied by a valid photo ID.

Q: Is it possible for a student to use his/her parent's credit card or checks for purchasing?

A: Yes - you can use your parent's credit card or check, but must have your student ID or driver's license. Parents may also contact the Bookstore with credit card information to authorize single purchases as needed.

Q: Can I use Mountain Cat Cash and meal plan points for purchases in the Bookstore?

A: Mountain Cat Cash points can be used in the Bookstore, but meal plan points cannot.

Q: Are ISBN numbers provided for books required?

A: Yes.

Q: Do all Pitt campuses carry the same text books?

A: Required textbooks are usually specific to the course on a particular campus, so they are likely not available on another Pitt campus.

Q: Can I reserve my books and have them ready when classes begin?

A: Yes, give us your course information and we will hold your required books and supplies for you to pick up when you arrive on campus. Just send an e-mail to upjbook@pitt.edu with your name, course numbers, CLS numbers, and your preference for new or used books. You should receive a confirmation

e-mail for your order. New books are substituted if used are not available. Do not include payment information in the e-mail. You will pay for them when picked up.

Q: Can I rent my books from the Bookstore?

A: Yes, there are two methods of renting books.

The first method is through the Bookstore's online rental site. To use this option, go to the campus website at www.pitt-johnstown.pitt.edu and select Bookstore under the Student Services tab. Once there, click on the Textbook Rental link to access the online rental site. Enter the information of the books you would like to rent. They are then shipped to the address of your choosing and returned by printing a pre-paid shipping label at the end of the rental period.

The second method of rental is through the in-store rental kiosk. Simply come to the Bookstore, choose a book from the shelf, and rent it by scanning it at the kiosk. The kiosk will then ask for payment information from your credit or debit card. At the end of the term, just return the rented book to the Bookstore.

There are different advantages to each method:

- Renting through our online site gives you the option of renting a book for as little as 30 days up to 125 days. The 125 day rental period will carry you through the entire term. Be careful not to begin the rental too early. The shorter rental periods are useful for books that you might not need for the entire term. Remember, the shorter the rental period, the lower the rental cost. Books rented at the in-store kiosk must be rented for the entire term.
- You can use the online rental site from your home or dorm any time of day.
- The obvious advantage of in-store rental is having the book in hand immediately instead of waiting for it to be shipped to you.
- Another benefit of renting in-store is that you are getting the exact book and included materials that the instructor requires.
- While not all books are available to rent, either method can provide substantial savings compared to purchasing the books.

Q: What is the textbook return policy?

A: You may only return a textbook if the class is dropped or no longer on your schedule. Either a processed drop slip or updated schedule, along with the cash register receipt, is required. The last day to return a book for a specific term is the last day of the add/drop period. Please view the complete return policy on the Bookstore website.

BUSINESS OFFICE

Q: When will tuition rates be available?

A: Tuition rates are typically available by the middle of July.

Q: How do I receive my bill?

A: You will receive your bill electronically. Bills can be accessed via PittPAY. Students and authorized payers will receive an e-mail when a new eBill is available; eBills are sent to the student's University e-mail account.

Q: When is my bill due?

A: Fall term eBills are due August 17 and spring term eBills are due December 17. eBills are generated around the 20th of each month thereafter when new or unpaid charges exist on your account. You will receive e-mail notification to your Pitt e-mail account when your eBill is available. Cash, check, e-check, debit card, MasterCard, Discover and American Express are accepted for payment. Please note that a 2.75% service fee is added to credit card payments.

Q: How do I enroll in the payment plan?

A: Log into PittPAY via the Pitt Portal and select "Payment Plan." Authorized payers can also set up a payment plan by logging into student-info.pitt.edu and selecting Payment Plan. A participation fee applies.

Q: How do I set up an authorized payer?

A: Log into PittPAY and select "Authorized Payers" where an account can be created for the authorized payer. In addition to creating a user name and password, you should also designate the e-mail address for the authorized payer to receive the eBill.

Q: How do I enroll for direct deposit?

A: If you are receiving refund checks, you should enroll for Direct Deposit via PittPAY. Parent Plus loan refunds will be sent to the parent unless designated to the student. Authorized payers should also sign up for Direct Deposit if expecting a plus loan refund.

Q: Is it possible to 'split' payment options for the amount due?

A: Yes, payment options can be split. If you are enrolled in the payment plan, any anticipated aid, such as a loan, is deducted from the amount owed prior to calculating the installment amount.

Q: I am using a TAP 529 account. Should I have the funds disbursed before the tuition eBills come out in July so the bill reflects a true amount owed?

A: The 529 fund will show as a payment on the account. There is no need to have it disbursed prior to the bill. However, it must be received and posted to your account by the due date.

Q: How do I add Mountain Cat Cash to my ID card?

A: Mountain Cat Cash can be added to your account by phone (you will need to provide a credit card number) or by visiting the Business Office in 125 Blackington Hall.

Q: Where can Mountain Cat Cash be used?

A: Mountain Cat Cash can be used in the Bookstore and dining facilities around campus.

Q: Are there any ATMs on campus?

A: Yes, there are two ATMs (operated by 1st Summit Bank). One is located in the Student Union and the other is in the Living-Learning Center. Check with your bank for applicable fees.

CAMPUS POLICE

Q: How much is parking?

A: A parking permit is \$90 per year (August to August). Students will receive a hang tag that can be used in another vehicle registered to the student.

Q: Do I have to purchase a parking permit?

A: Yes, if you plan to bring a car to campus.

Q: How do I obtain a permit?

A: In August, forms will be mailed to all registered students. A form also can be picked up at the Campus Police Complex or Business Office.

Q: If I am given a parking ticket, where do I pay the fine?

A: All fines can be paid at the Campus Police Complex or the Business Office.

Q: Are freshman students permitted to have a vehicle on campus?

A: Yes, but there is a designated parking area for freshmen. Upon purchasing a permit, you will be given a map showing this parking area.

Q: If my son/daughter returns to campus at night, can he/she park close to the residence facility?

A: No, they must park in their designated area. Pitt-Johnstown campus police will escort students to their dorm safely. Arrangements can be made by calling campus police at 814-269-7005.

Q: Is Pitt-Johnstown a safe campus?

A: Yes, Pitt-Johnstown is known for having a safe campus. Please refer to the Campus Police Annual Security and Fire Safety Report at www.pitt-johnstown.pitt.edu/22140.pdf. All statistics are in this annual report. Students are also encouraged to visit our safety website (www.pitt-johnstown.pitt.edu/BeSafe) to learn additional ways to ensure their personal safety.

Q: How are weapons stored if brought to campus?

A: Weapons are stored in a locked cabinet in the Campus Police Office.

Q: Who do I contact in the event of an emergency?

A: You should contact Campus Police at 814-269-7005.

Q: Can the emergency call boxes located across campus be used for non-emergencies?

A: We prefer they be used for emergencies only. For non-emergencies, contact Campus Police at 814-269-7005.

Q: How am I notified in the event of a campus-wide emergency?

A: In the event of a non-weather related emergency, you will be notified via the University's Emergency Notification Service (ENS). This service will issue a text message, voice message, and e-mail message to subscribers. You can subscribe via the Pitt Portal.

REALWORLD CAREER SERVICES

Q: Why do I need the Office of RealWorld Career Services during my freshman year?

A: The Office of RealWorld Career Services can assist you with exploring majors and careers; learning how your personality, skills, values, and interests relate to your career choice; identify job shadowing and internship opportunities; build your professional network; develop your career plan with workshops and programs; and create your résumé. The earlier you begin your career planning journey, the more marketable you will be upon graduation.

Q: How do I determine which major is the right fit for me?

A: The Office of RealWorld Career Services offers programs and tools to help you with the process of determining which major is the best fit for you. The MBTI and Strong Interest Inventories are two assessments that can help with this process. Meet with a career counselor and learn how your personality traits and interests relate to the many major choices available.

Q: How can the Office of RealWorld Career Services help me find internships and jobs?

A: The Office of RealWorld Career Services maintains an online job and internship database called PJ Links to which only Pitt-Johnstown students have access. Students can meet with a career counselor one-on-one for internship and job search strategies.

Q: What kind of programs does the Office of RealWorld Career Services offer?

A: The staff offers a variety of workshops and seminars throughout the year focusing on topics including résumé writing, job and internship search strategies, interviewing tips, and networking. In October, there is a *Majors and Minors Fair*. This event allows students to talk with faculty and upperclassmen representing all of the majors in one centralized location.

FINANCIAL AID

Q: I cancelled my loans, but I now discovered I need them. Is there any way to get them back?

A: Yes. Simply send an e-mail to upaid@pitt.edu from your Pitt e-mail account requesting that your loans be reinstated or specifying the amount you would like for us to reinstate.

Q: What is the difference between the Direct Stafford Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loan?

A: The government pays the interest on a subsidized Stafford Loan while you are enrolled in school—it's like 0% financing until you enter into repayment. Interest begins accruing immediately on an unsubsidized Stafford Loan, and you have the option of making quarterly interest payments or having your interest capitalized.

Q: How should I go about getting another Alternative or PLUS loan?

A: Alternative Loan applications are in the student's name and are made through private lending institutions. A PLUS loan is in your parent's name. Applications for PLUS loans may be made at www.studentloans.gov. For more information on Alternative or PLUS Loans visit www.pitt-johnstown.pitt.edu/PLUSLoans.

Q: Why do some students have to complete verification?

A: Each year the US Department of Education selects a number of financial aid applicants for federal verification review. This process requires Pitt-Johnstown's Office of Financial Aid to verify accuracy of the information provided on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with your federal income tax data. Note that your financial aid will not disburse until verification is completed.

Q: What are the Cost of Attendance and Expected Family Contribution and how do they factor into my financial aid package?

A: The Cost of Attendance is basically your financial aid budget—it represents direct and indirect costs that you may incur while enrolled in school. You may not receive financial aid in excess of your Cost of Attendance. Your Expected Family Contribution is the result of the information that you supplied on your FAFSA. It does not reflect the amount of money that you will have to pay or what you can afford to pay out of pocket; however, it is a number we use to determine your financial need.

Q: How do I go about finding a work study job?

A: Beginning July 15, all open jobs for the 2014-2015 academic year are posted online at www.pitt-johnstown.pitt.edu/WSJobs. You may apply for multiple jobs, but can be hired for only one job. The Financial Aid Office will not place you in a job, and we do not guarantee employment. When you are hired, you will need to complete additional paperwork in order to be placed on payroll. You cannot begin working and you will not receive a pay check until all paperwork is completed and returned to the Financial Aid Office. You will need your signed Social Security card and a photo ID to be placed on payroll. These jobs fill quickly, so we suggest that you contact supervisors early.

Q: My eBill has an “as-of” date. Is there a way for me to view my account information in real time?

A: Yes. Log into Pitt-Pay and select “View Account Details”. eBills are updated monthly, so any information listed on the eBill only represents a snap shot of one moment in time.

Q: What is the difference between a PLUS vs. private bank loan?

A: The Federal Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) is a loan program guaranteed by the federal government with a fixed interest rate. Parents of dependent undergraduate students may borrow up to the cost of education less any financial aid annually. The loans are based upon a parent’s creditworthiness, not need.

Alternative Loans, often referred to as Private Loans, are loans offered by private lending institutions to eligible, creditworthy students and cosigners attending eligible schools. Eligibility requirements, loan amounts, and repayment options are determined by and may vary by each lender.

For more information regarding PLUS, visit www.pitt-johnstown.pitt.edu/PLUSLoans. For more information regarding alternative or private loans, visit www.pitt-johnstown.pitt.edu/AltLoans.

Q: How do you know where you are in the financing process?

A: Once your FAFSA information is received, we will send a Financial Aid Award letter detailing all of the financial aid we have determined that you are eligible to receive. Along with the award letter is the financial aid fact sheet, which includes important information regarding the steps to complete the financial aid process.

If you have filed the FAFSA, but have not yet received a Financial Aid Award Letter, please contact the Financial Aid Office at 814-269-7045 or stop by 114 Blackington Hall.

Q: How are work-study students paid?

A: Work-study students are paid minimum wage and are paid on the last working day of the month. The University of Pittsburgh has mandated direct deposit for all new employees, including work-study students.

HEALTH AND COUNSELING SERVICES

Q: What services does the Office of Health and Counseling Services provide?

A: We provide an array of services to promote your physical and emotional wellness.

- Primary assessment and treatment of health problems; health education programs; and referral for health-related services when necessary.
- Individual and group counseling services to help students deal with a variety of concerns related to the transition to college life, relationship issues, family problems, and personal concerns.
- Medically necessary academic accommodations to those students with a diagnosed medical condition.

Q: How close is the nearest hospital or medical facility?

A: Pitt-Johnstown is located within a short distance of two facilities. Windber Medical Center is located approximately three miles from campus, and Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center, a Level-I Trauma Center, is located less than seven miles from campus.

Q: If a medical emergency occurs that requires a hospital, how is my student transported to the hospital?

A: Campus Police respond to all campus emergencies. If an ambulance transport is required, East Hills Ambulance Service will provide medical transport. Membership information is available at www.pitt-johnstown.pitt.edu/Ambulance/.

Q: We misplaced the mandatory health form. Can we get another one today and where?

A: You can complete an electronic form by going to <http://CampusServices.upj.pitt.edu> and log in with your user name and password.

Q: Can I get prescriptions for antibiotics through Health Services?

A: If you present with a medical condition, you may schedule to see the Campus Doctor or seek treatment at one of the hospitals or other community health facilities. Doctor’s prescriptions may be filled at one of several local pharmacies.

Q: What immunizations are required?

A: You are required to have received the MMR (measles/mumps/rubella) and the MMR booster.

Q: Can I get allergy shots on campus?

A: Yes, if you are currently receiving allergy treatment from a primary care physician or allergy specialist, contact the Office of Health and Counseling Services to arrange for allergy shots. The Office of Health and Counseling Services (OHCS) will work with your doctor to ensure and coordinate treatment in your best interest. You must sign all required releases and re responsible to provide your allergy serum to the OHCS.

Q: What kind of treatments can I get for cold or flu?

A: You can receive treatment for minor medical concerns or may be directed to seek treatment at one of the local urgent care or hospital facilities. A nurse is available during normal hours of operation Monday through Friday. The University Medical Director is also available for pre-scheduled appointments.

HOUSING

Q: Can I choose my own roommate?

A: Yes. On the housing application, identify another student as your roommate. Roommate requests are guaranteed if **both** students submit housing applications by July 1.

Q: Can I choose my own suitemates?

A: While we do not guarantee suitemate requests, we try to accommodate as many requests as we can. To request a suite, each student involved needs to send an e-mail to upjohrl@pitt.edu specifying who will be roommates and who will be the suitemates.

Q: If I pick a specific roommate and we pick different RealWorld Interest Groups, can we still live together in the same room?

A: Yes. Your roommate request takes precedence over your RealWorld Interest Group. Most likely you and your roommate would be housed in the same room in an area of the residence hall that does not house a specific group. However, you will still be able to be a part of the RealWorld Interest Group you chose, you just might not live with the group.

Q: Can I live in a room by myself?

A: Probably not, as availability of private rooms is limited. You can submit a private room request, but most likely you will be assigned a roommate.

Q: Where do I pay the housing deposit and complete the housing application?

A: Payment of the \$150 housing deposit and completion of the housing application is done online through the Pitt Portal (my.pitt.edu). Detailed instructions can be found at www.pitt-johnstown.pitt.edu/Housing.

Q: What happens when roommates don't get along?

A: The Resident Assistants (RA) in each building are trained to assist students with minor interpersonal conflicts and can often help students resolve issues. If the mediation process does not resolve the issue, then we will work with the roommates to either change roommates or rooms, whichever is most appropriate. We do ask students to try to make it work for at least one week before any changes are made.

Q: Can athletes move in early? When do their meal plans start?

A: Several athletics teams arrive early. Each team will come in at different times. Your coach will provide you with move-in details. Meals will also be provided to you until your meal plans start for the term. These early meals do not count against your meal plan totals.

Q: What housing options are available for transfer students?

A: Transfer students are housed in any of our upper class facilities (Living-Learning Center, Lodges, Townhouses, or Willow Hall), depending upon availability. Most transfer students will end up in either the Living-Learning Center or a Lodge.

Q: As a freshman, how do I know where will I be living?

A: Information, including your room assignment and roommate's name, will be mailed to you in late July.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Q: Do I "have to" bring my own computer?

A: Computers are not required at Pitt-Johnstown. Computer labs are available for your use. Labs are open for 24-hour access except on weekends.

Q: What software do I need to buy if I bring a computer?

A: Virtually none. We will provide you with Microsoft Office Professional, operating systems, LoJack theft protection, and Symantec anti-virus protection software free of charge when you arrive on campus in the fall.

Q: Should I buy a laptop or desktop?

A: That depends on your preference. A laptop will give you more flexibility in your room and around campus with the option of taking work home on weekends and breaks.

Q: Should I buy a Windows-based or Apple PC?

A: The choice is yours. Although most student labs and instructors are equipped with Windows-based PC's, we provide all the necessary software for Apple PC's and support them on our network. Macs are available in our computer labs.

Q: Am I eligible for a discount on a computer purchase?

A: Pitt participates in a program with Apple, Lenovo, Dell, and other vendors that offer student discounts on new computers at: www.pitt.edu/computer. Special deals and pricing will be made available to you over the summer by our Information Technology staff. Or, you can find it online at: www.pitt-johnstown.pitt.edu/IT.

Q: What are the recommended PC configurations?

A: We recommend brand name computers like Dell or Apple. They generally ensure better industry standard compatibility. Additionally, because most people plan on this computer lasting four years, we recommend against bargain-basement models/configurations. Minimum specs – 3.0 GHz Intel i-core processors, 4-8 GB RAM (memory); 320 GB Hard Drive, CD-RW/DVD drive, 10/100 Ethernet network card, wireless card (for laptops).

Q: Will I have Internet/phone/TV access in my Residence Hall?

A: All campus residence halls are equipped with one Ethernet network port per student. These Ethernet network connections provide students with a 24-hour a day, high-speed, direct connection to the University network, as well as the Internet. You must provide your own 25-foot Ethernet cable. Each room is furnished with one cable TV outlet and service, and one phone line for on-campus and local calling; long distance service must be handled through personal cell phones or phone cards.

Q: What about Wireless Computing?

A: Pitt's wireless service is free and available in all academic and residence buildings to authorized University faculty, staff, and students. Log in using your Pitt user name and password.

Q: How do I get my computer account, network access and e-mail?

A: You will setup your user name and password at the student information portal at my.pitt.edu. Instructions and an initial access code will be mailed to your home as soon as your admission deposit is paid.

MEAL PLANS

Q: What is the most common meal plan requested by incoming freshmen?

A: That depends on your individual preference. First-year students residing in campus housing must choose a meal plan from the Ultimate Plans or Tiers 1, 2 or 3.

Q: Is your meal plan included in tuition cost?

A: No.

Q: How is the food?

A: Sodexo, an international food services provider, works very hard to ensure that they are providing high-quality food.

Q: Is there a different menu at each of the two cafeterias (Student Union and Living-Learning Center)?

A: The same overall menu is offered, but slight variations exist between the two locations.

Q: I have a peanut allergy. What are my options?

A: It is possible that some foods could have come in contact with nuts through the manufacturing process; however, we do not cook with peanut oil. We can work with anyone that has a specific allergy to ensure his/her needs are met.

Q: Are there any gluten-free options for meals?

A: Yes, the Student Union Dining Hall offers a station that is strictly gluten-free.

Q: How are the points used?

A: Points are treated as dollars (1 point = 1 dollar.)

Q: On the meal points, if something costs \$2.50, would cent values be rounded up to 3 points?

A: No, it would be an exact translation...2.5 points.

Q: Can students use cash to pay for meals at the retail shops (Tuck Shop, Brioche, etc.)?

A: Yes.

Q: Do commuter students have to buy a meal plan?

A: No, but we offer meal plans designed specifically for commuter students.

Q: What does unlimited meal mean on the meal plan?

A: You can go into either cafeteria as many times as you wish during operating hours throughout the semester.

Q: What are the cafeteria hours and what if I have classes during that time? If I have to use points then, isn't that more expensive for me?

A: Cafeteria hours of operation are established to accommodate student schedules:

- Student Union Dining Hall: Mon.-Thurs. from 7:15 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Varsity Café: Mon.-Thurs. from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sat.-Sun. Closed
- Retail location hours vary. Check our website at: www.pitt-johnstown.pitt.edu/DiningServices.
- You can take advantage of the *Meals to Go* program. To do so, simply contact a member of the dining services team to request breakfast, lunch, or dinner to go. Also, the retail locations are often open when the cafeterias are not. Yes, retail can be more expensive depending upon what items are purchased. The dining halls offer the best value.

Q: Do unused meals carry over from one semester to another?

A: No.

Q: Am I able to change my meal plan after making a selection?

A: Yes. After a meal plan is contracted, you may reduce or cancel your meal plan until the end of the third day of the semester. You can increase your meal plan at any time during the semester.

Q: How can I find out how many points and/or meals I have left on my plan?

A: The cashier at any point-of-sale location can tell you your balance.

Q: What happens to unused points (included in some meal plans) at the end of the semester?

A: Unused meal plan points (the points that come with your meal plan) cannot be transferred from semester to semester. However, if you have purchased auxiliary points, they will transfer from the fall semester to spring semester. Auxiliary points that are unused at the end of the spring semester will be forfeited. (See below regarding auxiliary points.)

Q: Can I add more points during the semester? If so, how?

A: Yes, you can purchase auxiliary points at any time by visiting Conference Services (LLC) and completing the "Add Points" form.

PLACEMENT TESTS

Q: Can I retake the placement exam?

A: For questions regarding Math Placement, please e-mail Linda Tully at lintully@pitt.edu and for Chemistry Placement, please e-mail Dr. Lisa Bell-Loncella at etbell@pitt.edu.

REGISTRAR

Q: Can I obtain my class schedule on-line if I cannot make the afternoon session? Can it be mailed to me?

A: All of a your academic information, including class schedule, can be accessed in your account through the Pitt Portal (my.pitt.edu).

Q: Is the FERPA waiver necessary to discuss financial aid issues or does it only apply to academics?

A: A FERPA waiver can either be completed to share only academic information or all student information with those individuals designated by the student.

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS

Q: What religious affiliations on campus?

A: Our Campus Ministry office includes Catholic and Protestant representatives, but the office also works closely with the Johnstown Inter-Faith Council and can direct students of all faiths to local places of worship.

STUDENT LIFE

Q: What protocol is followed in the event of extreme weather? How are the students notified of class postponements?

A: If the campus closes due to extreme weather, you will be notified via your campus e-mail and a large banner message on the front page of our website. In the case of a non-weather related emergency, you can also be notified via text, e-mail, or phone through the Emergency Notification Service (ENS), if you have subscribed to this service (you can subscribe to the ENS via the Pitt Portal). You can also check on the "Instructor Cancelled Classes" on the website at www.pitt-johnstown.pitt.edu/Cancellations/ to see if a specific instructor has canceled class.

Q: Where do commuters park for their classes?

A: There is a designated parking area for commuter students.

Q: Do you provide off-campus transportation to the local shopping venues?

A: A campus-operated shuttle system can transport you to local shopping (Walmart, movie theaters, and several local restaurants). A schedule is available online at www.pitt-johnstown.pitt.edu/Shuttle/. The Cambria County Transit Authority (CamTran) provides local bus service with student discount pricing and routes throughout the city of Johnstown. Long distance travel is available by Greyhound buses and Amtrak train service downtown.

Q: Do you offer weekend transportation to the Pittsburgh campus?

A: We do not offer transportation to the Pittsburgh campus, but we do have at least one bus that travels to each of the home football games.

Q: How many student organizations do you have?

A: Pitt-Johnstown currently has 100 active student organizations. You can find a list of current organizations at www.pitt-johnstown.pitt.edu/StudentLife.

Q: Why should I engage in the RealWorld Action Program?

A: Many studies show that students who are actively engaged in their college community outside the classroom, by joining student organizations, by participating in community service, and by utilizing Career Services opportunities, are more likely to succeed in the classroom and ultimately in their post-graduate career search. Employers today look at co-curricular activities to gauge a student's leadership potential and work style.

STUDY ABROAD

Q: Who is eligible to study abroad?

A: Students in good disciplinary and academic standing with a GPA of 2.75 or higher, and who are not first-year students, are eligible. You can study abroad from your sophomore year through your last semester as a senior.

Q: What is the benefit of a study abroad experience?

A: Study abroad often inspires a student's career direction plus greatly increases his/her personal and professional skill set. It is also a solid résumé booster!

Q: Where and when can I travel?

A: You can choose from an academic year abroad, a semester, a summer experience (typically from 4 to 6 weeks), or a faculty-led spring break program. Learn more at our website at abroad.pitt.edu.

Q: Is study abroad safe?

A: Yes! Students must attend a comprehensive travel and safety orientation prior to traveling; All programs and sites are academically accredited and approved and have dedicated on-site staff.

Q: Is scholarship money available?

A: Yes! Awards are available to eligible students ranging from \$200 to as much as \$5,000!

WELLNESS CENTER

Q: Do all students have access to workout facilities?

A: Yes, your student ID will provide you with access to the Wellness Center. All group exercise classes are free for students.

Q: Can incoming students start using Wellness Center in the summer?

A: If your first semester on campus is the fall term, you will be granted access the Thursday evening of orientation (August 21). All incoming students' Wellness Center usage during orientation will be regulated and determined by the orientation schedule. Unlimited usage of the Wellness Center will begin after orientation activities on Saturday, August 23.

Q: Do all students have access to the rock wall?

A: Yes, after a student completes all appropriate waivers and regulation sheets. A student can only use the rock wall during its normal operational hours and under the supervision of the rock wall staff.

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