



Department of Food Science

New Graduate Student Welcome & Orientation Packet

Fall 2019-Spring 2020



(814) 865-5444

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Welcome to Penn State’s Department of Food Science. This guide is designed to help incoming graduate students become familiar with tools and resources available in the department, Penn State and the State College area. We hope you find the information helpful in your successful journey to Penn State.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Food Science at Penn State is one of the premier food science departments in the country.

The outstanding faculty, state-of-the-art building, and laboratory facilities, and friendly and dedicated staff members make the Food Science Department a pleasant place to study and conduct research.



Our undergraduate program offers students hands-on science dealing with real-world applications; small, friendly atmosphere; world-class internship experiences; excellent scholarship opportunities, and 100% job placement.

Our graduate program offers graduate study leading to Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Collaborative research in the food science department is primarily conducted in the context of graduate education. Graduate students receive in-depth training in the core disciplines of food chemistry, food microbiology, food engineering/processing and sensory science.

Research is encouraged and facilitated in the core disciplines and across disciplines, particularly in the areas of Functional Foods, Food Safety, Foods as Materials and Food Choice. Research and extension faculty work closely with members of the food industry and encourage their graduate students and other visiting scholars to participate in this important activity.

The relatively small-college atmosphere within the department enables faculty, staff, and students to have close contact in an intellectually stimulating and professional environment. I invite you to come, meet our faculty, staff, and students, and see why we are one of the premier food science departments in the country.

Robert Roberts
Professor and Head

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS:

Below is a list of the administrative contacts primarily located within the 202 Food Science office suite. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m.-5 p.m. from Monday – Friday and closed on weekends.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Room #</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>e-mail</u>
Dr. Bob Roberts, Department Head	206	865-5444	rfr3@psu.edu
Dr. Gregory Ziegler, Director of Graduate Studies	341	863-2960	grz1@psu.edu
Reneé Miller, Manager of Departmental Operations	208	865-5006	kab5@psu.edu
Svend Pedersen, Admin. Support Asst. and Graduate Program Coordinator	207	863-4827	sep14@psu.edu
Kira Wetzel, Undergraduate Program Assistant	203	863-8667	jmw5@psu.edu
Beth Tepsic, Financial Assistant	211	863-8668	eak173@psu.edu
Wai Fun Leong, Teaching Laboratory Support	212	867-1378	wul24@psu.edu
Thomas Dimick, Outreach & Computer Support Coordinator	215	865-3360	tsd3@psu.edu
Peter Hanchar, Facilities & Safety Coordinator	216	863-2965	pah232@psu.edu


Please contact the staff below for assistance in the following areas:

- **Reneé Miller** leads and directs departmental staff, oversees daily operations, and serves as chief of staff; manages departmental financial resources; facilitates strategic planning and department metrics; guides and directs faculty, staff and students on University policy and procedures; oversees process improvement and marketing initiatives.
- **Svend Pedersen** provides support to the department head to include calendar/meetings, travel arrangements, and drafting communications; provides support to various committees; maintains graduate student records; monitors graduate student progress; assists graduate students with registration and course scheduling; assists with graduate recruiting efforts.
- **Kira Wetzel** maintains undergraduate student records and assists all undergraduate students; monitors student progress; assists students with registration and course scheduling; assists faculty with course and room scheduling, textbook orders, final exam scheduling, and advising; assists with recruitment and career placement initiatives.
- **Beth Tepsic** oversees the financial accounting processing; helps faculty, staff and students navigate through Penn State’s purchasing and travel policies and procedures.
- **Wai Fun Leong** provides scheduling and logistic support for department teaching laboratories and pilot plants. Assists students with laboratory techniques and equipment operating procedures.
- **Thomas Dimick** coordinates the department’s outreach and external communication activities; assists with marketing initiatives; liaison with FIG group; assists faculty, staff and students with questions regarding computer access and wireless connectivity.

- **Peter Hanchar** oversees facilities, lab safety, equipment usage, pilot plant training. He can assist students with facility issues, safety issues and scheduling pilot plant use.

Getting Started

The next steps will help US and international students gain access to many University resources:

- Step 1 Penn State id+ Card** - Each graduate student has been assigned a Penn State ID number during the graduate application process. The Penn State id+ Card is the official University identification card. Information about the card and its many uses is available at: <http://www.idcard.psu.edu/>. Without it, you cannot obtain Penn State computer access which is Step 2 below. To obtain a PS id+ card, visit 020 HUB-Robeson Center from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (M-F) and 12:00 Noon-3:00 p.m. (Sat./Sun.). Contact: 814-865-7590.
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- Step 2 Penn State Access Account** - The Penn State Access Account enables Penn State students, faculty, and staff to use the full range of Internet services on or off campus, at computer labs or on personal computers. It also allows you to use the ITS student computing labs (<http://clc.its.psu.edu/labs/>). Make note of your user ID and password when they are displayed on the screen. Your account should be active within one business day.
- Step 3 Course Registration** – All students must register for classes **before Sunday, August 25th** (our office is closed weekends). If you do not register before that date, you will be assessed a **late-add fee**. If you are on a half-time graduate assistantship, you must register for 9-12 credits per semester. International students must be registered full-time to maintain their visa status. Students should contact their advisors regarding course scheduling and see Svend Pedersen in 207 Food Science Building for assistance with scheduling courses.
- Step 4 Health Insurance** – The Student Health Insurance office is responsible for administering the health insurance plans for Penn State students. As part of your assistantship or fellowship, Penn State provides insurance premium subsidies for the Graduate Assistant and Graduate Fellow medical, dental and vision plans for you and any eligible dependents you want to cover. US students who wish to decline coverage or are still covered by their parents insurance will need to submit a Declination of Coverage form at the beginning of the semester. All international students must carry health insurance on themselves and dependents in order to maintain their visa status.

The Student Health Center is located adjacent to the Eisenhower Parking Deck and the Bank of America Career Services Building off Bigler Road. For more information at: <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/health/services/insurance/graduate.shtml>.

BUILDING ACCESS & KEYS:

Graduate students will be issued Card Access to the outside entrances of the Food Science Building and/or keys to his or her office and laboratories that are used regularly in his/her research. Students will be notified via email when their keys are available to be picked up in Room 112 Ag. Administration Building.

The Food Science Building has a Card Access system using the **PSU ID+** card for exterior doors (east and west), the elevator near the Creamery salesroom, the Pilot Plants (134, 135, and 416) and the Chemistry Teaching Lab (132) as follows:

- **Exterior Doors** - To access the building at night (after 6:00 p.m.) and on weekends, faculty, staff and students need to use their PSU ID+ card on the card swipes located on the east and west entrances. The card swipe will not open any creamery doors or the door near the loading dock.
- **Creamery Elevator** – The West elevator near the creamery is open during the day and can be used from the 1st floor. However, during nights and weekends, in order to call the elevator from the 1st floor, you must use the Elevator Card Swipe.
- **Pilot Plants, Rooms 134, 135** - To gain access to the Pilot Plants through the Card Access system, students must first arrange to complete Pilot Plant safety training through Peter Hanchar. After training has been completed, students will be added to specific Pilot Plant Card Access systems.
- **Food Chemistry Teaching Lab, Room 132** – Teaching assistants are permitted card access to the Chemistry Teaching Lab.

In addition to building card access, office and lab keys, graduate students are permitted to have a **GS** key which will open the following doors: West interior stairwell (locked nights and weekends), 202, 249 Food Microbiology teaching lab, 301 copier room, 323 and 424 break rooms, 417 Micro prep room, and 422 graduate student computer room.

ALL KEYS must be returned to 112 Ag. Admin. before graduating and/or leaving the Department of Food Science and/or Penn State.

HOUSING:

Graduate housing ranges from single dormitory rooms to two-bedroom apartments to four-bedroom townhouses. Go to Housing at University Park (<http://www.hfs.psu.edu/housing/>) for information about on-campus housing.

Off-campus housing is readily available in the surrounding area. The following is a list of complexes geared to graduates, professionals, and families:

Apartment Store – 814-234-6860

Associated Realty – 814-231-3333

Atlas Realty Mgmt. – 814-238-0741

Briarwood – 814-238-7134

Continental Real Estate – 814-238-1598

GMH Management – 814-238-3432

Heritage Realty Group – 814-234-7368

Orchard Park Rentals – 814-237-8816

Pennwood North Apartments – 814-234-4309

Park Forest Enterprise, Inc. – 814-238-3431

R & C Associates – 814-231-1340

State College Realty Limited Partnership

Executive House – 814-238-7211

Park Forest Apartments – 814-238-1443

Southgate Apartments/Townhouses

814-234-0333

Off-campus housing opportunities are also listed here <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/offcampus/>.

TRANSPORTATION & PARKING:

Who Needs a Parking Permit?

Every employee or student, including wage payroll, part-time, or Fixed Term I and II, must have a parking permit to park on campus. Individuals enrolled in classes at Penn State are classified as students and must obtain student parking through the Parking Office. All vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles, and mopeds must be registered through the Parking Office. Please refer to policies and online registration procedures at: <https://agsci.psu.edu/safety/parking>

Graduate students may purchase a base student permit through the Parking Office located at Room 1 Eisenhower Parking Deck where they will register their vehicle.

- Parking information is available at: <https://agsci.psu.edu/safety/parking>

BUS SERVICE:

Bus service on and around campus is provided by the Centre Area Transportation (CATA) (<http://www.catabus.com/>).

- The Blue and White Loop buses provide no-fare service along Curtin Road and College and Beaver Avenues. Buses run every 10 minutes.
- The Red Link bus provides no-fare service between Innovation Park and White Course Apartments. The Red Link runs on Park Avenue and Curtin Road, with stops at the commuter lots by the Bryce Jordan Center and Beaver Stadium.

- The Green Link bus provides no-fare service along Curtin Road between Pattee Library and the commuter lots next to the Bryce Jordan Center and Beaver Stadium.
- The Centre Line bus connects State College and the surrounding areas, including Bellefonte, Boalsburg, and Pleasant Gap.

Maps and schedules are available at CATA's website, at the information desks in the HUB-Robeson Center and Kern Graduate Building, on all Loop buses, and at the desks in the residence hall area commons buildings. For schedule information, call 814-238-CATA (814-238-2282). A wheelchair-lift van service is available the same hours as the Loop bus service. For service and scheduling of this service call Office for Disability Services at 814-863-1807.

CLUBS AND SOCIAL LIFE:

The Department's Social Committee hosts several social events each year for faculty, staff and students to participate. In addition, the Department, Food Science Club and Food Industry Group host a tailgate event annually. This year's tailgate event is scheduled for Saturday, October 19th when the Penn State Nittany Lion football team will take on the Michigan Wolverines. Faculty, staff, and students are all invited to attend this event.

There are many ways for students to get involved after they arrive at Penn State:

- **Food Science Club** - The Food Science Club is a student-based group composed of both undergraduate and graduate members in Food Science and promotes interaction between Food Science students, faculty and the food industry. Visit their website at: <http://foodscience.psu.edu/currentstudents/activities/food-science-club>
- **Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)** - <http://gsa.psu.edu/>
- **University Activities website** - <https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/hub/>

Provided below are websites on local entertainment, lodging, restaurants, and shopping:

- **State College Online** - <http://www.statecollege.com>
- **State College Downtown** - <http://www.downtownstatecollege.com>
- **Centre Daily Times** - <http://www.Centredaily.com>

Gyms and Fitness Centers

A Penn State gym membership will allow access to the White Building, IM Building, Rec Hall, Natatorium Fitness Loft, and all indoor pools at the Natatorium and White Building. Memberships can be purchased online at: <http://www.athletics.psu.edu/psustrength/>.

OTHER RESOURCES:

- **Global Programs Office, 410 Boucke Building** – Provides answers to questions and needs that are unique to international students: <http://www.international.psu.edu/>.
- **Office for Disability Services, 116 Boucke Building** - Provides information and assistance to students with disabilities: <http://www.equity.psu.edu/ods/index.html>.
- **Bursar's Office, 103 Shields Building** – The Office of the Bursar is responsible for maintenance of student accounts pertaining to tuition billing, acceptance fees, charges, payments, financial aid disbursements, and refunds of excess funds, when available. <http://bursar.psu.edu/>.
- **Registrar's Office, 112 Shields Building** – Oversees student academic records and information including: registering for courses, official transcripts, grade reporting, degree audit, graduation and diplomas, and more: <http://registrar.psu.edu/index.cfm>.
- **Office of Student Aid, 314 Shields Building** – A good place to search for financial assistance: <http://www.psu.edu/studentaid/>.
- **HUB-Robeson Center** is the site for multiple student services including restaurants, a copy center, a bank (Penn State Federal Credit Union), STA Travel, a convenience store, the Penn State Bookstore, the Center for Arts and Crafts, Art Galleries, and the main information desk for the University. .
- **Student Health Services, 302 Student Health Center** – The on campus source for medical care, health and wellness, immunization, pharmacy, student health insurance enrollment & benefits, etc: <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/health/services/insurance/>.
- **Graduate School, Kern Building** – Provides information and assistance to prospective and current graduate students on graduate policies and procedures, thesis information and calendar, and more: <http://www.gradsch.psu.edu/>.
- **The Graduate Writing Center** - Provides trained, friendly, and free peer consulting and workshops for Penn State graduate students of all disciplines and of all levels of writing ability. The GWC is sponsored by the Pennsylvania State University Graduate School and the Department of English. <http://composition.la.psu.edu/resources/graduate-writing-center/GWC>
- **University Libraries** – The University Libraries are comprised of 14 libraries at University Park and libraries at 23 other locations, including the Dickinson School of Law, the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, and the Penn State affiliated Pennsylvania College of Technology. Their website will help students access our collections of more than 5.3 million books, 88,000 serials, 536 databases, and 100,000 E-books at all Penn State location: <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/home.html>.
- **Pasquerilla Spiritual Center, Eisenhower Chapel** – Home to more than fifty spiritual organizations. The center, administered through the Center for Ethics and Religious Affairs, is non-denominational and provides students with opportunities to explore ethical and spiritual issues: <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/spiritual/>.
- **Office of Student Conduct, Division of Student Affairs, 135 Boucke Building** - Judicial Affairs serves as a valuable resource for the university community by promoting a safe living and learning environment. The office is responsible for dealing with violations of

the Code of Conduct including sexual assault, harassment, stalking, and physical assault. The phone number is 863-0342: <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/conduct/>. The Code of Conduct is available at: <https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/conduct/Procedures.shtml>.

- **The Affirmative Action Office, 328 Boucke Building** – Committed to diversity, equal opportunity, and ensuring the University maintains an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination: <http://www.psu.edu/dept/aaoffice/>.
- **Penn State Escort Service** – Is operated under the auspices of Police Services and will provide an escort for students walking on campus after dark. They may be reached at 5-WALK (865-9255):<http://transportation.psu.edu/walking>.
- **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), 501 Student Health Center** – Can help students resolve personal concerns that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, and satisfaction at Penn State. Some of the more common concerns include: difficulty with friends, roommates, or family members; depression and anxiety; sexual identity; lack of motivation or difficulty relaxing, concentrating or studying; eating disorders; sexual assault and sexual abuse recovery; and uncertainties about personal values and beliefs: <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/>.
- **Career Services, MBNA Career Services Building** – Can assist graduate students in the preparation of resumes and curriculum vitae and in developing effective interviewing skills. Career Services hosts a career fair that is open to graduate as well as undergraduate students: <http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/career/>.
- **Academic Integrity** – The University does not tolerate violations of academic integrity, which includes but is not limited to: plagiarism, cheating, falsification of information, misrepresentation or deception. The complete policy is available at: <http://agsci.psu.edu/students/resources/academic-integrity>.
- **Plagiarism** – Plagiarism is often a confusing concept. At Penn State, plagiarism means taking someone’s words and presenting, presentation or information and them as your own. Cutting and pasting from a web site is considered plagiarism. Copying verbatim from any source without using quotation marks and the full reference is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious violation of academic integrity regardless of whether it is a homework exercise, an exam, a thesis, or a manuscript for publication. Visit the College of Agricultural Science’s policy at: <http://agsci.psu.edu/students/advising/academic-integrity> .

QUESTIONS?

Please contact the department if you have questions about coming to Penn State. Our main number is (814) 865-5444. The Graduate Program Coordinator’s number is (814) 863-4827

We look forward to seeing you in the fall!

June 2019