

# Commencement

SPRING SEMESTER 2024



**PENN STATE ABINGTON**

May 3, 2024





## **National Anthem**

*by Francis Scott Key*

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming;  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air  
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.  
O say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

## **Alma Mater**

*by Fred Lewis Pattee*

For the glory of old State,  
For her founders, strong and great,  
For the future that we wait,  
Raise the song, raise the song,  
  
Sing our love and loyalty,  
Sing our hopes that, bright and free,  
Rest, O Mother dear, with thee.  
All with thee, all with thee.  
  
When we stood at childhood's gate,  
Shapeless in the hands of fate,  
Thou didst mold us, dear old State,  
Dear old State, dear old State.  
  
May no act of ours bring shame  
To one heart that loves thy name,  
May our lives but swell thy fame,  
Dear old State, dear old State!

# To Our Graduates and Guests

## Ceremony Notes

We welcome you to the spring 2024 commencement exercises for the Abington College of The Pennsylvania State University, instituted July 1, 1997. Because of this distinction, the Abington College is permitted to award its own degrees as reflected in this program. Students from other colleges within Penn State may have elected to process at Abington College's commencement, but their diplomas reflect their colleges at University Park or other locations.

Commencement exercises at the various locations of the University were instituted in 1971 for candidates for the associate degree. Candidates for the baccalaureate degree have been able to receive their diplomas at commencement exercises at a location other than University Park since 1976.

As commencement is the solemn but joyful climax of the graduates' years of study, it is an important and meaningful occasion to the University, its students, faculty, and staff. In keeping with this feeling, guests and participants are requested to avoid unnecessary conversation or moving about during the exercises. Only authorized press and University photographers are permitted in the aisles to take pictures while the exercises are in progress. Family and friends of the graduates may take photos during the ceremony but are asked to do so from their seats.

## Program Notes

Pages 2–7 of this program are correct as of the April 26, 2024, publication date. If you have a question about a name, degree, or distinction listed, please contact the Office of Strategic Communications and Community Engagement at [pds13@psu.edu](mailto:pds13@psu.edu).

# Program

## **Academic Processional**

Please rise, if you are able

*Pomp and Circumstance*, Sir Edward Elgar

## **National Anthem**

Please remain standing,  
if you are able

Members of the Penn State Abington Choir  
*The Star Spangled Banner*, Francis Scott Key

## **Welcome and Recognition of Marshals**

Andrew August, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.  
Interim Chancellor

## **Commencement Address**

Jacklin Rhoads ('08 English)  
Director of Public Affairs and Marketing, Office of Governor Josh Shapiro

## **Conferring of Degrees**

Dr. August

### **Associate and Baccalaureate Degrees**

Nicole Stokes, B.A., B.S., M.A., M.P.S., Ph.D.  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

## **Special Recognition**

### **Recognition of Honors Group**

Dr. Stokes

### **Recognition of Schreyer Scholars**

Dr. August

## **Valedictorian**

Lasha Kaliashvili<sup>M</sup>  
Kyleigh Byers<sup>A</sup>

## **Presentation of Ross Brinkert Lion Heart Award<sup>A</sup>**

Kyleigh Byers

## **Welcome to the Alumni Association**

Leilani Fox ('04 Corporate Communication)  
President, Penn State Abington Alumni Society Board

## **Closing Remarks**

Dr. August

## **Alma Mater**

Please rise, if you are able

Members of the Penn State Abington Choir

## **Recessional**

Please rise and remain standing,  
if you are able

*Trumpet Voluntary*, Henry Purcell

Today's commencement exercises are taking place across two ceremonies. Events occurring only during the morning ceremony are designated with a superscript "M." Events occurring only during the afternoon ceremony are designated with a superscript "A." All other events will take place at both ceremonies.

# Academic Processional

## Abington College Marshal

Judith Ozment, B.S., Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Chemistry  
Chair, Abington College Faculty Senate

## Student Marshals

Ryan Gaffney<sup>M</sup>      Joseph Schreiner Jr.<sup>M</sup>  
Rufaida Haque<sup>A</sup>      Pegasus Yang<sup>A</sup>

## Faculty Marshals

Friederike Baer, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of History  
Division Head for Arts and Humanities

Michael Bernstein, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.  
Professor of Psychology  
Interim Division Head for Social Sciences, Business, and Education

Matthew Fury, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.  
Professor of Mathematics  
Division Head for Science and Engineering

# Candidates for Associate Degrees

## Associate in Arts

### ABINGTON COLLEGE

Elina Gorovaya      Srijoni Mitra      Dahmir Williams

## Associate in Science

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

John Plunkett

# Candidates for Baccalaureate Degrees

## Bachelor of Arts

### ABINGTON COLLEGE

Joyce Agyemang	Safisah Brown	Amauri Drayton	Jenna Hazzard
Meriam Ahmad	Kyleigh Byers	Robert Escaleras	Edward Herbst
Myah Albanese	Tatiana Campos-Teixeira	Serenity Faulkner	Cheyenne Holmes
Kennedi Amaker	Emily Chan	Julie Fequiere	Joseph Horn Jr.
Joshua Baar	Egypt Cherry	Camille Fleming	Tad Hummer
Mykali Bader	David Coll	Ryan Gaffney	Delilah Jabbour
Sierrarose Biello	Alyssa Curran	Malia Gerie	Maria Javed
Brett Bittner	Jack Darnell	Hannah Golden	Valerie Jones
Justin Brooks	Iyana Dawkins	Carlan Gordon	Melissa Kaplan
John Brown	Shanell Dozier	Joseph Handlin	Evan Keebler

Subject to completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.

## Bachelor of Arts (continued)

### ABINGTON COLLEGE (CONTINUED)

Joshua Kuntz	Deborah Michel	Richard Pospiech Jr.	Jack Tonra
Mihane Kupa	Matthew Montes	Maleeha Rashid	Julio Toussaint
Evan Kwak	Mariah Moore	Ethan Rauch	Neeyah Turner
Natalie Larson	Mecca Muhammad	Julise Regan	Benjamin Varghese
Ryan Lenderman	Amala Nambiar	Gianni Rodriguez-Caceres	Branden Vasvilla
Jane Lulko	Mikayla Newkirk	Angela Sanders	Lauren Weber
Daniel Marshall	Kruti Patel	Hunter Schillings	Indira Williams
Miracle Martin	Jorssy Perez Garcia	Kaela Sherron	Rebecca Wisser
Darius May	Naimah Perkins	Lianna Soler-Gonzalez	Nicole Zehner
Lexus Medley	Mildred Petit-Frere	Lauren Spratt	Hao Zheng

### COLLEGE OF THE LIBERAL ARTS

Haley Brennan	Karley Souza	Jordan Wilson
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## Bachelor of Science

### ABINGTON COLLEGE

Mahima Abraham	Samantha Burkert	Cole Daley	Emmanuel Gerard
Selva Adel	Cameron Bussom	Anastasiya Datsenko	Kevin Germain
Romina Aguilar	Trevor Butcher	Oumou Diabira	Tyler Geyer
Fathi Ahmed	Lauren Caldera	Dean DiGirolamo Jr.	Mosin Ghafary
Ina Ahmeti	Edna Cassell	Phillip Diouf	Anthony Giuliani
Linda Aji	Caitlyn Castelli	Sean Doherty	Lisa Goncalves
Nour Alatki	Mert Celikci	Wainsdli Dorvil	Darryl Gregory
Tayjah Alexander-McGill	Ernst Celine	Matthew Duplessis	Jack Haggard
Justin Allem	Dhananjay Chavda	Dylan Einhorn	Habib Halimi
Hawraa Almalky	Johny Chen	Zachary Einhorn	Rami Hameid
Tahiz Almodovar-Orama	Peijia Chen	Timothy Enders	Sancia Hanson
Ali Alzaidi	Andrew Cherian	Belal Esmail	Rufaida Haque
Yash Amin	Mohamed Chikani	Eric Estadt	John Harkness
Richard Amons	Joseph Christian	Alyssa Feliciano	Hamza Haroun
Brooke Anderson	Punit Chudasama	Luke Fenstermaker	John Harrigan
Jocelyn Andino	Dominic Cianfrani	Michael Festa	Darnell Harris
Kara Bailey	Josiah Clark	Elisa Fiore	Jillian Harris
Yasmine Benaouadj	Ahmed Cobham	Jermar Fisher	Alyssa Hellyer
Bernadette Berardinelli	Nahseria Coleman	Zachary Fitzgerald	Brandon Hightower
Alexa Betuel	Edzanardie Content	Jonathan Fleurencois	Binh Hoang
Joseph Bianco	Matthew Covone	Robert Francis Jr.	Houevi-Houessi
Matthew Bonner	Stephen Covone	Alexander Franke	Joshua Howe
Emizha Boone	Caitlin Crowe	Stephen Friel	Marti Hoxholli
Veronica Brinkworth	Xavier Cruz	Stephanie Galindo	Agha Hyder

Subject to completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.

## Bachelor of Science (continued)

### ABINGTON COLLEGE (CONTINUED)

Zimira Jackson	Nuzhat Moniruzzoha	Shiv Patel	Absar Sheikh
Xingyu Jiang	Catherine Monteith	Smit Patel	John Sheridan
Sarah John	Justin Moore	Tirth Patel	Mohammed Shoel
Lasha Kaliashvili	Dylan Morgan	Vivek Patel	Nikolay Sizov
Ramisha Karim	Amr Mortagy	Hannah Paxson	Chad Skinner
Alina Karpa	Joshua Murillo	Joseph Peller	Regina Skrynnik
Sean Kearney	Moayad Mustafa	Sabrina Pervana	Caleigh Smith
Hani Kendy	Seung Nam	Reece Petro	Shadia Sumi
Christopher Koppany	Sumira Nasar	Marta Petryshchak	Rahom Tafesse
Eduard Kravchuk	Taazkir Nasir	Vivian Pham	Christopher Taylor
Michael Kret	Monica Nassar-Iuliani	Elena Piel	Victor Than
Besjana Kubick	Daeja Newman	Diana Pochara	Michael Thomas
Ryan Kushnir	Jenny Nguyen	Alex Podolski	Tyler Thompson
Charles Langley	Selina Nguyen	Paige Poulterer	Mark Tyler
Taylor LaPage	Wijdan Nigrou	Alaina Pratt	Mikheil Uglava
Mia Le	Emily O'Donnell	Jabar Quriashy	Roan Vadakan
Johnathan Leopold	Samira Omar	Nora Quriashy	Joel Varghese
Tyisha Lester	Mohamed Omer	Rafael Rangel Lopez	Jack Vattelana
Karol Lewkowicz	Love Divine Onwulata	Deja Reid	Branden Vazquez
Yuyao Li	Christopher Pace	Jonathon Reilly	Mark Vernachio Jr.
Connor Lines	Aishwarya Panchal	Alexander Renk	Dhanica Vidallon
Alexa Little	Chantelle Parker	Jahidul Robin	Basil Vlachos
Kylie Mackin	Julianna Pasco	Timothy Rola	Jeffry Walters
Matthew Malfara	Darshit Patel	Madeline Romano	Hao Wang
Izza Malik	Deep Patel	Jahaira Romero	Mishama Willson
Lindsey McCarty	Dev Patel	Alexis Rowland	Laylah Wyatt
Richard McDowell	Dharmik Patel	Roshan Roy	Rohan Yagnik
Heather McLaughlin	Dravya Patel	Michael Ryan	Pegasus Yang
Brooke McTamney	Janviben Patel	Johnly Saji	Charlie Zagdanski
Sierra Mickey	Jay Patel	Nicanor Sanderson	Carlos Zaldana
Jack Mobarek	Love Patel	Joseph Schreiner Jr.	Dianbo Zhang
Lodmila Mohammed	Manav Patel	Whitney Severino	Ewen Zhuo
Dillon Moleski	Mitkumar Patel	Jarron Shaffer	Brandan Zielinski

### CAPITAL COLLEGE

Jai'Lynn Chambers	Anthony Grahn	Sabur Jamshedov	Luzmarie Salcedo
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### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Aliyah Al-Sulaimani	Gianna Costello	Elizabeth Lucas	Shannon Matthews
Madison Cartlidge	Chaneiry Cruz Hernandez	Katharine Maguire	Meghan O'Hara

Subject to completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.

## Bachelor of Arts (continued)

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

Emily Ovack                      Julia Parisse                      Josha Veeraraj                      Christian Verrecchio

### COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Ryan Childs                      Cameron Council                      Ian McGorrey                      Dominick Niemira

### COLLEGE OF INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY

Karyna Marchuk

### COLLEGE OF THE LIBERAL ARTS

Tameka Williams

### EBERLY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Samee Jan

### INTERCOLLEGE

Joshua Burner                      Laila Kelly

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Katrina Robinson

### ROSS AND CAROL NESE COLLEGE OF NURSING

Melissa Readinger

## Special Recognition

### Honors Group

This group is made up of those students who have completed the required number of credits at the University and who are in the top 12 percent of their graduating class in their college. The 12 percent is divided into 2 percent "summa cum laude," 4 percent "magna cum laude," and 6 percent "cum laude." A student's distinction level is determined on the final cumulative grade point average in the semester in which the degree is conferred. Subject to completion of all degree requirements and satisfaction of minimum criteria, distinction may be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.

#### SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Romina Aguilar	Ryan Gaffney	Besjana Kubick	Diana Pochara
Brooke Anderson	Rufaida Haque	Elizabeth Lucas	Joseph Schreiner Jr.
Emizha Boone	Lasha Kaliashvili	Hannah Paxson	Pegasus Yang
Kyleigh Byers	Melissa Kaplan	Marta Petryshchak	Charlie Zagdanski

#### MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Alexa Betuel	Anastasiya Datsenko	Joshua Kuntz	Jeffry Walters
Alyssa Curran	Phillip Diouf	Ethan Rauch	

Subject to completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.



## Honors Group (continued)

### CUM LAUDE

Bernadette Berardinelli	Tyler Geyer	Taylor LaPage	Julianna Pasco
Sierrarose Biello	Hannah Golden	Jane Lulko	Tirth Patel
Veronica Brinkworth	Marti Hoxholli	Heather McLaughlin	Joseph Peller
Madison Cartlidge	Delilah Jabbour	Jack Mobarek	Rafael Rangel Lopez
Dylan Einhorn	Sarah John	Taazkir Nasir	Chad Skinner
Zachary Einhorn	Hani Kendy	Meghan O'Hara	

### Schreyer Scholars

Schreyer Scholars are graduates of the Schreyer Honors College, which is widely recognized as one of the foremost undergraduate honors programs in the United States. They must complete a culminating thesis, and those who graduate with this honor receive the Scholars Medal.

Nour Alatki	"The Chemistry of Wine: Analyzing General Education and Its Impact on Student Engagement" Thesis Supervisor: Kevin Cannon, Professor of Chemistry
Kyleigh Byers	"Problematic Faves: How Our Morals Influence Our Media Consumption and Relationships with Other People" Thesis Supervisor: Beth Montemurro, Distinguished Professor of Sociology
Anastasiya Datsenko	"The Thousand Year Lie: Russian Propaganda and the War in Ukraine" Thesis Supervisor: Kurt Fowler, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
Rufaida Haque	"Healthcare and Language: Challenges Faced by Multilingual Patients in the United States" Thesis Supervisor: Carla Chamberlin, Professor of Applied Linguistics/ Communication Arts and Sciences
Delilah Jabbour	"Colonization and Penn State Abington: Indigeneity, Feminisms, and the Ogontz School for Young Ladies" Thesis Supervisor: Boni Wozolek, Associate Professor of Elementary and Early Childhood Education
Taylor LaPage	"Athletic Injury and the Effects on Division III Athlete's Identity and Mental Health" Thesis Supervisors: Meghan Gillen, Professor of Psychology David Hutson, Associate Professor of Sociology
Chad Skinner	"Tipping Point: The Outcome of Eliminating the Subminimum Wage for Tipped Workers" Thesis Supervisor: Oak Pongsree, Assistant Teaching Professor of Economics

Subject to completion of all degree requirements, degrees will be conferred as indicated upon the individuals listed herein and upon such others as may meet the requirements.

# Faculty Award Winners

Recipients of the Faculty Recognition Awards are selected each year by the Abington Faculty Senate Awards Committee, from nominations submitted by students, faculty, and staff.

## **Scholar Award**

Thomas Heise, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of English and American Studies

Recognizes a full-time faculty member who has had significant scholarly or creative accomplishments in the past three years.

## **Outstanding Teaching Award, Tenure-Line Faculty**

Jack Isaac Pryor, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Theatre

Recognizes a tenure-line faculty member for excellent and effective teaching.

## **Outstanding Teaching Award, Instructors and Lecturers**

Ola El-Rashiedy, B.S., M.S.  
Associate Teaching Professor of Chemistry

Recognizes a faculty member with an appointment as an instructor or lecturer for excellent and effective teaching.

## **Award for Distinguished Faculty Service**

Stephen Cohen, B.A., M.A.  
Assistant Teaching Professor of English and Health Humanities

Recognizes a full-time faculty member for distinguished service to the Penn State Abington community. This service is above and beyond the job description and represents significant and sustained contribution to the welfare of the College.

## **Outstanding Faculty Advising and Mentoring Award**

Vinayak Elangovan, B.E., M.S., Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Recognizes a full-time faculty member for superior and effective advising, mentoring, and support of students.

## **Special Recognition Award**

Michelle Pauls, B.A., M.A.  
Lecturer in Integrative Arts and Health Humanities

Recognizes a part-time faculty member for an outstanding contribution to Penn State Abington.

# Board of Trustees

## MEMBERS EX OFFICIO

<b>Neeli Bendapudi</b>	President, The Pennsylvania State University
<b>Joshua D. Shapiro</b>	Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
<b>Cynthia A. Dunn</b>	Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
<b>Khalid N. Mumin</b>	Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Education
<b>Russell C. Redding</b>	Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

## APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR

Abraham Amorós	Daniel J. Delligatti	Daniel A. Onorato
David M. Davis	David M. Kleppinger	Terrence M. Pegula

## ELECTED BY ALUMNI

Edward "Ted" B. Brown III	Christa A. Hasenkopf	Joseph "Jay" V. Paterno Jr.
Alvin F. de Levie	Ali Krieger	Brandon D. Short
Barry J. Fenchak	Anthony P. Lubrano	Steven B. Wagman

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Robert E. Fenza	Karen H. Quintos	Richard S. Sokolov

## ELECTED BY BOARD - AT LARGE

Julie Anna Potts	Tracy A. Riegel	Matthew W. Schuyler
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## STUDENT TRUSTEE

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## ACADEMIC TRUSTEE

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Kelley M. Lynch

## GOVERNOR'S NON-VOTING REPRESENTATIVE

Evan A. Myers

# Leadership

## Pennsylvania State University

**President** Neeli Bendapudi, B.A., M.B.A., Ph.D.

**Interim Executive Vice President and Provost** Tracy Langkilde, B.S., Ph.D.

## Abington College

**Interim Chancellor** Andrew August, B.A., M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

**Academic Affairs** Nicole Stokes, B.A., B.S., M.A., M.P.S., Ph.D.  
Interim Vice Chancellor

**Athletics** Erin Foley, B.S., M.Ed.  
Director

**Business Operations** Theresa Giardino, B.A.  
Director

**Continuing Education** Christine Cicio, B.A., M.P.A.  
Director

**Development and Alumni Relations** Karen Weiss Jones, B.A.  
Director

**Enrollment Management and Retention** Whitney Arjun, B.A., M.S., Ed.D.  
Director

**Faculty Development** Rachael Brown, B.A., M.S., Ph.D.  
Director

**Finance** Daniel Meuleners, B.S., M.B.A.  
Financial Officer

**Human Resources** Melinda Kennedy, B.A., M.Ed.  
Regional Strategic Partner

**Inclusive Excellence** Boni Wozolek, B.A., M.A.T., Ph.D.  
Director

**Institutional Effectiveness** Lonnie Golden, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.  
Director

**Online and Information Technology** Lindsay Wood, B.S., M.S.  
Director

**Strategic Communications and Community Engagement** Patrick Dunne, B.A.  
Director

**Student Affairs** Gina D'Amato-Kaufman, B.A., M.S.  
Director

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**Advisory Board** Lynda Williams, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.  
Chair

# About the Ceremony

## Academic Procession

The college marshal, carrying the Penn State Abington College mace, leads the procession, followed by faculty marshals, the student marshals, and the candidates for degrees. These are followed by the faculty and administrative officers. The chancellor and guest speaker enter last. The chancellor wears a medallion, which symbolizes her authority.

The Abington College marshal leads the processional at each Penn State Abington commencement with the

ceremonial mace, an Abington College treasure. The unique design of the mace incorporates cherry wood from a tree on campus, a spindle design from the staircase in Sutherland, and an original bronze medal of Chief Ogontz, generously donated to the college by a friend. The mace was financed with funds donated by the Abington College Advisory Board and was a gift to the college in 2004.

## Academic Dress

Academic dress had its beginning in the Middle Ages. When the English universities were taking form in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, the scholars were also clerics and adopted robes similar to those of their monastic orders. Caps were a necessity in the drafty buildings, and capes with hoods attached were needed for warmth. The hood was selected by these early scholars as the article to be made distinctive for the various degrees by its color, trimming, and binding. As the universities gradually passed from the control of these ecclesiastics, costumes took on a brighter hue.

The use of academic costume in the United States has been continuous since colonial times. A uniform system was not widespread, however, until about 1895, when the well-defined code of the Intercollegiate Commission was adopted by nearly all institutions of higher learning.

Gowns worn by those in the procession may vary according to the degree held. Although the gown is more frequently black for academic degrees, certain universities have authorized the use of colored gowns. The academic gown usually has pointed sleeves for the bachelor's degree, an oblong sleeve with an arc cut away for the master's degree, and round full sleeves for the doctor's gown, which is faced in front with black velvet and has three bars of the same material across the sleeves—or, in some cases, the color of this velvet relates to the field in which the degree is granted.

Hoods are not usually worn by recipients of the bachelor's degree. The doctor's hood is usually longer than the master's hood and has distinguishing panels. Hoods are often lined with the colors of the school

which granted the degree, and the velvet border of the hood indicates the field in which the degree was granted. The standard cap is the mortarboard, usually the color of the gown. Undergraduates wear the tassel on the right side of the cap until the moment the degree is conferred by the chancellor.

Academic honor cords recognize the top 12 percent of baccalaureate degree candidates in each college and at every campus, including associate degree recipients. Students graduating summa cum laude receive blue and white cords, those who are graduating magna cum laude receive blue cords, and those who are graduating cum laude receive white cords.

Undergraduate and graduate students who have honorably served, are serving, or are commissioned to serve in the U.S. military are awarded an honor cord in recognition of their duty and sacrifice. The red, white, and blue cords are given to eligible graduating students, including associate degree recipients, in the following groups: active duty, reserve, and National Guard service members; veterans; and graduates receiving a commission through Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and official U.S. Armed Forces recruiting programs. Faculty members who meet the eligibility criteria may also receive military honor cords.

# About Us

## Penn State Abington

The Abington College of the Pennsylvania State University was formerly the site of The Ogontz School and Junior College. In 1950, when the historic girls' school had concluded its 100th academic year, the grounds, original buildings, and library were given to The Pennsylvania State University by the late Abby A. Sutherland, owner and principal.

The new Ogontz Center of Penn State opened in September 1950 with 225 students. An equal number of students continued at the previously established Swarthmore Center, which was discontinued in 1951. In order to better reflect its position in the community, Penn State Ogontz was renamed Penn State Abington-Ogontz in 1995.

Beginning July 1, 1997, upon completion of its forty-sixth academic year, the Abington-Ogontz campus became Penn State Abington College. As a degree-granting college, it continues its commitment to the land-grant concept of providing practical and liberal education in response to the needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Penn State Abington currently enrolls 3,095 students in credit courses, principally from Philadelphia, Montgomery, and Bucks counties, who are served by 157 full-time and 131 part-time faculty members. Both baccalaureate and associate degree programs can be completed through the Abington College.

## Penn State University

Chartered in 1855 as the Farmers' High School, Penn State opened in 1859 with a faculty of four teaching sixty-nine students, eleven of whom graduated in 1861. In 1862, Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Land-Grant Act, offering each state free public land for a college where "the leading objectives shall be to teach . . . agriculture and the mechanic arts in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes. . . ." Renamed the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, in 1863 Penn State was designated Pennsylvania's land-grant institution by the Legislature of the Commonwealth. From that beginning, Penn State has grown to be a distinguished university of 88,116 students with a full-time faculty of 6,396 at twenty-four locations and online.

Growth was rapid after the Civil War. In 1871, the first women were admitted. In 1874, the name was changed to the Pennsylvania State College. Curricula were added, the college was reorganized into schools, and new buildings were erected. In 1953, Penn State's name was changed to The Pennsylvania State University in formal recognition of what it long since had become—one of the leading universities of the nation.

As the land-grant institution of Pennsylvania, Penn State has developed a complex of statewide facilities and services to fulfill its mandate to provide education for the citizens of the Commonwealth "at times and places convenient to them." The extensive development of the statewide system of Penn State locations has enabled the University to offer a wide range of needed services—not only to the young, but also to a growing number of adults seeking continuing education.

Major research projects are conducted in each of the academic colleges of the University and its intercollege research institutes, centers, and laboratories. Research and development expenditures totaled \$1.239 billion in 2022–2023.

Of the University's living alumni, 395,630 live and work in Pennsylvania. The Penn State Alumni Association—a powerful network of 174,200 members—is the largest dues-paying alumni association in the world.

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# You're a Lion for life...



**PennState  
Alumni Association**

## ...and you belong in the Alumni Association.

**Congratulations** on your graduation! You've earned your place in the largest and most powerful alumni network in the world.

The Penn State Alumni Association connects you to the global community of more than 775,000 Penn Staters and keeps your connection to Dear Old State strong. It also includes more than 30 benefits, including exclusive discounts, access to our local chapters, and members-only networking and career services.

Watch the mail for your welcome kit and make the most of your complimentary one-year membership.

### Benefits of Belonging



**Local  
Connections**



**LionPerks  
Discounts**



**Career  
Resources**



**Networking**



**Exclusive  
Content**



**PennState  
Alumni Association**

[alumni.psu.edu/newalumni](http://alumni.psu.edu/newalumni)





**PennState**  
Abington