

New Student Week and New Student Convocation

We are excited to welcome your student to campus during New Student Week 2009! From student club meetings to academic advising workshops to tours of Portland, this week has something to offer every new student. Your student will receive a brochure in the mail during the week of September 14 with the entire schedule, and you can find more information online at www.pdx.edu/orientation/nsw.

One of the highlights of New Student Week is New Student Convocation. Convocation is our opportunity to formally kick-off the 2009-10 academic year. President Wim Wiewel will welcome your student to PSU and share his vision for all students' educational success. Following New Student Convocation, your student will have the opportunity to participate in the Viking Scavenger Hunt with other students and, by participating, will be eligible to win fabulous prizes, including scholarships, transportation and parking passes, and gift certificates to local area businesses and attractions!

Students will wrap up the Scavenger Hunt by collecting a free PSU t-shirt and lanyard, which will grant them access to be first in line to the Student Government Welcome Picnic! We hope you student will join us for this exciting day. Please encourage her or him to register online at www.pdx.edu/orientation/nsw.

5 Simple Ways to Save Money at the Portland State Bookstore

1. Become A Member.

Membership is FREE for students, faculty and staff. With a member card, your student will receive 25% off art supplies and general books and special invitations to member-only sales. Membership drives are held during New Student Week and Party in the Park. In-store sign up is available during regular store hours.

2. Educational Discounts on Software & Computers.

With a student ID, students can shop great discounts on computers, laptops and software. Electronics are located on the upper level of the store.

3. Know Your Textbook Options.

Textbooks come in many different formats and mediums and can be purchased in-store or online at www.psubookstore.com. Textbooks may be purchased as used, new, or in packages with additional materials. Package components are often required by faculty in a variety of disciplines for homework exercises and quizzes. Digital books are also offered when available. A digital book provides the same content as a print version, but is available for download or online. This option saves your student money up front, but the book cannot be sold back.

4. Sell Your Books For Cash.

Buyback is held the first three days of every term and finals week.

5. Stay Informed.

You and your student can join us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter (psubook) for the most up-to-date sales, member, and event information.

Portland State University Bookstore is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization dedicated to serving Portland State University students, staff, and faculty.

A Message from the Student Health and Counseling Center (SHAC)

This is an exciting time for new students and their families: a time full of pride, hopes, and fears. Remember that even positive changes can result in stress for both you and your student. Communication and understanding will be critical as your student moves through this new phase in his or her life. You may wish to make a plan for how often you will talk or see each other, as a student's life quickly becomes busy.

If this term proves more stressful for your student than anticipated, the Center for Student Health and Counseling (SHAC) has counselors for students available at no cost. The majority of students who come to us are seeking assistance for basic problems that most of us have encountered at one time or another. Developing as a human being can at times be a struggle. SHAC therapists are trained in helping your student adjust and find healthy ways to cope with this new phase of their life.

The Center for Student Health and Counseling's view of health is holistic and involves the promotion of physical and psychological well being as well as the remediation of problems. For more information about all the services available through the clinic for PSU students, visit our website at www.shac.pdx.edu.

In addition, we recognize that you might have concerns surrounding seasonal flu and H1N1. Please download a copy of a Letter to Parents (available on www.pdx.edu/family) that outlines our steps as a campus if this year's flu season becomes severe.

Campus Recreation Facilities Tour

Fall term is almost here. This means that the craziness will begin with your student's classes, laundry, jobs, laundry, kids, dishes, homework, and did I mention laundry? We here at Campus Rec understand your student's woes and excitement, and would like to invite him or her to relax for a moment and participate in one of our best and favorite events.

On September 24, we are taking students on a tour of our current facility. Alas, it is not yet that gorgeous building by the Bookstore. January 4 is when your student will get to work out with a view, but, until that day, the Peter Stott Center is where we are currently located. If your student wants to know more about us and the building, or simply go for the party and the food, our facility will be open late and will showcase everything we have to offer. Your student can "Dive In" to the pool to watch Jim Carrey's YES MAN on our two story concrete screen, meet our rec clubs, explore the building, climb our rock wall, drop in for our free workout sessions, and join our outdoor program for a shrimp boil. That laundry? It can wait.

Changes in School of Business Administration Admission Requirements

Beginning this fall, undergraduate admission to the School of Business Administration (SBA) will become more selective. Two major changes have been adopted, both addressing the SBA's emphasis on cultivating top-notch business students who will be prepared to make an immediate and meaningful impact on the local business community.

The first change is the minimum grade point average (GPA) for admission into the SBA. Currently, the minimum GPA for admission into the school is 2.75. Fall 2009, the minimum increases to 2.85; by fall 2011 the minimum GPA will raise to 3.00. The grades considered for admission are college grades, not high school grades. Most students apply to the SBA at the end of their sophomore year.

The second change impacts the courses Business students can take prior to being admitted to the SBA. Currently, degree-seeking students must be admitted to take senior level classes; beginning fall 2009, students must be admitted to take junior or senior level classes (300 or 400 level courses).

Students enrolled at PSU prior to fall 2009 will be allowed to use the current requirements for the 2009-10 academic year. As of fall 2010, all students must comply with the new requirements.

The SBA offers a Business Minor, which is open to all Portland State students, and we may expand the minor offerings as demand increases due to the increased standards.

For questions or additional information, contact the SBA Undergraduate Programs Office at 503-725-3712 or sbainfo@pdx.edu.

Connect with the Women's Resource Center (WRC) Community!

The WRC offers a number of ways for students to get involved. All students are invited to give us a call or stop by! The center sponsors cultural, social, and academic events and programs. We always have volunteer opportunities and will help students find interesting projects as well. It is possible to get leadership credit for volunteer work, and it's a great way to fulfill practicum requirements while building community on campus. You can also join our listserv to receive weekly updates, visit our library, ask questions, or attend an event.

The WRC advocates for the best educational and campus experience for all members of our community. We accomplish this by advancing social justice, ensuring access to personal empowerment for all self-identified women, and by working toward a safe and healthy campus.

Students who are dealing with domestic violence or sexual assault, or who are supporting someone who is, are welcome to come speak to the Interpersonal Violence Advocate. The advocate is available to speak to students one-on-one about concerns or questions. Support and discussion groups are often offered.

The Returning Women Students program provides support, classes, mentoring, and information to women returning to college after a break in their formal education. The program offers peer mentoring, a 4-credit class, and one-on-one support.

Let us know if you have any questions! We are located at 1802 SW 10th & Montgomery and can be reached at 503-725-5672 or wrc@pdx.edu. Visit us online at www.wrc.pdx.edu.

Department of Theater Arts: Auditions

Auditions for Theater Arts productions are open to all PSU students regardless of major and/or class standing. Acting auditions usually take one of two forms: auditioners will be asked to read from the script or auditioners will be asked to prepare a short audition piece. Mainstage auditions take place in mid-September for fall, early December for winter, and early March for spring. Second Season auditions take place in June for fall, October for winter, and January for spring. For Mainstage auditions, scripts are placed at the Reserve Desk in Millar Library approximately four weeks before auditions are held. For full details on auditions, visit www.pdx.edu/theater/auditions-2008-09. Students interested in other participation may contact our department office at 503-725-4612 for an interview during the audition periods.

Sign-up sheets are posted in the Green Room at the Market Center Building (corner of 4th and Market) two weeks prior to the scheduled auditions. Please come to Market Center during business hours (9am-5pm) to reserve an audition time. For questions, contact Devon Allen at devona@pdx.edu.

Dining Services at PSU

PSU Dining Services offers a full menu of choices. Whether your student is eating on campus every day or just a few times a week, he or she could be saving money with a meal plan. Tons of options help your student choose the plan that offers the best value for busy schedules. Excellent service, clean environments, and convenient locations make our dining very pleasant. Check out meal plans, hours, locations, and more at www.pdx.edu/dining.

Education Abroad Fair

The PSU Education Abroad office is hosting its 5th annual Education Abroad Fair on October 7 in the Smith Memorial Student Union Ballroom (Room 355) from 11am-2pm. The fair will feature information on our study abroad programs and internships with representatives of many programs and alumni of study abroad programs available to answer questions. We will also have a running slide show, music, food, and prizes.

The PSU Education Abroad office offers a wide variety of study abroad opportunities around the world, ranging in duration from a few weeks to a full year. Many students feel that their study abroad experience is the highlight of their college education. Studying or interning in a foreign country helps students understand their assumptions about how the world functions, while at the same time providing valuable international experience that many employers and graduate schools are looking for.

Education Abroad opportunities are available for undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and graduate students. Students can choose to enroll in programs abroad for a quarter, a semester, an academic year, or partake in one of the short-term faculty-led programs available each year. Alternatively, students can gain work experience for credit through an international internship. Education Abroad advisors are happy to work with students to help them select the right program for their academic interests and future goals.

We hope to see your student at the Education Abroad Fair on October 7!

Financial Aid Tips for Success

Students should:

- Review their MyPSU (or Banweb) Financial Aid account frequently for updates. Check Outstanding Requirements for new requests for more information and the Financial Aid status link for revised award amounts and important messages.
- Re-apply for financial aid each year, ideally by January 15, including all required data and signatures.
- Plan ahead. The average processing time is 2-3 weeks, but can be longer during peak processing times (i.e., early spring, and near the start of each term).
- Be aware of the Census Date disbursement policy and the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy. They are found at www.pdx.edu/finaid/eligibility-aid.

- Notify the Office of Student Financial Aid if they receive scholarships or other educational funding, if their enrollment plans change, if they graduate, or if they or their family experiences an involuntary loss of income.
- Apply for scholarships in late fall and early winter. Check www.pdx.edu/finaid/scholarships for information on PSU scholarships and links to other scholarship resources. Notice the application deadlines so they can prepare their applications in date order.
- Submit a signed Release of Confidential Information if they want a family member or their spouse to discuss their financial aid information.
- Prepare a budget for their expenses and resources. See the Office of Student Financial Aid for sample budget worksheets.
- Visit Student Accounts. This office answers questions about charges on PSU student accounts, payment options, most registration holds, and emergency short-term loans. Student Accounts has a window in the lobby of Neuberger Hall, or you call 503-725-3440.

Get Cerebral at PSU WEEKEND 2009

Join us as we celebrate the 19th year of PSU Weekend on October 9-10. PSU Weekend is a unique community-wide event that welcomes more than 1,200 friends, alumni, and neighbors to campus for an educational and entertaining weekend. Our keynote speaker is Will Shortz, New York Times Crossword Editor and NPR's Sunday Edition Puzzle Master. Will Shortz will be joined by 12 distinguished seminar speakers on Saturday, October 10, in the Smith Memorial Student Union.

Registration is now open for PSU Weekend! Visit www.pdx.edu/alumni for a complete listing of free seminars and other PSU Weekend events. Enter to win a Will Shortz prize package by completing the crossword puzzle at www.pdx.edu/sites/www.pdx.edu.alumni/files/media_assets/crossword_1.pdf.

Please contact the Alumni Association Office at 503-725-4948 for more information.

Immersion Language Living Comes to Portland State

This fall, PSU students studying Russian will be able to put their language skills to immediate practical use when they move into the new Russian Immersion Living/Learning Community in Stephen Epler Hall. Students of the Russian Hall, whose Russian skills range from third-year college to native speaker, pledge to speak Russian at all times in the residence hall. As a learning community, students will also work together (in Russian!) to plan community events, such as the Russian New Year Celebration scheduled for December and a skit for the Slavic Youth Leadership Conference scheduled for May.

Open to all speakers of Russian, the new immersion community will permit students to accelerate their study of Russian by living in the language. In 2009-2010, residents of the hall will enjoy the company of Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Marina Tsylyna from the Linguistics University of Nizhny Novgorod (PSU's partner institution in Russia) and a dedicated Russian lounge where students can drink tea, watch television, and even study!

Made possible by a grant from the National Security Education Program, the Russian Immersion Living/Learning Community is the first of its kind at PSU, but we look forward to a

time when students of all languages can practice their skills while living with native speakers in an immersion environment. For more information on the Russian Immersion Living/Learning Community, please contact Dr. Martha Hickey at hickeym@pdx.edu.

Information from the Ombuds Office

The Ombuds Office warmly welcomes you and your student as we begin a new academic year. We hope that you find our campus to be an inviting and welcoming community.

So what is the Ombuds program? It's a place where members of the PSU community can seek informal problem resolution and conflict management that doesn't commit the person to a formal process. We give visitors the greatest freedom in using our services, by offering confidential, impartial, independent, and informal help with finding solutions to problems that occur on campus.

The Ombuds can help your student toward self-advocacy, preparing him or her to work toward a solution. The Ombuds listens carefully; discusses questions and concerns; develops/evaluates options and strategies to resolve problems. We facilitate communication, provide information about University policies, and refer students to beneficial university services and programs. We offer a safe place to voice and resolve concerns; we complement, but do not replace, the University's formal grievance procedures and other channels of redress.

Lastly, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), limits communication regarding students' educational progress. However, we can speak broadly on process and procedures. Normally, it is best for students to visit us directly for concerns to be addressed promptly.

We look forward to working with your student. Students can contact the Ombuds if they are unsure where to address a concern, uncomfortable seeking assistance from other offices, or not sure how to move an issue forward.

The Ombuds Office is on the third floor mezzanine in Smith Memorial Student Union, Room M313. Visit our website, www.ombuds.pdx.edu, or call at 503-725-5901. We hope you and your student have a great year.

Join Portland State Athletics for Portland State Family Day

Portland State family members are invited to join Portland State Athletics for Family Day on Saturday, October 24. Family Day will feature the Portland State Viking football team in action at PGE Park against the UC Davis Aggies. Game time is 1:05PM. Family members of PSU students can buy one General Admission ticket to the game and receive a second ticket FREE! To get tickets, call the box office at 503-725-3307 or visit our ticket master page at <http://www.ticketmaster.com/Portland-State-University-Football-tickets/artist/821760>. Make sure to use discount code "Family" to receive this special ticket offer. The deadline to order your tickets is Friday, October 23 at 3:00PM.

After the football game, PSU family members are invited to the Peter W. Stott Center on the campus of Portland State University as the Viking Volleyball team takes on the Weber State Wildcats. Game time is 7:00PM. PSU family members will receive FREE admission to the game with their football ticket stub. Go Viks!

Need a Lawyer? We Can Help!

Does your student have questions about a lease? Does she or he know what to do about debt? Will your student need advice about a traffic ticket or auto accident? Our office can help! Student Legal and Mediation Services (SLMS) is a full service law firm available to eligible PSU students. The goal of SLMS is to encourage students to fully participate in and complete their academic endeavors by helping to alleviate legal obstacles to degree or program completion.

SLMS provides legal advice and, in some instances, representation to students in a broad area of topics. We also assist students through mediation and dispute resolution. SLMS maintains a referral network for students whose legal issues are beyond our resources or expertise. Free notary services are available to PSU Students every weekday from 10-11am and 2-3pm.

SLMS also strives to inform and educate students on pertinent legal topics and to interact with and make effective use of the valuable resources available in the University, legal, and Portland Metropolitan Communities. Our office is located in the third floor mezzanine of the Smith Memorial Student Union, Room M340. Please call us for more information at 503-725-4556.

News from Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Department

First the big news: our Bachelor of Science programs in Electrical Engineering (EE) and Computer Engineering (CE) have undergone major revisions – for the better, of course! Here are the highlights:

- The number of credits has been reduced to 180
- New freshman sequence ECE 101/2/3 has been designed and will be taught in 2009-10
- Senior tracks have been introduced, which will enable students to focus in one area
- EE students following our suggested schedule can start working on their Master of Science degree while wrapping up their Bachelor of Science

Check our website at www.ece.pdx.edu for more details.

In addition, our labs are seeing a major expansion so that during 2009-10 we will have two more undergraduate teaching labs: Electromagnetics, Optics, and Acoustics lab and a Capstone lab. Many new labs and activities are planned for them – stay tuned.

If you have any questions or concerns about your student's studies, please contact us at 503-725-3806 or send an e-mail to zpenev@cecs.pdx.edu. One of our faculty advisors – Dr. Brano or Dr. Hall – will be happy to sit down with your student and devise his or her plan of study, discuss career options, or answer any questions related to ECE.

PSU Library is Here to Help!

Both new and returning students find the Branford P. Millar Library to be a welcoming, supportive place to study, work on projects, meet with friends, and get help. The Library Research Center on the second floor brings together a range of services to help students, including research assistance, academic advising, math and science tutoring, and writing help. The Library has many specialized study spaces: 21 group study rooms, media rooms, a practice presentation room, and two quiet study floors. A new family-friendly study room with children's furniture and books as well as workstations for parents is opening this fall. The 50+ Library student employees also make it a very student-friendly place.

The Library's 1.4 million volumes (plus 27 million through Summit regional libraries), in-depth research databases, and specialized collections provide students with the resources they need to be successful. The Library also maintains a user-friendly online presence with many resources available online or via telephone at 503-725-5874). With helpful staff, great resources, and welcoming spaces, the Library is the place to be! Visit us on the Park Blocks in the heart of campus or online at www.library.pdx.edu.

The PSU Physics Society

The PSU Physics Society is a student group dedicated to helping students, and the community at large, develop a greater understanding and appreciation for physics. We seek to help students transition into and from academics, and to promote having fun with physics. The Physics Society also provides an interconnection between students and the national physics organizations, such as the Society of Physics Students, Sigma Pi Sigma Honors Society, and the American Physical Society.

Our biweekly meetings provide refreshments, technical speakers, demonstrations, and fun competitions. The group sponsors many other activities, such as social events, trips to museums, tours of research laboratories, and entries for national science and engineering competitions.

Joining the PSU Physics Society is a great way for your student to meet other people interested in physics, get help with physics, or just explore the wide scope of fields that physics influences. More information about the group can be obtained at www.sps.groups.pdx.edu.

PSU Recycles!

At PSU, your student will learn how to live green from day one. As part of our effort to be better stewards of our resources on campus, PSU Recycles! will offer staffed recycling stations to help your student recycle:

- Cardboard Boxes
- Rigid Plastic Packaging
- Plastic Bags
- Styrofoam
- Anything else related to your student's move-in

Please look for these stations at your student's Resident Hall. Recycling Specialists will answer questions and take recycling at: Ondine Lobby, Broadway Housing Building, and the grassy area west of Montgomery Hall from 10am-3pm, Saturday and Sunday, September 19 and 20!

PSU's Business Minor: A Great Addition to Any Major

We would like to invite your student to take part in the Business Minor through the School of Business Administration (SBA). This one-year, 24-credit Minor provides basic business skills that are essential for any major a student pursues and it offers a solid preparation for later career success. Drawing on the School's deep connections to the Portland-area business community, the Minor is taught by working professionals who emphasize real world application of business. The Business Minor includes six basic business skills classes offered through the SBA. Now more than ever, it is essential that students graduate with a set of skills that will help to distinguish them from their peers.

Your student will learn the following skills through the Business Minor:

- How to budget and balance
- How to write a marketing plan
- What to look for when you're hiring a new employee
- Tips for working on a small team and in a large organization
- Knowing when you need an accountant or a lawyer
- Where and when to advertise
- Understanding financial documents, from rental agreements to loan papers

For additional information, please visit the website at www.pdx.edu/sba/business-minor or contact Becky Sanchez at beckys@sba.pdx.edu or 503-725-4745.

Student Leaders for Service

Meet new people, discover new places, and get to work before classes start. Join PSU's Student Leaders for Service and Fish Emergency Service, Inc. for PSU's annual New Student Week Service Day on Friday, September 25!

Who: All new and returning members of the Portland State community

What: Paint the walls, create a mural, and clean rooms

Where: Fish Emergency Service, Inc. 1335 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Portland, OR 97214

When: Friday, September 25

How: To register, visit Student Leaders for Service's website at www.pdx.edu/cae/student-leaders-service

Hey, what is Fish? The primary objective of Fish Emergency Service is to provide emergency help to any and all persons who find themselves in difficulties because their basic needs cannot be met due to economic deprivation. Fish also assists, encourages, and develops the connection for people to take action when a neighbor needs help because of illness, loneliness, old age, blindness, family disintegration, loss of employment, and/or educational opportunity. For more information, visit their website www.fishemergencyservice.org.

Student Leaders for Service will provide transportation to and from PSU. Please indicate that you need a ride on the registration form. Details will be sent to you after you register.

Sustainability at PSU

"Sustainability" is a word your student will hear often at PSU. It is a concept we use to analyze how we can create a more stable world. Together, the three parts of sustainability – stable Equity, Economy, and Environment – are equally important factors to consider as we work to create a world that can meet the needs of current and future generations.

There are many ways for new students to gain enriching skills and valuable networking experiences at PSU through sustainability. The Sustainability Leadership Center offers resources to students who want to meet like-minded peers and participate in initiatives that move us closer to a sustainable campus community. We also provide support for students with creative ideas for campus sustainability projects.

For more information, contact Heather Spalding, Sustainability Leadership and Outreach Coordinator, at hspaldin@pdx.edu or 503-725-5598. Be sure to visit the PSU EcoWiki at

ecowiki.pdx.edu and e-mail us to sign up for our semi-monthly bulletin. The EcoWiki Bulletin is the most comprehensive source for sustainability news, events, and opportunities at PSU.

Students can also visit the GreenSpace, PSU's student sustainability resource center, in Smith Memorial Student Union, Room 26 (in the basement next to Food for Thought Cafe). The GreenSpace's grand opening will occur on September 21 and 23. Encourage your student to check the New Student Week packet for details – this is a brochure your student will receive in the mail during the week of September 14.

PSU's sustainability community welcomes you to campus!