



# PennWest

## ***CALIFORNIA***





# Agenda



**7:00 PM**

**Welcome**

**7:05 PM**

**Student Panel**

**7:20 PM**

**Information Session**

- Getting to know the Campus
- Financial Aid
- Housing & Dining
- Student Success & Wellness
- New Student Orientation



**8:20 PM**

**Wrap Up & What's Ahead**





**CURRENT STUDENT PANEL**









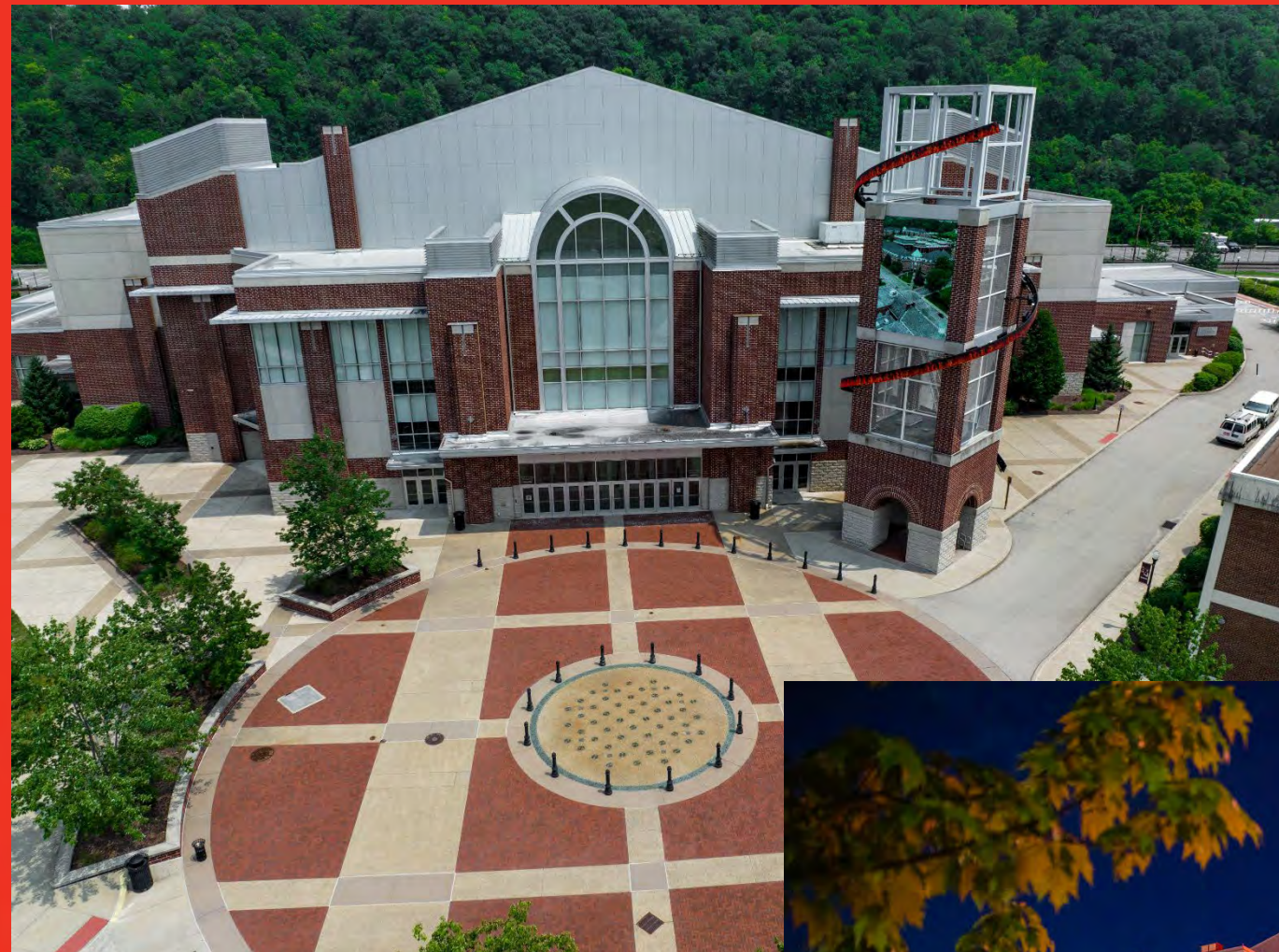














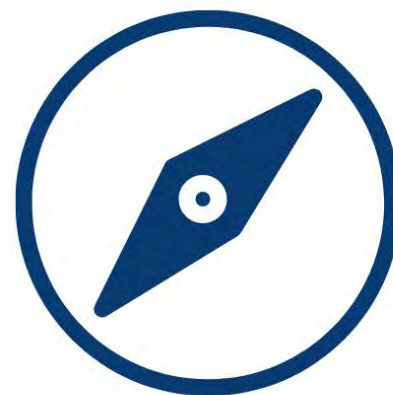
# Transitioning to PennWest



**From  
Open House  
or Campus Visit**



**To  
Admitted  
Student Day**



**To  
Orientation**



**≡Welcome≡**

**And  
Welcome  
Weekend!**

**PennWest** UNIVERSITY



# Say Yes to PennWest — Submit Your \$100 Deposit



- Deposit at [\*PennWest.edu/deposit\*](https://PennWest.edu/deposit).
- Reserve your seat at PennWest.
- Apply for PennWest housing.
- Sign up for New Student Orientation.
- Begin taking math and English placements.
- Your Academic Coordinator will also be able to schedule your first semester classes.



# Estimated Financial Aid Offer



- At the end of January, *Estimated Financial Aid Offers* started to be emailed out and will continue to be sent weekly.
- The email is sent to both the student's personal email on file and his/her PennWest email accounts.
- The email will come from *financialaid@pennwest.edu* and will include a link to access the offer.
- The information on your offer is only accurate as of the date listed on the top right corner.



# Financial Aid Terminology

***Federal Pell Grant*** – Federal grant that is need-based and does not have to be repaid

***Federal SEOG*** – Federal grant that is offered to students with the most financial need and does not have to be repaid

***PA State Grant*** – Pennsylvania state grant that is need-based and does not have to be repaid

***Federal Direct Subsidized Loans*** – A loan for students with financial need. You won't be charged interest while you are enrolled in school as long as you remain at least half time.

***Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans*** – Interest starts accumulating from the date of your first loan disbursement (when you receive the funds from your school.)

***Costs Payable to the School*** – Expenses you will find on a university invoice such as tuition and fees, and room and meals if you are living on campus.

***Costs Paid to Others*** – Expenses you won't find on a university invoice such as books and supplies, transportation costs, and miscellaneous/personal expenses.

***Cost of Attendance (COA)*** – Total cost for a student to attend a specific school. The COA includes both costs payable to the school and costs paid to others.



# Financial Aid Next Steps



- File the 25-26 FAFSA if you have not done so already at [\*https://studentaid.gov\*](https://studentaid.gov).
  - Create an FSA ID for both parent and student 3 days prior to starting your FAFSA.
- PHEAA's deadline this year is May 1, 2025.
- If selected, verification is completed at [\*https://pennwest.studentforms.com\*](https://pennwest.studentforms.com).
- Apply for PennWest Scholarships.
- Apply for External Scholarships.
- Watch for information to register for PennWest New Student Orientation.
- Pay your Admissions Deposit and join the PennWest community!



# Contact Financial Aid

- Email: ***financialaid@pennwest.edu***
- Call: 724-938-4415, 814-393-2315, or 814-732-3500
- Or stop in: Monday - Friday, 9 AM – 4 PM

CALIFORNIA CAMPUS	CLARION CAMPUS	EDINBORO CAMPUS
Dixon Hall 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Becht Hall 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Hamilton Hall 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor





# CAMPUS DINING 101

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR VULCAN MEAL PLAN

## DINING LOCATIONS & HOURS OF OPERATION

**Gold Rush Dining Hall** Level 2 - Natali Student Center  
Monday - Friday | 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM  
Saturday - Sunday | 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

**Flatz** Level 1 - Natali Student Center  
Monday - Friday | 7:30 AM - 2:30 PM

**Flatz Evening Eats** Level 2 - Natali Student Center  
Sunday - Thursday | 4:00 PM - 11:30 PM

**Vulcan Express** Level 2 - Natali Student Center  
**Self-Service Micro Market**  
Use your Student ID or Credit/Debit to make purchases  
Monday - Friday | 6:00 AM - 12:00 AM  
Saturday - Sunday | 8:00 AM - 12:00 AM

**Chick-fil-A Express** Level 1 - Natali Student Center  
Monday - Saturday | 10:30 AM - 5:00 PM

**Umami** Herron Hall  
Monday - Friday | 10:30 AM - 6:30 PM

**Vulcan Market** Vulcan Village Clubhouse  
Open 24/7 with Student ID access



## MEAL PLAN BASICS

Meals in a weekly plan (19, 14, and 10) reset every Monday, while meals in a block plan (75 and 40) carry over from week to week for the duration of the semester.

Meal transactions using a Meal Swipe, Meal Exchange, or Meal Equivalency can be used every 15 minute. All meal plans come with five guest meals for students to use in the Gold Rush on friends, family, or themselves.

Meal Exchanges may be used on select menu items at Flatz, Vulcan Express, Vulcan Market at Vulcan Village, and on Saturdays at Chick-fil-A Express.

A meal equivalency of \$7.40 may be used on all items at Umami. Additional order balances can be paid with Dine or Shop Dollars, Cash or Credit.

Dine Dollars can be used to make purchases at all campus dining locations and vending machines - including those at Vulcan Express and Vulcan Market.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Can I change my meal plan?

Yes - Students are able to submit meal plan changes (or cancellations for Vulcan Village and commuter students) through their my.pennwest portal until the first Friday of the semester. Please note that changes and cancellations submitted after the meal plans have become active for the semester are subject to additional fees.

### What happens to unused Dine Dollars?

Any Dine Dollars remaining in your account at the end of the fall semester will carry over into the spring semester. However, any Dine Dollars remaining at the end of the spring semester cannot be transferred and are non-refundable.

### What if I have dietary restrictions?

Our dining program can accommodate medical dietary requirements and assist you in choosing wisely if allergies are a concern. For additional information or questions, email our Resident Director, Melinda Gibson, at gibson\_m@pennwest.edu.

## MOBILE ORDERING

Campus dining is now even easier with mobile ordering. Simply follow the steps below -

**Step 1:** Download the *Transact Mobile Ordering* app through the App Store or Google Play. If you already use the app - uninstall and reinstall before following the remaining steps.



**Step 2:** Select *PennWest California* and hit continue.

**Step 3:** Login with your Campus ID and password. (Example: ABC1234 without the pennwest.edu)

**Step 4:** Select your preferred dining location.

**Step 5:** Select your preferred Tender Method.

**Step 6:** Place your order.

**Step 7:** Present your QR code to pick up your order.





# Everything you need to know about PennWest – California CAMPUS DINING

## RESIDENTIAL PLANS

Students living in the residence halls must select from one of the following residential weekly plans that allot 4 meals per day

19 Meal Plan - \$2,395  
19 meals per week  
\$225 dine dollars

14 Meal Plan - \$2,295  
14 meals per week  
\$225 dine dollars

10 Meal Plan - \$2,195  
10 meals per week  
\$225 dine dollars

### DINING LOCATIONS

GOLD RUSH DINING HALL  
FLATZ  
EVENING EATS  
UMAMI  
CHICK-FIL-A  
VULCAN EXPRESS  
VULCAN MARKET



## BLOCK PLANS

In addition to the meal plans listed above, Vulcan Village and Commuter students also have the option to select from one of the following block plans that allot three meals per day –

75 Block Plan - \$795  
75 meals per semester  
\$125 dine dollars

40 Block Plan - \$495  
40 meals per semester  
\$125 dine dollars

## DIETARY CONCERNS

Our dining program can accommodate medical dietary requirements and assist you in choosing the best menu options if allergies are a concern.

To set up a 1-on-1 meeting with our Executive Chef, Jen, simply email us at [richmond@pennwest.edu](mailto:richmond@pennwest.edu).

## WAYS TO PURCHASE FOOD

**Meal Exchanges** are meals that are included in a meal swipe that do not require an additional balance to be paid during check out. Locations with meal exchange options have designated meal exchange menus that rotate periodically.

**Meal Equivalency** is a cash equivalency of \$7.40 that can be used towards the balance of your meal transaction at all retail locations.

**Dine Dollars** can be used to make food and beverage purchases at all dining and vending locations on campus. Dine Dollars remaining in your account at the end of the fall semester will carry over into the spring semester provided that you continue on a meal plan. However, any balance remaining at the end of the spring semester will not roll over and is non-refundable.

Meals in a Residential Meal Plan reset every Monday, while meals in a Block Plan carry over from week to week throughout the duration of the semester.

All meal plans come with five guest meals for use in the Gold Rush dining hall.

Meal Plans transactions can be used in 15-minute intervals.



# ON-CAMPUS HOUSING LOCATIONS



## First Year

GUESMAN HALL

## First Year and Upperclass

RESIDENCE HALL E, JOHNSON HALL, SMITH HALL,  
AND CARTER HALL

## Upperclass

VULCAN VILLAGES

WIFI, LAUNDRY, COMMUNITY KITCHEN,  
GATHERING SPACES, AND LOUNGES

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR SUITE LAYOUTS





# CALIFORNIA HOUSING COMMUNITIES



First -Year



Quiet  
Living



Honors



Education



Cultural  
Awareness



Gender  
Identity



# HOUSING CONTRACT/ RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

## RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

**ALL NEW UNDERGRADUATE FRESHMEN WILL BE REQUIRED TO LIVE ON-CAMPUS FOR THEIR FIRST FOUR SEMESTERS (NOT INCLUDING WINTER OR SUMMER).** The signed contract is for a full academic year.

*Exemptions to this policy*

*Found in your Housing Portal*

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Fall 2026 sign-ups will begin in Fall 2025, check your email!**



# HOUSING APPLICATION

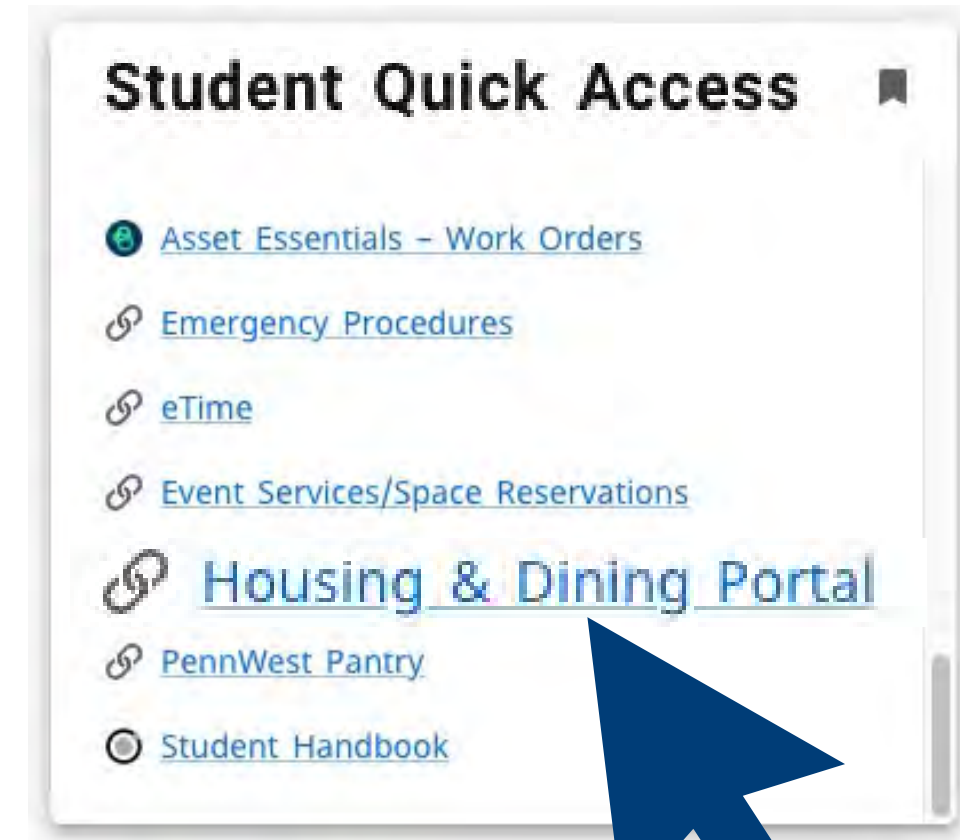
**Apply**

**MyPennWest → Housing & Dining Portal**

## Steps to Complete

- **Read & sign the housing contract**
- **Answer living preference questions**
- **Pay \$100 application fee**

**Under 18? Parent/guardian must sign. An email will be sent to them after submission.**





# ROOM SELECTION

**24**  
MAR

**ROOM SELECTION PHASE 1 OPENS**

***\*DEADLINE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PHASE IS MARCH 18***

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**19**  
MAY

**ROOM SELECTION PHASE 2 OPENS**

***\*DEADLINE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PHASE IS MAY 13***

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**16**  
JUN

**LAST CALL FOR OPEN ROOM SELECTION**

**OPEN FROM JUNE 16TH - JULY 13TH**

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**14**  
JUL

**ALL HOUSING WILL BE ASSIGNED MANUALLY FROM THIS DATE ON**



# MENINGITIS INFORMATION

Per Pennsylvania Law all students living in University housing must complete the form found at the QR code.

**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO THIS ASAP**

Room keys cannot be given at Move-In Day, without this completed information on file.





# Your First Schedule

**Built by Academic Coordinators based on prototypes established by your department.**

- **English and math placements required prior to first schedule**
- **First Year Seminar as a gen ed requirement**
- **Multiple pathways**

**Sent for your review via @pennwest.edu email address**

**Questions: *myfirstschedule@pennwest.edu***





# Starfish

Scan for a  
one minute  
video.



- **University-wide software**
- **Houses comprehensive student profile**
- **Holistic advising**
- **Success Network**
- **Raise Your Hand**



# Peer Mentoring

- Available to all incoming first year students
- Paired with a mentor based on academic interests, social interests, etc.
- Fosters a connection and sense of belonging from day one
- Higher retention rates





# Success Coaching



## Support all UG students

- Walk-in or appointment via Starfish
- Locations on each campus and Zoom for online students

## Resources for transition to college:

- Time management
- Study skills
- Test-taking strategies
- Overcoming procrastination
- And many more topics available



# Tutoring, SI & Writing Center

- **Tutoring**
  - Peer tutoring in person and via Zoom
  - Online supports 24/7 via [tutor.com](https://tutor.com)
- **Supplemental Instruction (SI)**
  - SI leaders attend class alongside you then offer outside of class sessions to develop learning strategies and study skills
- **Writing Center**
  - Peer-led supports for academic writing assignments
  - Available for all courses, not just English



# Register for New Student Orientation



- New Student Orientations take place throughout the summer.
- Your best chance to prepare for your start at PennWest.
- Meet and connect with other incoming students.
- Hear from faculty and Success Coaches.
- Review your financial aid.
- Register at [\*\*\*PennWest.edu/nextsteps\*\*\*](https://PennWest.edu/nextsteps).





**2025**  
The Power of PennWest

## THE NSO PROGRAM:

Once you've submitted your enrollment deposit, you can register for a new student orientation to get to know your campus and meet some of your incoming class peers. You will also have the opportunity to review your fall schedule, meet with faculty and staff, and get all of your financial aid and residence life questions answered.

1. Make connections
2. Ask questions
3. Get to know your campus
4. Finalize and submit paperwork

# WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Meet your fellow peers and current students
- Meet with your academic areas and discuss your class schedule
- 1:1 time with offices (financial aid, success coaches, etc.)
- Explore the campus (Campus and Residence Hall tours)





# LOOK FORWARD TO...



# WELCOME WEEKEND!

PennWest UNIVERSITY