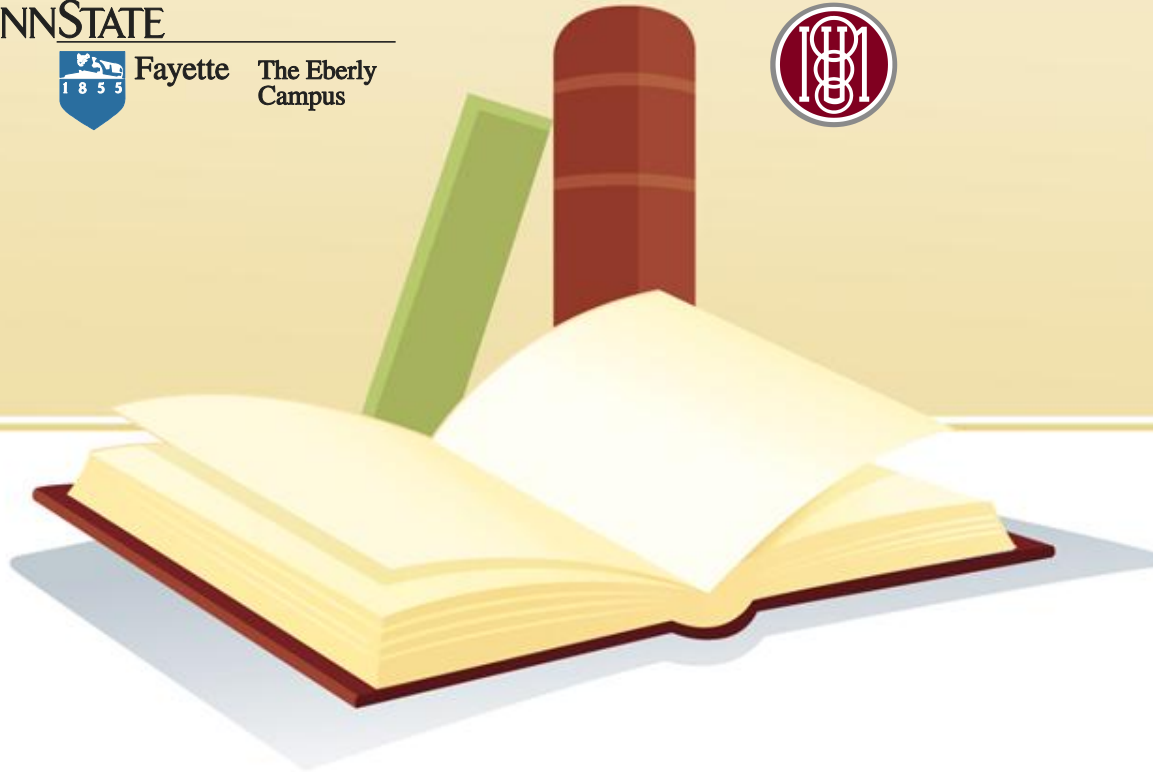


Destination: Higher Education!

A partnership between Penn State Fayette and
the Intermediate Unit 1



Intermediate Unit 1(IU1)

www.iu1.k12.pa.us

1 of 29 IU's in PA

IU1 Mission:

IU1 is a public educational service agency dedicated to providing quality leadership and services to the schools and communities of Fayette, Greene, and Washington Counties to assure their success as they prepare all learners to meet the challenges of an information society.

Seven Departments:

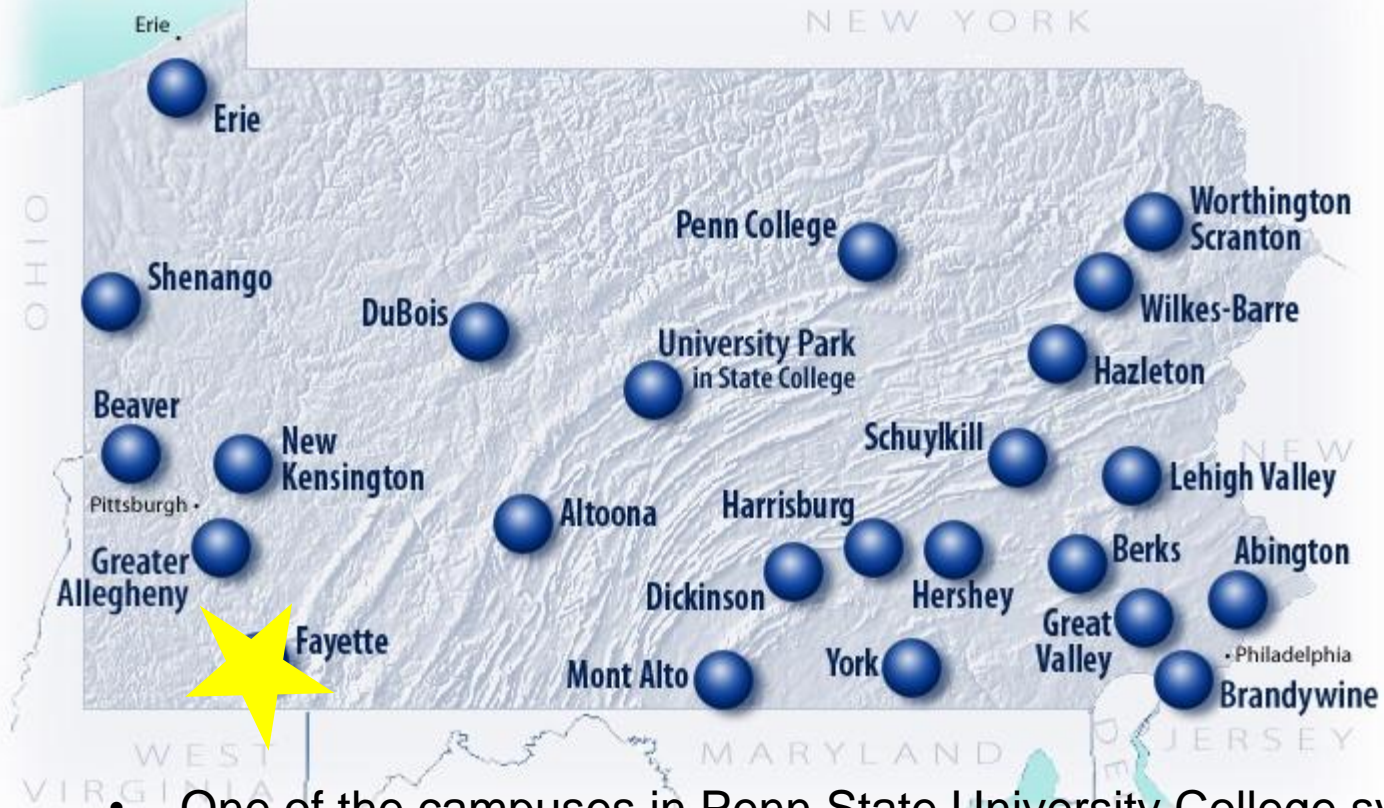
Adult, Nonpublic, and ESL Education; Special Education; Instructional Support; Information Services; Business; Operations; Human Resources

Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) Services

- Funded through Pennsylvania Department of Education grant funds for 35 years
- Provides classes in Adult Literacy, Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, General Education Development (GED), GED testing, Transition to Post-Secondary, Transition to Work, Distance Learning, Work Certified
- Class sites in four CareerLinks, Penn State Fayette, Penn Commercial, Adult Learning Center, Washington-Greene Job Training, Inc.
- Enrolled 671 adult students in 2008-2009

ABLE Statistics for Fayette County

- 24% of adults do not have a high school diploma
- 8.5% of adults have below a ninth grade education
- 1.3% of adults with below a fifth grade education
- 3.5% of population on public assistance
- 15.9% below poverty level (Only Philadelphia has higher %)
- 9.1% single parents (Only Allegheny Co. and Philadelphia have higher %)
- 12.4% female households (Same % as Allegheny Co.) Philadelphia, Dauphin and Delaware have higher %.



- One of the campuses in Penn State University College system
- Located in southwestern PA
- Commuter campus
- Enrollment approximately 1,100 students
- 35% adult learners



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Positive campus/community influences –

- Only college located in Fayette County
- Offer seven bachelors degrees
- Offer eleven associate degrees – *new this fall* - physical therapy assistant
- Established great relationships with high schools for dual enrollment
- Offer transition/bridge programs for adult learners



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Negative campus/community influences –

- Fayette county unemployment rate for April 13.5%*.
- Fayette county school districts, graduation rate has decreased 34% since 2004-2005**.
- Penn State University – highest public university tuition in the United States.
- No dorms - recruit majority of students from in 4 county area.
- Westmoreland County Community College opened satellite branch in Uniontown in 2008 – enrollment growing.
- California University of PA enrollment growing rapidly.

Sources

* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 4/21/2010

** Pennsylvania Department of Education *Tribune Review*



Fayette adult enrollment – since fall 2007 semester – 406 new adult learners were admitted.

- 24% admitted as freshmen
- 35% admitted as transfer students
- 33% admitted as provisional students
- 8% admitted as advanced provisional



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Definitions ...

Provisional student - A student that is admitted without all the entrance qualifications needed to be admitted into degree status. Examples— low or no math, GED, low high school gpa < 2.0

Advanced provisional – transfer student with low transfer gpa.

Important

Provisional students:

- ✓ qualify for student aid
- ✓ get all the services as regular students
- ✓ are on academic 'trail'
- ✓ must maintain a 'C' average
- ✓ must apply for degree status before they complete 36 Penn State credits



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Fayette provisional students tend to:

- borrow more money
- have low academic skills
- leave before graduation – (on average 55% retention rate for campus)

Which creates for the campus:

- greater debt – especially if student do not re-pay loans
- lower the overall campus grade point average



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So why do we admit provisional students?

- They are the makeup of our community.
- All Penn State campuses are enrollment driven for funding.

Starting spring 2010 semester – a new provisional admissions policy* went into effect.



*Prior to this policy the campus had no provisional minimal requirements for admissions.
Note: Penn State University allows campuses to decide on their provisional guidelines.



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For the fall 2009 semester a partnership between Penn State Fayette and the Intermediate Unit 1 was formed –

the Adult Learning Program at Penn State Fayette was established.

The Adult Learning Program is a classroom and an office located right next to the Admissions Suite on campus.

All services and materials are 'free' to students. Someone from the IU1 is available on-campus everyday.



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Effective spring 2010 semester, to be admitted as a Penn State Fayette provisional student you:

- must take the TABE test offered through the IU1
- must successfully complete all recommended IU1 programs based on your TABE test results

Or a student can successfully complete remedial classes (minimal 12 credits) at a community college.



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The TABE test, a test of Adult Basic Education;

- identifies basic skill deficiencies in reading, math and language
- provides grade equivalences in each area
- is offered three days a week; Monday, Wednesday and Friday @ 2:00 p.m. in the ALP classroom. The test is free and takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete and is administered by the IU1

At the conclusion of the TABE test –

- scores are reviewed with the student and a Penn State admissions counselor.
- admissions options are discussed.
- recommendations are made.



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The results of the TABE test will determine the student admission decision.*

If a student scores below a cumulative 10th grade high school level they will not be recommended for admission.

- These students will have to complete the basis reading, writing, and math instructional program offered through the IU1.
- It will be also recommended that these students complete the transition programs offered through the IU1.
- After successful completion of both programs, provisional admissions may be offered.

If a student scores into a 10th grade cumulative high school level they may be considered for admission.

- These students will be required to take the transition and math bridge programs offered through the IU1.
- In co-junction with the student's Penn State placement test scores, the student may be able to register for Penn State classes.
- The student must successfully complete the transition and math bridge program.

If a student scores into a 11th grade or higher cumulative high school level they will be offered provisional admissions.

- These students will be given the opportunity to take any applicable remedial classes through the IU1 or Penn State.



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Additionally we added this statement:

*In addition to the above TABE test results, a number of other factors will be used when determining whether a student is admissible to Penn State Fayette. Examples are; whether a student has a high school diploma vs. GED, the length of time a student has been out of school, the amount of math a student has had previously, etc. Recommendations can be made on an individual basis after evaluation of student academic record.



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Where we started....

- Fall 2009 served as a « pilot » program
- Basic math, English and reading instruction was offered. This session runs 3-hours in length.
- Transition Bridge program included math, reading, and language remediation all together.
- Spring 2010 the Transition Math Program was created as an independent class and was 60 minutes in length.
- Students were re-TABE tested to see how they improved.
- Recommendation for scheduling Penn State classes were made based on the Penn State placement exam and their success in the ALP programs.



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Were we are now.....

- Evening Transition Bridge Program focuses on developing critical reading and writing skills
 - Program is structured as an introductory college course.
 - Weekly assignments, including a short paper are required.
 - Lecture notetaking, annotation, textbook organizational patterns, and study skills are taught.
 - Test taking strategies, time and stress management are discussed.
 - Class meets for 3-hours twice a week.
 - A final project is due.
- Transition Math Program – now focuses on pre-algebra
 - Class time was extended to 90 minutes in length
 - Penn State math faculty created a exam to measure success
 - Students must receive a passing grade of 70% or better to be recommended for college algebra (math 21).



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Were we are now.....

- Transition Bridge and Transition Math are 8-weeks in length.
- Two sessions are scheduled for each semester.
- Summer 2010 an intersession is being offered for existing ALP students for one-on-one tutoring.
- The summer sessions for basic instruction and transition bridge and math runs from June 7 – August 9 2010.
- The summer transition bridge and math courses are being made available for incoming freshman who place in remedial classes based on their FTCAP exam.



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