

2025-2026

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY



FAMILY GUIDE



TABLE OF *CONTENTS*

WELCOME PIONEER FAMILIES

02

THE PIONEER EXPERIENCE

03

CAMPUS OFFICES

04

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

06

CAMPUS SUPPORT

07

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

15

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

17

WELCOME PIONEER FAMILIES!



President Chris Brussalis

Welcome to Point Park University. When one of America's greatest cities is your campus, you have endless opportunities for a more active, more engaged, and more professional education. Our faculty and students are immersed into the fabric of Pittsburgh. We are proud to provide a professionally rich atmosphere where students benefit from academic opportunities through cooperative education, internships, faculty projects, and connections with alumni who are making valuable contributions in their respective fields. We are invested in ensuring that every student who comes to Point Park leaves here with a degree and a path to a successful career. All of our faculty and staff, myself included, are available to assist your students on their journey.



VP of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Keith Paylo

Welcome to the university! All of Student Affairs is waiting with open arms to guide your student through life outside of the classroom. We work alongside your student as they grow both personally and professionally in the Point Park and wider communities. Our success is the student's success, and our goal is not only to meet but to exceed expectations. Please encourage your student to connect with our Student Affairs staff anytime there's a need. Go, Pioneers!

THE PIONEER EXPERIENCE

What does it mean to be a Pioneer?

Point Park University is a dynamic urban campus that is unlike many universities. Here the students are immersed in Downtown Pittsburgh and campus life. Being a smaller university we provide a more individualized experience on and off campus. Here, students will be able to gain experience and internships and learn from professors working in the field.



The Pioneer
Experience

Point Park University Mission

We inspire imagination and creativity through experiential learning to advance society.

Vision

To be one of the most dynamic, urban universities in America.

Values

- Inclusiveness
- Integrity
- Innovation
- Excellence

CAMPUS OFFICES

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

(Disability Services,
Accommodations, Accessibility
Support, and Advocacy)

📍 West Penn, 5th Floor
🕒 Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
✉️ accessibility@pointpark.edu

UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

(Student Records, Name/Address
Change, Courses Catalogs and
Registration, Transcripts)

📍 Thayer Hall, 1st Floor
🕒 Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
✉️ Registrar@pointpark.edu

COMMUTER RESOURCES

(Lockers, Parking, Public
Transportation, UPass Program)

📍 Student Center, 7th Floor
🕒 Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-6:00 pm
✉️ studentlife@pointpark.edu
☎️ 412-392-8026

**OFFICE OF Title IX and
Dispute Resolution**
(Title IX, Complaints,
Discrimination/Harassment,
Support, Resources)

📍 Student Center, Room 104
🕒 Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
✉️ TitleIX@pointpark.edu

CAMPUS POLICE

(Point ALERT, tip411, Lock-Outs,
ID Center, Emergencies,
Crime Reports)

📍 Frontier Hall, 3rd Floor
🕒 24-Hour Dispatch Center
✉️ pointparkpolice@pointpark.edu
☎️ 412-392-3960

University Advising Center
(Academic Guidance, Tutoring Services,
Course Registration, Campus Resources)

📍 West Penn, 5th Floor
🕒 Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
✉️ uac@pointpark.edu
☎️ 412-392-8153

FINANCIAL AID

(Financial Aid Awards,
Scholarships, Grants, and Loans)

📍 Thayer Hall, Room 121
🕒 Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
✉️ financialaid@pointpark.edu
☎️ 412-392-3930

PROFESSIONAL CAREER- READINESS CENTER

(Co-op/Internship, Job Search,
Resumes, Interviewing)

📍 Student Center, Lower Level
🕒 Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
✉️ careerdev@pointpark.edu
☎️ 412-392-3950

CAMPUS OFFICES

RESIDENCE LIFE

(Campus Housing, Meal Plans, Lock-Outs, Room Change Requests)

- 📍 Student Center, 7th Floor
- 🕒 Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-6:00 pm
- ✉️ studentlife@pointpark.edu
- ☎️ 412-392-8026

SPIRITUAL LIFE

(Spiritual Support, Community and University Religious Groups)

PointPark.edu

Search: Spiritual Life

OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

(Co-curricular, and Non-Academic Needs of Students)

- 📍 Student Center, 7th Floor
- 🕒 Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30pm
- ✉️ studentaffairs@pointpark.edu
- ☎️ 412-392-3840

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

(Residence Life/Housing, Commuter Resources, Study Abroad)

- 📍 Student Center, 7th Floor
- 🕒 Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-6:00 pm
- ✉️ studentlife@pointpark.edu
- ☎️ 412-392-8026

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

(Tuition & Fees Billing, Payment Plans, Collections, Refunds)

- 📍 Thayer Hall, Room 121
- 🕒 Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
- ✉️ studentaccounts@pointpark.edu
- ☎️ 412-392-3424

STUDENT HEALTH CENTER

(University Nurse, Supportive health care, Community health referrals, and, STI testing/support)

- 📍 Student Center, 3rd Floor
- 🕒 Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
- ✉️ studenthealth@pointpark.edu
- ☎️ 412-392-3800

OFFICE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

(Student Accountability, Student Handbook, Drug & Alcohol Education, and Student Support)

- 📍 West Penn, Room 536
- 🕒 Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
- ✉️ studentconduct@pointpark.edu
- ☎️ 412-392-3993

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC)

(Mental Health Support, Individual therapy, Initial Screenings & Consultations, Community Referrals)

- 📍 Lawrence Hall, 5th Floor
- 🕒 Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
- ✉️ counseling@pointpark.edu
- ☎️ 412-392-3977

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION



Questions or concerns?
Contact:
orientation@pointpark.edu

What is Pioneer Experience?

Pioneer Experience is a one-week orientation program to help new students transition and acclimate to campus life. This program is led by Pioneer Ambassadors who are upperclass students trained to help facilitate educational learning and support the students. During the week new students can expect to learn about various offices, campus resources, meet other students, and participate in a variety of events.

Who are the Pioneer Ambassadors?

Pioneer Ambassadors serve as guides during the orientation programs. These select upper-level students receive rigorous training to assist with questions about various topics, from academic resources to clubs and organizations. Ambassadors interact with first-year students through the first semester to assist with their college transition; students can seek help from Ambassadors to resolve any concerns or issues.

CAMPUS SUPPORT



At Point Park University it is our goal to help students succeed during their time with us. We understand that each student has individual needs in what they require to thrive. While students learn about all of these resources through orientation and in classes, this section is intended to help you support your Pioneers when they turn to you for guidance. We encourage you to coach your students to take initiative so we can help them succeed.



UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Who do students call?

- In case of an emergency on campus, students should call 412-392-3960, or 2222 from any campus phone
- Calling these numbers directly connects students with Point Park Public Safety Dispatch, which is available 24/7
- Point Park Police are an accredited university police department

What can students call Public Safety about?

- Campus-related emergencies
- General safety concerns
- Escort from one campus building to another (while student safety is a top priority, students may have to wait for an officer to be available in order to be escorted)
- Lockouts

What is PointALERT?

- PointALERT is an emergency notification system delivered via text, email, and/or voice message; students and families can sign up for PointALERT
- Sign-up information is found on the University Police Department's webpage

When does PointALERT send immediate notifications?

- PointALERT provides all members of the campus community with appropriate notice of an actual immediate threat to health or safety
- If a situation arises and is immediately responded to, making it no longer an immediate threat, a PointALERT will NOT be sent out

HEALTH SERVICES

What services does the Student Health Center provide?

- Students can schedule appointments with the nurse via the online portal
- Students can visit the nurse for first aid intervention, annual flu shot during flu shot clinics, illness and injury assessment, starter doses of over-the-counter medication, health screenings such as blood pressure, weight and height measurements, and health education and resource materials.



What if a student needs care beyond the services provided by the Student Health Center?

- Point Park partners with Allegheny Health Network at AHN Downtown Medical Center and Express Care for medical care outside the scope of the Student Health Center.



Access to the student's health information

- The Student Health Center is committed to maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of all student health records and medical information. Our policies align with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to ensure the protection of student health information.
- Medical information will only be released to third parties (e.g., faculty, parents, employers) with a signed authorization form from the student, available online
- Exceptions to confidentiality include medical emergencies, when legally required, or in cases of threats to self or others.



COUNSELING CENTER



Does my student need a reason to see the counseling center?

- No, school is hard and so is this transition which can bring up a lot of fears and anxiety
- Going to counseling whether or not there is something major in life is a fantastic way to help students navigate this new chapter in life

Is it difficult to get an appointment?

- There are a few factors that impact getting an appointment, one of the biggest being the student's availability
- While some students may have more trouble getting an appointment due to their schedule, this does not hold true for every student. Encourage your student to take the first step by contacting the Counseling Center (UCC) or visiting the website
- For students unable to schedule an appointment, the UCC has connections to many different support systems on a wide variation of topics

Tell me more about the Counseling Center

- The staff includes full and part-time licensed therapists, as well as doctoral students from Point Park's Community Psychology (Psy.D.) Program.
- Depending on the severity of treatment needed, students may be referred to off-campus, specialized treatment.
- The UCC is meant for short-term support of 6-8 sessions. The UCC can help identify appropriate therapists and mental health professionals in the community for students interested in continuing their care on a long-term basis.

TITLE IX



What does Title IX mean for my student?

- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq., and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 106, prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities operated by recipients of federal financial assistance and requires the school not to discriminate.
- This policy applies to conduct committed by students, faculty, (union and non-union) employees, administrators, volunteers, independent contractors, and visitors against a person in the United States. This policy prohibits sexual harassment towards University community members of any sex, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation

What happens when there is a Title IX report made?

- Title IX is a federal government policy that is constantly changing. If a student reports or is reported to Title IX, the office will be in contact with them
- The Title IX office will walk them through the initial reporting process and all available steps and options in alignment within the current policy
- The office's web pages will have the most updated policies and information
- Students are not required to provide a statement if they don't want to. However, the University reserves the right to move forward without a statement from the student.

Who can report to Title IX?

- Anyone has the ability to file a complaint with Title IX
- All University personnel and select student employees are considered and trained to be mandatory reporters

TUTORING SERVICES

What tutoring services are available?

- Students are able to receive writing support and academic tutoring, as well as academic coaching
- Based on the student's needs, they can receive weekly tutoring, or just as needed
- Students interested in academic coaching can request services through the scheduling portal online. Staff will then set up a meeting to determine whether academic coaching is the appropriate support for the student and, if so, schedule an intake session to pair the student with one of our coaches.
- The Tutoring and Writing Centers make a reasonable effort to meet the academic support needs of students in a wide variety of courses. However, we may not be able to honor every request due to staff/student availability or inability to locate a qualified tutor.

What can tutors help with?

- General coursework
- Assignments
- Studying
- Supplemental learning support outside of the classroom

Where to start?

- To start, students should visit the website at pointpark.edu/academics/academicresources/tutoring/index



Note: The more flexibility a student has, the more likely they will have more options for appointments

Housing & Meal Plans



How does my student make meal plan changes?

- For meal plan changes, students can visit the Student Life page on the website, then go to Living on Campus > Contracts & Forms > Meal Plan Change Form
- Meal plan changes can only be made within the first two weeks of a semester

How do meal plans transition from the fall to spring semesters?

- All meal plan contracts are for both the fall and spring semesters.
- Students may change their meal plan within the first two weeks of the fall or spring semester.
- Unused meals do not carry over to the next semester or year.
- Flex dollars carry over from the fall to spring semester but must be used by the end of the spring semester

Where and who can add Flex?

- Anyone may add Flex dollars to a student's account as long as they have the student's ID and date of birth. This does not grant them access to the student's tuition account (student account).
- In PointWeb, under the Quick Links menu, select Guest Login & Flex, then select Guest Login & Flex again. (Login not required)

How do students request a room change?

- Students are required to speak with their Resident Educator (RE) before submitting a room change request. The RE will walk them through the University's process and policies.
- Students can find the Room Change Request form on the Student Life Contracts & Forms page on the University's website.

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

Who is Required to Have Insurance (Mandatory)?

- Athletes, Dance and Theatre majors (all concentrations), and international students are required to have health insurance that fully meets University requirements.
- Cost of the SHIP is automatically added to the tuition bill every fall and spring semester. A credit will be issued for the cost if a waiver is approved.
- Online enrollment and waiver requests must be submitted before the posted deadline. Students who do not have an approved waiver by the deadline will be enrolled in the SHIP by the University and the charges remain on the student's account for the year. No late waivers are accepted.
- SHIP waiver or enrollment is required every academic year the student is mandatory.

Note for Athletes

- The SHIP waiver process is not the same as providing an insurance card or information to the Athletics Department or the athletic trainers as part of the medical information required for participation in the student's sport.

What about Students Not Required to Have Insurance (Voluntary)?

- Voluntary students may enroll in the SHIP but are not required to do so.
- Students may request in writing to use financial aid to cover the cost of insurance. See website for instructions.

What Else Should I Know About the SHIP?

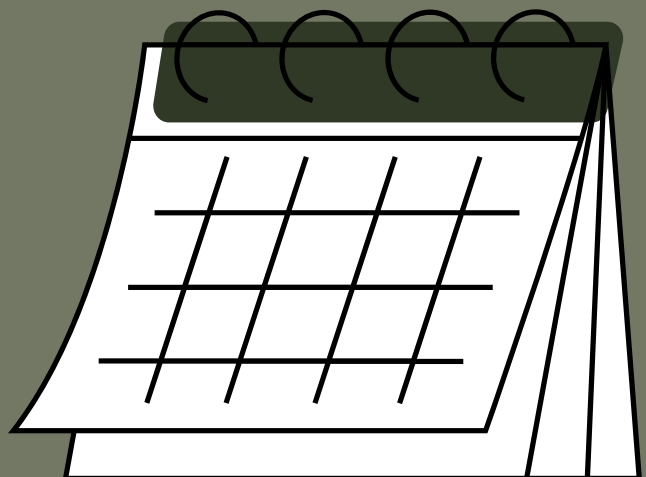
- The University partners with Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield for the SHIP
- The plan year runs August 1 through July 31 (12 months)
- Plan is a PPO with in-network and out-of-network coverage
- Dependent coverage is available; the student must also be enrolled
- Coverage is available outside of open enrollment periods for students with a qualifying life event
- Students who wish to enroll in the SHIP should do so as soon as possible. Do not wait for auto-enrollment by the University, as this does not take place until after the semester deadline.
- Students enrolled in the SHIP who wish to continue their coverage from year to year must re-enroll every academic year. Renewal of coverage is not automatic.

For more information visit pointpark.edu/insurance

2025-2026 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Traditional Fall Semester

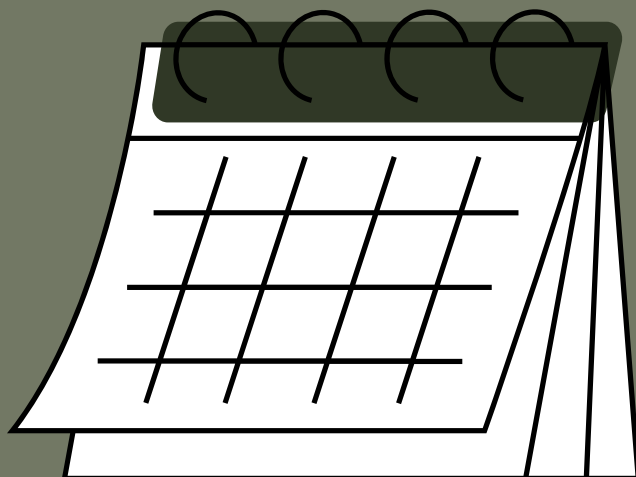
08/25/2025	Fall Term Begins
09/01/2025	Closed - Labor Day
09/02/2025	Final Day to Add/Drop; Final Day of 100% Reduction of Tuition
09/09/2025	Final Day to receive a 50% Reduction of Tuition
09/12/2025	Census
10/07/2025	Final Day to Receive an Automatic "W"
10/10/2025	Midterm Grades Due
10/28/2025	Pioneer Pause - No classes in session
11/14/2025	Final Day to Withdraw (Automatic "F" after this date)
11/24/2025	Thanksgiving Break Begins
11/30/2025	Thanksgiving Break Ends
12/01/2025	Classes Resume
12/08/2025	Last Day of Class
12/09/2025	Final Exams Start
12/12/2025	Final Exams End
12/12/2025	Fall Term Ends
12/17/2025	Grades are Due



2025-2026 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Traditional Spring Semester

01/19/2026	Observance of MLK Day; University offices closed
01/20/2026	Spring Term Begins
01/27/2026	Final Day of Add/Drop Final Day of 100% Reduction of Tuition
02/03/2026	Final Day to receive 50% Reduction of Tuition
02/06/2026	Census
03/03/2026	Final Day to Receive an Automatic "W"
03/08/2026	Spring Break Begins
03/15/2026	Spring Break Ends
03/16/2026	Classes Resume
03/20/2026	Midterm Grades Due
04/17/2026	Final Day to Withdraw (Automatic "F" after this date)
05/04/2026	Last Day of Classes
05/05/2026	Final Exams Start
05/08/2026	Final Exams End
05/08/2026	Semester Ends
05/09/2026	Commencement
05/13/2026	Grades are Due



Family Orientation Video Link

For More Information, Visit
PointPark.edu/PioneerExperience



Family Weekend 2025

The **New Dates** for Family Weekend are
Friday, October 17 through Sunday, October 19
www.PointPark.edu/FamilyWeekend



