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Get Involved at The Ohio State University

What is there to get involved with at Ohio State?

That’s what this guide is all about. Flip through the pages to get ideas about what path you’ll choose. Whether it’s by joining a student organization, playing an intramural sport, volunteering in the community or diving into any of Ohio State’s other amazing opportunities, you’ll discover that there’s no place quite like The Ohio State University!

Who should get involved at Ohio State?

Getting involved is part of the Buckeye experience! Ohio State’s expectation is that every student finds at least one meaningful activity outside of class to complement the things you learn in class.

Why should I get involved?

When compared to uninvolved students, those who get involved are more likely to get better grades, establish a network of friends, organize their time better, manage their stress more effectively and most importantly—graduate! Getting involved also helps prepare you for your career and enables you to enjoy the Buckeye experience to the absolute fullest!

When should I get involved?

That’s a decision that’s completely up to you. Many students start getting involved within their first few days on campus, so that they can start meeting people and getting connected. Others wait a few weeks, a couple of months or even a whole semester to get used to classes and establish a schedule for studying, work, exercise, etc. Both are perfectly good strategies, but we recommend getting started within your first six weeks.

How do I get started?

This guide is full of suggestions for offices, websites and organizations to which you can go for more information. Here are some other tips:

- If you live in a residence hall, ask your RA or hall directors for their advice.
- Attend either of the Student Involvement Fairs held at the beginning of each semester to meet the leaders of student organizations and see what might be a good fit for you.
- Check the Student Activities’ calendar of events or pay attention to flyers around campus to find out what’s going on, especially info sessions student organizations hold at the beginning of the year. Grab a friend from your hall or from class and check it out together.
- If it’s more comfortable for you, start out by getting into things that you did in high school. Once you get established, you can move on to things you can only try while you’re here.

Great involvement is almost everywhere you turn on campus...but don’t wait for it to come to you!

Ohio Union • 1739 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43210 • 614-292-7924

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Academic/College Involvement
What do the Underwater Robotics Team, Folklore Student Organization and the Saddle and Sirloin Club have in common? They are all great academic organizations that any student could join!

There are lots of academic organizations that are available for students and many opportunities to get involved within your college and major. There are literally hundreds of student organizations that focus on a specific area of study. You do not have to be a part of a specific major to take part in an affiliated organization.

Academic organizations can help you explore the professional paths of your major, provide you with insight into special opportunities and help you network with people in your field of study. You can talk with your academic advisor or check out the college websites to learn about the different organizations that your college and major have to offer.

College Councils

Many colleges have student-led councils that serve as advisory groups and represent the interests of students in those colleges’ majors. Check your college’s website to see if they have a council with which you can get involved.

Some examples of colleges with groups like these are:

- Architecture
- Arts and Sciences
- Dentistry
- Fisher College of Business
- Education and Human Ecology
- Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
- Law
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Pharmacy

Academic Groups Not Affiliated with a College

In the online student organization directory, you can find a complete list of registered groups that identify as Academic/College. Contact info for those groups is available online at go.osu.edu/FindAStudentOrg organizations. Here are a few examples:

Academic Team

Did you play quiz bowl or academic challenge in high school and are itching to pick up the buzzer again? Do you watch Jeopardy from your living room and dominate the players on the show? The Academic Team gets together weekly to play trivia games and competes with teams from other schools in local, regional and national competitions.

Mock Trial

The purpose of Mock Trial at Ohio State is to replicate all aspects of the legal process. Students learn how to prepare witnesses for trial and how to portray them at trial. Competitive tournaments allow students to perform the materials they’ve prepared for months and be critiqued by attorney judges. Mock Trial provides students with valuable experience in preparing for trial and being in the courtroom.

Speech and Debate

Ohio State’s competitive Speech and Debate Team represents the university at competitions throughout the year. Their goal is to establish a nationally competitive program that allows for the personal development of its members’ communicative and academic abilities regardless of skill level.

Collegiate Council on World Affairs

Learn about international relations and diplomacy through an intercollegiate model United Nations competition or participate in other Collegiate Council on World Affairs programs.
For some, getting involved with the arts may be performing on campus. For others, involvement with the arts could mean visiting galleries and attending the incredible variety of cultural and performing arts right on campus and throughout the city.

Student Life’s Discount Ticket Program (D-Tix) at the Ohio Union provides inexpensive access to the arts, on and off campus. Read more about it in the Exploring Columbus section of this guide or by visiting dtix.osu.edu.

Wexner Center for the Arts
The Wexner Center offers entertaining and educational public programs for all ages and backgrounds. You’ll find events that introduce and illuminate the exhibitions, film screenings and performances—and other aspects of contemporary culture. Currently enrolled Ohio State students are automatically “student members” at the Wexner Center. While student benefits differ somewhat from those offered to paying members, they still offer great and discounted access to Wexner Center exhibitions, performing arts, film/video and public programs. Visit wexarts.org for more details.

Broadway Across America
Broadway Across America features touring Broadway shows such as timeless classics like Chicago, Cats, The Phantom of the Opera and The Lion King and newer hits like Avenue Q, Jersey Boys, Wicked and Hamilton. The shows take place downtown at the beautiful Ohio Theatre and Palace Theatre. Find out more at columbus.broadway.com.

CAPA of Columbus
CAPA programming includes jazz, world music, folk, country, classical music, comedy, dance, classic films, theater and family entertainment. For more information about CAPA and upcoming shows, visit their website at capa.com.
Columbus Symphony Orchestra

Founded in 1951, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra (CSO) is Central Ohio’s only full-time professional symphony. The CSO performs year-round, including an outdoor Pops series in the summer. See columbussymphony.com for more details.

Columbus Jazz Orchestra

The Columbus Jazz Orchestra (CJO) was formed as a vehicle to create performance opportunities for jazz musicians in a big band setting. Over forty years later, the CJO is considered one of the world’s finest jazz orchestras. Go to jazzartsgroup.org for more info.

BalletMet

BalletMet has provided artistic excellence in the field of dance to Central Ohio since 1978. Annually, BalletMet reaches a total audience of nearly 125,000 through performances at home and on tour, Academy classes and activities and extensive DanceReach educational/outreach programs. Find out more at balletmet.org.

Columbus Museum of Art

The Columbus Museum of Art houses an outstanding collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century American and European modern art. This collection includes major works by Monet, Matisse, Picasso, Renoir, Hopper, O’Keeffe and other spectacular examples of Impressionism, German Expressionism and Cubism. See columbusmuseum.org for more details.

Performing on Campus

Department of Theatre

Department of Theatre auditions and productions are open to all students enrolled at Ohio State, regardless of major or rank. There are discounted tickets for students and opportunities to be an usher. Find production and audition information at theatre.osu.edu.

College of the Arts/School of Music

Musical ensembles you can join include concert bands, athletic bands, choral ensembles, orchestras, opera and musical theatre. Find out more at music.osu.edu and dance.osu.edu.

Arts Performance

Student Organizations

In the student organization directory, you can find a complete list of registered groups that identify as Creative and Performing Arts. Contact info for those groups is available online at go.osu.edu/FindAStudentOrg.

Here are a few examples:

8th Floor Improv and Fishbowl Improvisational Comedy Group

These groups exist to provide a creative outlet for students through improvisational comedy while entertaining audiences.

Off the Lake Productions

Off the Lake Productions allows Ohio State students to participate in the theater as well as take part in community service. This student-led organization produces a musical each spring with admission being one canned good.

Medieval and Renaissance Performers Guild

The purpose of this club is to facilitate the recreation of the Medieval and Renaissance time period through acting, theatrical combat, singing, improv, dancing and other period activities.

A Cappella Organizations

A number of a cappella vocal performance organizations exist on campus, each with their own unique music and performance styles. Search the student organization directory at go.osu.edu/FindAStudentOrg for the term “a cappella” to find information on several different groups.
Athletics and Buckeye Spirit
Varsity Sports

There are 37 varsity sports at Ohio State! While getting involved with the teams as a student-athlete is a limited opportunity based on many factors, athletics is a huge part of the Ohio State culture, and supporting the sports teams is a great way to show your Buckeye Spirit!

Here’s a list of Ohio State’s varsity sports:

**Men’s Athletics**
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Fencing
- Football
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Ice Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Pistol
- Rifle
- Soccer
- Spirit Program
- Swimming/Diving
- Tennis
- Track and Field
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

**Women’s Athletics**
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Fencing
- Field Hockey
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Lacrosse
- Pistol
- Rifle
- Rowing
- Soccer
- Softball
- Spirit Program
- Swimming/Diving
- Synchronized Swimming
- Tennis
- Track and Field
- Volleyball

Get more information at [ohiostatebuckeyes.com](http://ohiostatebuckeyes.com).

There are also several ways to get involved with the traditions related to Buckeye spirit and athletics. Here are a few examples...

**Block ‘O’**

Block ‘O’ is one of Ohio State’s largest student organizations and has gained local and national recognition. As the official student section for all Ohio State sports and athletic events, Block ‘O’ spreads spirit, starts cheers and leads card stunts in Ohio Stadium for football games. In addition to football, you can share your pride and support for other athletics during basketball season as a member of the “Buckeye Nuthouse,” at volleyball games as part of the “Scarlet Setters” and at men’s hockey games with the “knucklebucks.”

**Best Fans in the Land**

The Sportsmanship Council exists to establish good sportsmanship as a continuing tradition at The Ohio State University. A great way to get involved with the Sportsmanship Council is through the Game Day Buckeye Ambassadors Program. Groups of ambassadors roam the tailgate and Stadium areas on football Saturdays and actively welcome fans to Ohio State, especially supporters of the visiting team. The goal is to promote good sportsmanship between Buckeye fans and the opposing teams, as well as to establish a sense of responsibility to uphold the “Best Fans in the Land” tradition.
Some Ohio State Spirit Traditions Every Buckeye Should Know...

**Brutus Buckeye**

One of the more visible symbols of Ohio State Athletics is Brutus Buckeye, the school’s mascot. In 1965, an art student designed and introduced the first Brutus, while the name was chosen in a contest. The mascot began as a hardened paper-mache affair that looked like a bowling ball with legs. In 1975, a radical new Brutus was designed with a prune-like head and a man’s body. That attempt was booed off the field and was re-worked, giving way to a mascot comparable to the beloved present-day Brutus. Interested in sharing your spirit and pride as Ohio State's proud and energetic mascot? Try-outs for the famed position occur each spring semester in conjunction with Cheerleading try-outs. Each Brutus is considered by demonstrating personality skills, creativity and the ability to interact with crowds.

**Spirit Program**

Ohio State Athletics’ Spirit Program consists of the Cheerleading/Brutus Buckeye Squad and the Dance Team. These students are a constant source of support at athletic and other special events throughout the year.

**Buckeye Grove**

Since 1934, a Buckeye tree has been planted in honor of each of Ohio State’s All-American football players. Trees are usually planted in a pregame ceremony at the spring game. With the renovation of Ohio Stadium in 2001, the Buckeye Grove is now located at the southwest corner of the stadium.

**The Illibuck Trophy**

The Illibuck trophy is given every year to the winner of the Ohio State-Illinois game since 1925. The trophy was originally a live turtle, but was replaced with a wooden carved turtle in 1927. Members of two junior honor societies, Bucket and Dipper at Ohio State and Sachem of Illinois present the Illibuck trophy during halftime of the Fighting Illini-Buckeye to the winner from the previous year.
The Ohio State University Marching Band

Skull Session

In 1932, Eugene J. Weigel enhanced the band’s performance by having members completely memorize music before the game each week.

By doing this, bandmen could concentrate more on the marching maneuvers without sacrificing the music. Weigel then scheduled a final rehearsal of the music before game time so the band could play and think through the show one last time—one last “Skull Session.” Skull Session starts one and a half hours before kickoff of every home football game. It is a popular concert/pep rally, with over 10,000 fans in attendance. Seats for Skull Session are in high demand, and it is not unusual for dedicated fans to arrive up to two hours before the band.

Script Ohio

The signature formation of the Ohio State Marching Band performed before, during halftime or after home games is Script Ohio. Each time the formation drill is performed, a different fourth or fifth-year sousaphone player has the privilege of standing as the dot in the “i” of “Ohio.”

Dotting the “i”

At exactly 16 measures from the end of “Le Regiment,” the drum major struts out toward the top of the “i,” with the sousaphone player high-stepping a couple of paces behind. As the crowd’s cheering crescendos, the drum major stops and dramatically points to the spot. The sousaphone player assumes the post of honor, doffs their hat and bows deeply to both sides of the stadium. Woody Hayes, Bob Hope, Jack Nicklaus and John and Annie Glenn are among the select few non-band members who have had the honor of dotting the “i.” This is considered the greatest honor the band can bestow to any non-band person and is an extremely special (and rare) event.
Campus Employment
It Can Pay to Be Involved!
Another great way to get involved at Ohio State is through on-campus employment. The university employs thousands of students each year, and these jobs are often flexible with your class schedule and other activities. Students who work on campus get to learn more about the university structure, build great connections with coworkers and gain skills that future employers are seeking – all while earning a paycheck!

See What a Job Can Do for You
The Office of Student Life is the largest employer of students on campus each year, and one great benefit of working within Student Life is the Student Employment Experience, or SEE for short. Through SEE, supervisors take time each semester to discuss how your job can help you toward academic and career goals. Also, student employees get access to paid professional development workshops each semester.

Where Can Students Find Jobs?

Job Postings
At careers.osu.edu, you’ll find a terrific resource that shows available positions, pay rates and instructions for applying to jobs. The Student Financial Aid jobs board sfa.osu.edu/jobs not only posts the positions available for students who qualify for Federal Work-Study, but also general on-campus jobs, too! This is another resource for finding a great job on campus!

Campus Departments
If you have a specific department or college in mind, check directly with their office. Most departments within the Office of Student Life employ students, and here are a few of the departments that offer the most positions.

Dining Services: dining.osu.edu/jobs
University Housing: housing.osu.edu/jobs
Recreational Sports: recsports.osu.edu/employment
Ohio Union:
ohiounion.osu.edu/about_the_union/employment

For a full list of Student Life departments that may have on-campus job opportunities, visit studentlife.osu.edu/departments. You can also check with your college’s office or your faculty members for opportunities to do research or assist in programming. The Wexner Medical Center, University Libraries, Athletics, Public Safety and dozens of other departments on campus hire students. Don’t be afraid to ask if you’re interested in working with a particular area.

Career Services
Last but certainly not least – career services offices are here to help you with every step of your career development, including landing a campus job. If you need help with a resume, interviewing skills or just want to brainstorm some job opportunities, career services within your college or in the Buckeye Careers office is a great place to turn! To make an appointment, log-in to your Handshake account, click “Career Center,” and click “Appointments.” From there, you will be able to schedule an appointment with a Buckeye Careers coach.

Here’s a Tip!
If you plan to work on campus, part of the hiring process requires you to verify your ability to work in the U.S. through bringing an original copy of an acceptable verification document. For a complete list of acceptable documents, visit go.osu.edu/i-9-verification.
Ohio State is one of the most exciting universities in the nation when it comes to events on campus! Attending those events and helping to plan them are both great ways to get involved and meet people.

The Student Activity Fee you pay each semester creates literally hundreds of free events every year.

**The Ohio Union Activities Board (OUAB)**

The Ohio Union Activities Board, the student programming organization at Ohio State, strives to provide diverse programs and events that are educational, entertaining and thought provoking for the students of the Columbus campus. OUAB plans and executes over 300 free events throughout the year for undergraduate, graduate and professional students. Highlighted events include Dan Levy, America Ferrera, Anthony Mackie, Simone Biles, Eric Nam, Monica Lewinsky and Tan France just to name a few. Be sure to follow @OUAB on Twitter and Instagram so that you don't miss out on big event announcements and ticket release dates.

**Ohio State Signature Events**

Some of Ohio State's most prominent and traditional student events receive Student Activity Fee funds and are designated as Signature Events. Some of those events are described below. Others include Taste of OSU, African Night, RUOK Day, Thanksgiving Dinner, Light Up North Area, Alleviating Poverty Through Entrepreneurship, International Student Welcome Party, TEDxOSU, HackOHI/O, National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) Step Show and African American Heritage Festival. Visit [activities.osu.edu/programs/signature_events](http://activities.osu.edu/programs/signature_events) for more info.

**Welcome Week**

Welcome Week features events during the first week of autumn semester. Highlights of the week include Convocation, Student Involvement Fair, Buck-i-Frenzy, Buckeye Kickoff and an outdoor movie sponsored by the Ohio Union Activities Board (OUAB). Find the whole schedule at [welcomeweek.osu.edu](http://welcomeweek.osu.edu).
Involvement Fairs

Near the beginning of each semester, the Office of Student Life’s Student Activities hosts special table fairs where you can meet members of Ohio State student organizations, departments, and community agencies. The Autumn and Spring Involvement Fairs are a must if you want to get a leg up on getting involved. Visit go.osu.edu/SIF for more details.

Homecoming

Homecoming offers a variety of events and activities during the week leading up to the homecoming football game. One event you don’t want to miss is the annual Homecoming Parade! The parade features university student organizations and departments, community organizations, and the TDBITL, as they showcase their Buckeye spirit and enthusiasm the evening before the game. During the parade you will be introduced to the year’s Homecoming Court, if interested in running, applications become available in the spring semester for the following year. Be sure to visit homecoming.osu.edu to learn about other events and opportunities connected with Homecoming related events.

Commencement Week

Commencement Week is a series of events taking place during the end of the autumn and spring semesters. The week is celebrated during finals week to appreciate all graduating undergraduate, graduate and professional students, providing them an opportunity for graduates and their families to celebrate their momentous achievement! The Candlelight Ceremony takes place the evening before Commencement, featuring the university president and graduating students are selected to serve as the featured speakers of the program. This special tradition where we sing Carmen Ohio under the stars, is something no graduating student should miss. Check out commencementweek.osu.edu for more info.

Other campus traditions...

Greek Week

Greek Week is a week full of competitions, spirit and themed gatherings for all fraternities and sororities. Traditional highlights include the Greek God and Goddess competition, tug of war and a variety show.

Visit sfl.osu.edu for more details.

BuckeyeThon

BuckeyeThon is the largest student-run philanthropy on campus, raising over $10 million in its history. It is a year-long fundraiser, culminating in two 12-hour dance marathons at The Ohio State University. Money raised supports Nationwide Children’s Hospital and the Children’s Miracle Network. During the event, enthusiastic morale captains host activities, games and challenges for the dancers. Visit buckeyethon.osu.edu for more info!

Disability Awareness Month

During April, Student Life Disability Services celebrates Disability Awareness Month by hosting numerous activities, such as wheelchair basketball, beep ball, movie viewings, art exhibitions and dancing wheels. See ods.osu.edu for event info.

Parent & Family Weekend and Sibs & Kids Weekend

Parent and Family Relations sponsors Parent and Family Weekend each fall and Sibs & Kids Weekend each spring. Parent and Family Weekend features three days of great events for the whole family to connect with Ohio State. During Sibs & Kids Weekend, Ohio State students can invite any younger sibling, niece, nephew, cousin or friend of the family to experience the excitement of Ohio State and some special events planned just for them. Go to parent.osu.edu for more details.
Community Engaged Learning
In fulfillment of the university’s mission, “education for citizenship,” Ohio State students have numerous opportunities to connect with communities, engage in social justice issues and develop skills for active citizenship. Student Activities offers a variety of programs designed to help students engage at a local, national and global level with diverse communities. Service and Outreach programs can include a variety of time commitments from service events that last one day, one full week or an entire school year.

Here are some of Ohio State’s great service opportunities:

**Pay It Forward**
A student cohort within the Office of Student Life, Pay it Forward, is committed to instilling a lifelong passion in Ohio State students for ‘paying it forward.’ They make giving back easy by planning, implementing and connecting students and organizations to service initiatives on campus and within the Columbus community.

Pay It Forward provides a variety of service opportunities for Ohio State students, including:

**Community Commitment**: A single-day, campus-wide service event held annually during Welcome Week. Students serve alongside fellow Buckeyes at sites across Columbus.

**Battle Against Hunger**: Is a month-long program aimed at creating awareness of issues surrounding food insecurity through food drives, service and educational events. Students can get involved by hosting a food drive during November and through service experiences at Columbus-based nonprofits.

**MLK Day of Service**: More than 1,000 students come together to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in this annual, single-day service event.

For more information about Pay It Forward’s events and opportunities, or about joining the cohort, visit: payitforward.osu.edu.

**Buck-I-SERV**
Buck-I-SERV is Ohio State’s alternative break program. Part of the Office of Student Life, Buck-I-SERV sends over 1,100 students on week-long service trips across the country and internationally. Trips are held during winter, spring and summer breaks and focus on a variety of social issues including poverty, hunger, environmental needs, education, immigration, HIV/AIDS and more. For more information, visit: buckiserv.osu.edu.

**OSU Votes**
A non-partisan, student-led effort around civic engagement, OSU Votes registers, educates and encourages students to vote as part of being an active citizen. For more information, visit go.osu.edu/osuvotes.

**Service-Learning Courses**
Service-Learning Courses provide a hands-on way for students to become engaged with classroom material. Students will learn about issues in a classroom environment and then connect with those issues by contributing to the community through volunteer service. For more information about service-learning courses, visit: u.osu.edu/servicelearning.
Cultural Engagement
Getting involved with the incredibly vibrant diversity of the Ohio State student population means being willing to learn about the culture of those that might have grown up with a different experience, but it also means being willing to share your own story with others.

Learning a new cultural perspective can take place where you live, where you study and take classes, within a student organization or at any of the hundreds of cultural events that occur on campus every year. These pages describe some of those important events. For more information on diversity at Ohio State, see osu.edu/diversity.

**Student Life Multicultural Center**

The Student Life Multicultural Center (MCC) occupies a beautiful space on the first floor of the Ohio Union lantern tower that shines a light on this space where everyone is welcome. Operating a safe and inclusive space on campus serves as a center for intercultural dialogue, learning and community building. The Multicultural Center focuses its programs and services on three themes: advocacy and visibility, education and empowerment, and support and belonging. For more information about all of the ways you can get involved, visit mcc.osu.edu.

**Diversity, Intercultural and Community Engagement Certificate**

The Diversity, Intercultural and Community Engagement (DICE) Certificate Program of the Student Life Multicultural Center is for students interested in exploring diversity, intercultural engagement and socially just leadership. This certificate verifies to employers and graduate schools that recipients are prepared to live and work in a diverse environment and are committed to improving their communities. Points for the DICE certificate are earned by engaging a variety of programs including cultural events, workshops related to social justice and bias prevention, signature MCC programming, approved service projects and/or diversity leadership retreats. For more information on how to become a part of this program, visit go.osu.edu/diceregistration.

**Student Community Groups**

Student Community groups of the Student Life Multicultural Center focus on intersections between identities, community building, personal development and leadership. The groups are implemented with the support of student leaders, professional staff and in partnership with student organizations and other campus resources. These include the APIA Community, Native American and Indigenous Peoples Community, LGBTQ Dialogue Communities, African American Leadership Council, Latino Student Association, Advocates for Inclusion, CASA Community and Diversity, and the Women’s Communities.
Heritage and Awareness Events

Heritage and Awareness Events are the hallmark programs of the Student Life Multicultural Center and demonstrate a strong tradition of honoring historical contexts, exploring culturally significant events and raising visibility of under-represented groups. Our intercultural format invites students of all backgrounds and experiences to take part in celebrations such as Latino History Month, National Coming Out Day, OSUnidos Awareness Week, Indigenous Peoples Day, Transgender Day of Visibility, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, United Black World Month and Women’s History Month.

Alternative Thanksgiving

Alternative Thanksgiving is an open alternative event to the Thanksgiving national holiday. This event gives Native American/Indigenous students an opportunity to create/nurture their Ohio State community as they would if they were at home within their tribal communities whether in an urban, reservation or traditional lands space. This is an event where friends and allies will learn about history and traditions of Native American/Indigenous peoples at the time of contact and differing viewpoints. Traditional Indigenous foods will be served. To assure enough food, this is an RSVP event. Please contact Melissa Jacob, jacob.197@osu.edu.

African American Heritage Festival

The African American Heritage Festival is one of Ohio State’s Signature Events intended to celebrate, educate, impact and promote cultural awareness while commemorating the legacy of the African American experience. It is an eight-day festival sponsored by the Student Life Multicultural Center that takes place during spring semester. Any student can become a part of the leadership team to plan the events of the week. Past events included artistic entertainment, concerts, educational summits, community building, service learning events and much more! To learn more about the festival and how to become a part of the leadership team, visit mcc.osu.edu and heritagefestival.osu.edu.

Mentorship Programs

The Mentorship Programs of the Student Life Multicultural Center foster enriching relationships and confidence growing activities that support students through different stages of their academic careers. Peer Mentors are 2nd, 3rd or 4th year undergraduate students who choose to engage by giving back. These students participate in comprehensive training preparing them to facilitate dialogues with their mentees on such topics as campus resources, academic success and overall well-being. Community mentors are Ohio State alumni, community leaders and Ohio State staff and faculty who guide their mentees in gaining clarity on academic and career goals, developing networking and leadership skills and successfully planning to make the transition from school to the workplace. To get involved, check out go.osu.edu/MentorshipPrograms.

Week of Action

Week of Action is an initiative of the Student Life Multicultural Center that seeks to reach out to the entire Ohio State campus community in an effort to encourage students, staff and faculty to stand up with and advocate on behalf of people who are of a different race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious or spiritual identity, gender identity/expression, socioeconomic class or other social identity different than their own. Each of the week’s events and programs are heavily focused on the themes of awareness, education and action.

The Revolution

The Revolution is a weekend retreat facilitated by the Student Life Multicultural Center, wherein participants come together to create more connections and meaningfully engage with student leaders around campus committed to diversity and social justice work. Together, we share a transformative experience in which we are able to deeply and meaningfully explore the significance of our and others’ social identities, and learn about ways we can advocate for each other, ultimately working toward positive social change not only on our campus, but also in the greater community.
The Safe Zone Project

The Safe Zone Project with the Student Life Multicultural Center aims to raise awareness and discuss ways to make the spaces we live, and work in, more welcoming and inclusive of LGBTQ people. This interactive training provides a forum for sharing of information, breaking down stereotypes and opening up dialogue. This includes an overview of information to increase awareness, knowledge and understanding about sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

Social Justice Engagement

Social Justice Engagement at the Student Life Multicultural Center is a social justice and intercultural diversity education program at The Ohio State University. SJE works proactively to promote understanding of intergroup relations inside and outside of the classroom through dialogues, workshops and trainings. SJE’s mission is to promote inclusive intergroup learning and to facilitate improved group dynamics through these co-curricular educational opportunities. SJE initiatives include our Diversity, Intercultural and Community Engagement (DICE) program (see page 18 for more information), Alonso Family Dialogue Series, Buck-Identity Workshops, and other exciting programing.

Diversity and Social Justice in Leadership

(ES HESA 2577) Diversity and Social Justice in Leadership: A Journey Towards Intercultural Leadership is a three-credit course designed to bring together students from different cultural and social identity groups in a facilitated learning environment. Interactive dialogues engage students in exploring issues of diversity and inequality as well as their personal and social responsibility for building a more just university and society. Students gain valuable leadership skills that they can effectively utilize long beyond the classroom. Classes are offered every Fall and Spring Semester. For more information, visit mcc.osu.edu.
National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) Step Show

The NPHC Step Show is a showcase of dance tradition that is a fusion of African routines and contemporary dance moves. The show features Ohio State Greeks and also includes Greeks from other universities nationwide. It is held every Spring semester during Greek Week. See sfl.osu.edu for more information.

First Generation College Students

Being the first in your family to attend college is something to be proud of! There are a lot of other students, as well as many staff and faculty on campus who were also the first in their families to attend. We’re glad you’re here!

Whether you are a new incoming student, returning for another year or transferring in from another campus or university, the Student Life Multicultural Center is here to offer you a home away from home. We host a variety of opportunities to get familiar with campus, connect with friends and other university resources, and develop strategies to thrive here at Ohio State and beyond. For more information, check out www.FirstGenBuckeye.

Women Student Initiatives

Women Student Initiatives provides intersectional and inclusive programming for all women and women-identifying people. WSI works to support and encourage students to grow personally and professionally while recognizing, honoring and celebrating differences in identity. Our programming includes cohorts, social events and Women’s History Month with a variety of topics related to mentorship, advocacy, leadership development and civic engagement. Learn more at women.osu.edu.

The Hale Center

The Frank W. Hale, Jr. Black Cultural Center hosts supportive programs and activities for all of the university community with an emphasis on the development and advancement of Black students.
Some of the Hale Center programs include lectures, cultural activities, cook-outs, workshops and other events to promote cultural and social education for students. The Hale Center has one of the largest collections of African and African American art in the country! For more history and information on the Hale Center, visit odi.osu.edu.

Hagerty Hall
Hagerty Hall houses the departments that include language, literature and culture courses. Throughout the building, cultural art can be found. There are frequent competitions for showcasing student photography from their personal traveling experiences. The first floor features the World Media and Culture Center (WMCC) which incorporates many cutting edge multimedia materials useful in learning languages, culture and navigating the international world. The WMCC includes computer and video conference centers, classrooms and studios. Hagerty is also home to Crane Café where students can go to eat, watch international programming, learn and practice languages and more.

Undocumented and DACA Students
The Ohio State University welcomes students who have DACA status, are undocumented, or have undocumented family members to our diverse educational community. We are committed to providing support for all of our students so that they may focus on the pursuit of their education. Being undocumented may create unique obstacles during your college experience. We’re here to support your successfully navigating the university experience! Information about central resources for DACA and undocumented students can be found at www.go.osu.edu/DACAStudentLife.
One of the great benefits of living in the 14th largest city in the United States is that you have the culture, arts, sports, shopping, metro parks and great restaurants of a major metropolitan area within a reasonable walk or bus ride from campus. Take advantage of everything Columbus has to offer and let Student Life’s D-Tix program help you do it on a college student’s budget.

**The Discount Ticket Program at the Ohio Union (D-Tix)**

Funded by the Student Activity Fee, Student Life’s Discount Ticket Program is offered exclusively to Ohio State students to provide undergraduate, graduate and professional students access to hundreds of events at a discounted rate. Students also have an opportunity to experience trips to surrounding areas of Columbus at a great price.

Students can get their Discounted Tickets at the Information Center in the Ohio Union. Select ticketed events require online registration through the D-Tix Lottery System. Be sure to check out the D-Tix website and sign up for weekly e-mail updates at [ditx.osu.edu](http://ditx.osu.edu). You can also contact D-Tix at 614-688-INFO (4636).

Some examples of general discounts available weekly include: Columbus Museum of Art, COSI, Columbus Zoo, Franklin Park Conservatory, Game Arena OSU, Scene 75, SegAway Tours of Columbus, Rock N’ Roll Hall of Fame (Cleveland, OH), Columbus Food Adventure Tours and many more. Other lottery events offered through D-Tix online registration include: Columbus Crew SC, Columbus Blue Jackets, Columbus Clippers, Columbus Symphony and Jazz Orchestras, Balletmet, Broadway Across America and other special events at venues such as Value City Arena, Nationwide Arena, KEMBA Live and the Newport Music Hall.

**Experience Columbus**

Get a complete overview of all the great things to do in Columbus at [experiencecolumbus.com](http://experiencecolumbus.com).
Performing Arts

Columbus Association for the Performing Arts—CAPA, as it is known locally—owns and operates three beautifully restored theatres in downtown Columbus: Ohio, Palace and Southern. The theatres are home to organizations such as The Columbus Symphony, BalletMet, Opera Columbus, Broadway Across America–Columbus, Columbus Jazz Orchestra and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra. In addition, CAPA operates three theatres in the Riffe Center, also located downtown. Companies that make the Riffe Center their home include the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO) and Phoenix Theatre Circle (family theater). Visit capa.com for more details about venues and performances.

Sports

Columbus has made its mark in many sports. The Columbus Crew is one of Major League Soccer’s first teams, and they play at Lower.com Field, a 20,000+ seat soccer-specific stadium that opened in 2021. Nationwide Arena is the home of the National Hockey League’s Columbus Blue Jackets. Just down Nationwide Boulevard from the arena is the site of Huntington Park, home of the Cleveland Guardians’ Triple-A baseball club, the Columbus Clippers. Columbus is also home to the PGA Champion Jack Nicklaus and a golf course he designed and built in nearby Dublin—the Muirfield Village Golf Club—that hosts the PGA Memorial Tournament. For more information on these events and other amateur, collegiate and professional sporting events coming to town, visit the Greater Columbus Sports Commission at cumbussports.org.

Entertainment Districts

Arena District: The Arena District is an area in the northern part of downtown that surrounds Nationwide Arena, home of the Columbus Blue Jackets NHL Hockey team. Enjoy dining before or after the game. Also in the district are Express LIVE, an indoor/outdoor concert venue, and many unique entertainment and dining options.

German Village: German Village is a beautiful historic district on the southern edge of downtown Columbus. Most striking is the architecture of the impeccably kept brick homes and streets. Gardens and parks are sprinkled throughout the pedestrian-friendly area. Enjoy the sites of German Village on a walking tour, or the smells and tastes in terrific restaurants, delis and coffee shops. Art galleries and craft stores are also great spots for shopping.

Each June, German Village hosts the annual Haus and Garten Tour providing the community the chance to look inside the doors and fences of the village’s homes. The smell of bratwurst and sauerkraut fill the air during German Village Oktoberfest.

Short North: The Short North Arts District is a vibrant, eclectic area just north of downtown Columbus, primarily along High Street. It is an area full of galleries, boutiques, restaurants and housing. Art infuses the area from exhibits in galleries and restaurants to the murals that decorate the streetscapes. There are many retailers lining High Street that satisfy all tastes.

Every first Saturday of the month, the Short North welcomes crowds from all over Columbus to Gallery Hop. An evening of browsing through galleries and shops and experiencing the dining and nightlife of the area is a landmark event for the area. Holiday Hop in December brings holiday cheer to the district, an event not to miss!

Bus Routes

Downtown Columbus is just a bus ride away! By simply swiping your BuckID, you can take the COTA (Central Ohio Transit Authority) bus right downtown. With convenient locations along High Street, COTA will take you and your friends straight to the fun and entertainment of vibrant Columbus. Find a complete bus schedule at www.cota.com.
Governance Organizations
If you know that you want to advocate for students and create change on campus, being involved in a governance organization may be a great involvement path for you!

Residence Halls Advisory Council (RHAC)

RHAC serves as the governance organization for all on-campus students. Students involved in RHAC are provided many leadership experiences both on campus and nationally. RHAC works closely with Community Council representatives and campus partners in University Housing, Dining Services, Facilities, Sustainability, and more to ensure the premier residence hall experience and environment for all Ohio State students. This goal is achieved through student advocacy, programming, promoting student leadership, inclusion education and action, and involvement. All on-campus students are welcome to participate in RHAC meetings, events, and committees. Learn more about our organization at rhac.osu.edu and follow us on social media:

@rhac  @osu_rhac 
facebook.com/OSURHAC

Residence Hall Community Councils

Being part of your community council is a great way to get involved in your community and build leadership skills. Each Community Council has an executive board and a general membership that plan events and provide opportunities for their community. Additionally, each Community Council sends at least one representative to the larger governing body of Residence Halls Advisory Council (RHAC), Black Student Association (BSA), and Multicultural Understanding through Non-traditional Discovery Opportunities (MUNDO).

Community Councils act as a place for the voice of the community to be heard, a place to meet people, a creative source for event planning, and a place that provides opportunities to leave a positive impact on campus and in the community. Look for advertisements at the beginning of the year or ask your Resident Advisor (RA) about the opportunities within your specific community council. Learn more at involvedliving.osu.edu.

The Community Councils are broken down by the following residential areas:

- Torres, Drackett and Lawrence ................................................... Torres, Drackett and Lawrence Community Council
- Scott-Norton-Mendoza and Blackburn-Haverfield ..................................................... SHBAMN Community Council
- Nosker-Barrett and Jones ........................................................... Nosker-Barrett, Jones Community Council
- Bradley-Paterson, Mack and Canfield ............................................BP & Mackfield Community Council
- Bowen, Busch-Halloran and Raney .................................................Busch-Halloran, Bowen and Raney Community Council
- Hall Complex/Houses/Res on 10th ................................................. Fabulous Unique Neighborhood Community Council (FUN)
- Houston-Houck and Taylor Tower ............................................... HoTT Community Council
- Lincoln Tower and Morrill Tower .................................................. Towers Community Council (TCC)
- Morrison Tower and Siebert ............................................................MoSiCC Community Council
- Park-Stradley ................................................................................ Park-Stradley Community Council
- Smith-Steep ................................................................................. Smith-Steep Community Council
- Baker East and Baker West ......................................................... Baker Leadership Team (BLT)
Undergraduate Student Government (USG)

USG is made up of an Executive Cabinet, a General Assembly, a Judicial Panel and an Undergraduate Black Caucus. If you’d like to get involved with any of the four, visit usg.osu.edu to find out more. You can apply to join USG as a committee representative at the beginning of each semester or run for an elected position in the spring. The Executive Cabinet consists of an elected President and Vice President, who serve as the main spokespeople of undergraduate students at Ohio State. They appoint committee directors to help improve and create university policies, events and activities to benefit students. The General Assembly consists of elected senators, who are chosen by students to represent various living areas, colleges and the regional campuses. General Assembly members are expected to discuss issues and concerns with their constituents, create legislation representing the needs and desires of students, and work on individual projects benefitting their constituents. The Black Caucus advocates on behalf of Black students to the university administration and serves as a center for resource information. Finally, the USG Judicial Panel consists of justices who run the USG elections and deal with interpreting and upholding the USG constitution and by-laws.

The Inter-Professional Council (IPC)

IPC is a representative body of all 3,000 professional students in the colleges of Dentistry, Law, Medicine, Optometry, Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine. The 48 Senators are elected representatives are elected representatives, however all professional students are automatically members of IPC. Visit ipc.osu.edu for more information.

Council of Graduate Students (CGS)

CGS is the student government for over 11,000 graduate students at The Ohio State University. The council directly serves and supports graduate students and the university community in a number of ways, including:

- Officially representing graduate student interests in university governance through the appointment of over 200 graduate students to university committees.
- Providing an outlet for the graduate student community to discuss and engage issues related to their interests at the university.
- Providing a forum for graduate student research.
- Providing travel funds for professional development.
- Seeking competitive compensation and benefits for graduate students.
- Planning special events for graduate students.

Learn more about CGS at cgs.osu.edu.
Honoraries and Honor Societies
The class honoraries recognize students who have made strides in scholarship, leadership and service all while creating an opportunity for students from around campus to come together for a common cause. Most honoraries offer additional opportunities for community service as well as to raise money for specific philanthropies. Look for class honorary applications to come out in the beginning of spring semester.

First Year: Alpha Lambda Delta/ Phi Eta Sigma
Sophomore: Mirrors, Romophos
Junior: Bucket and Dipper, Chimes
Senior: Mortar Board, SPHINX

You can find out more about class honoraries by visiting the individual organizations’ websites (see the student organization directory on-line at getinvolved.osu.edu)

Academic

Academic honoraries and honor societies serve as a way for each college or program to showcase students within their emphasis. Academic honor societies generally have a pre-professional focus and thus create opportunities for many of their members to learn more about their chosen profession. Ask your academic advisor if your college has one or more academic honoraries and when and how their application process begins.

Here are a few examples of academic honor societies at Ohio State:

- Alpha Epsilon Delta: Health Pre-Professional
- Alpha Psi Omega: Theatre
- Alpha Zeta Partners: Agriculture
- Eta Kappa Nu: Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Golden Key: All Academic Fields
- Helix Tri-Beta: Biology
- Kappa Phi Kappa: Education
- Lambda Psi: Engineering, Underrepresented Minority Students
- Nu Rho Psi: Neuroscience
- Omega Chi Epsilon: Chemical Engineering
- Omicron Delta Epsilon: Economics
- Phi Alpha Theta: History
- Phi Kappa Phi: All Academic Fields
- Pi Alpha Xi: Horticulture
- Pi Sigma Epsilon: Business
- Psi Chi: Psychology
- Sigma Pi Sigma: Physics
- Tau Beta Pi: Engineering
- Texnikoi: Engineering
- Towers: Agriculture
- Triota: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
An important part of an Ohio State education is getting involved in things that help you understand what it means to live in a global community. The Office of International Affairs advances learning and scholarship across cultures and builds respect among different peoples. Here are some of the best ways to get involved with the international community.

Office of International Affairs
140 Enarson Classroom Building | 2009 Millikin Road
614-292-6101 | oia@osu.edu | oia.osu.edu

@OSUGlobal @OSUGlobal
facebook.com/InternationalAffairsatOhioState

Global Education Expo
Students can explore many opportunities to study abroad at the Office of International Affairs’ Global Education Expo that happens every September. The Global Education Expo showcases 100 different programs in a wide variety of disciplines and countries that support and complement students’ progress in their curriculum. To learn more visit go.osu.edu/global-education.

International Photography Competition
The Office of International Affairs hosts an annual International Photography Competition where Ohio State faculty, staff, students, visiting scholars and alumni are invited to submit photos taken outside of the United States. First, second and third prizes, as well as a number of honorable mentions, are awarded in each category, and one photograph is named “Best in Show.” To learn more, visit go.osu.edu/internationalphoto.

Taste of OSU
The Office of International Affairs teams up with more than 30 student organizations to prepare an evening of international food, cultural exhibits and performances for the campus community. Taste of OSU offers an exciting, fun environment and is a wonderful opportunity to learn about other cultures and share your own. To learn more visit go.osu.edu/tasteofosu.

Global Engagement Events
The Global Engagement team at the Office of International Affairs provides opportunities for international and domestic students to experience the diverse culture at Ohio State. There are a variety of programs and activities throughout the year that students can get involved in (activities and events may be modified as health guidelines allow):
Global Engagement Certificate Program
The Global Engagement Certificate Program is a co-curricular opportunity for Ohio State students to enhance their college experience while becoming global citizens. Students attend or participate in globally engaging events and activities offered by the Office of International Affairs and other offices on campus. Visit go.osu.edu/ge-certificate.

English Conversation Program
The English Conversation Program (ECP) is a wonderful opportunity for international and domestic students to expand their world views, improve their intercultural communication skills and make new friends. Students meet in groups throughout the year to practice conversation, attend workshops and participate in a variety of activities around Columbus. Participating students also have an opportunity to apply for the Language Improvement Track (LIT). LIT is student-to-student teaching and is for those interested in developing their English speaking and listening skills and who are interested in teaching language and interpersonal skills. Learn more and apply at go.osu.edu/ECPProgram and go.osu.edu/LITrack.

Student Leadership
The Global Leadership Initiative (GLI) focuses on building various skills to prepare students to become well-rounded leaders and global citizens. The annual cohort consists of 24 international and domestic students who participate in weekly leadership workshops, networking dinners, social excursions and self-initiated community outreach. Learn more and apply at go.osu.edu/GLI2022.

Global Ambassadors are a diverse team of students committed to promoting cultural exchange at Ohio State. The team coordinates and leads Global Engagement Night programs and discussions, plans engaging cultural programs and develops campus partnerships. Learn more and apply at go.osu.edu/GlobalAmbassadors.

Global Engagement Night
An hour-long program for cross-cultural discussion on topics affecting all college students. Meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m., when classes are in session. Visit go.osu.edu/GlobalEngagementNight.

Film Series
Students can watch free screenings of international films every month. Sign up for Global Engagement’s newsletter at go.osu.edu/GlobalEngagementNews to stay updated on which film will be featured.

Social Events
Each month, students have the opportunity to participate in fun social events for free to meet new people and get globally engaged. Follow Global Engagement on Facebook to stay updated, facebook.com/GlobalEngagementatOhioState.

Download OIA’s event app to explore fun events and important resources and information to plan and enhance your orientation experience. Visit go.osu.edu/globalevents.

Nationality Organizations
If you have an interest in a particular nationality, you can join or attend events put on by groups like the Indian Student Association, the Chinese Student and Scholar Society or the Turkish Student Association. Look for more nationality clubs in the Student Organizations section of this guide.
Every student has the potential to be a leader. The Office of Student Life views leadership as a lifelong process of learning and growth, and offers a variety of programs to support student’s learning and development. By practicing leadership skills, students will be more prepared to work with teams, create positive change, transition to careers and graduate programs and understand their own values and motivations. Here you can find just a few of the many opportunities for students to learn about leadership and gain valuable experiences. Learn more by visiting activities.osu.edu/involvement/leadership_development.

**Leadership Workshops**

Student activities offers leadership development workshops through the year. There are a number of workshops on topics including leadership theory, teambuilding, communication, resiliency, time management, and more. Students can participate in open workshops through the LEAD Series (Leaders Engaging in Actions for Development) at go.osu.edu/LEADSeries. We also offer workshops on request to Ohio State affiliated groups. To request a workshop, as well as other support provided by Student Activities, visit go.osu.edu/SARF.

**Leadership Week**

Leadership Week is a university-wide collaboration to strengthen the culture of student leadership at Ohio State. Whether you have lots of leadership experience or are new to the concept, we encourage you to attend at least one event to strengthen your leadership abilities. Programs will be offered in line with one of several themes: personal exploration, community engagement, wellness, inclusion, and career preparation. Leadership Week programs are designed to make leadership more inclusive and accessible to all Ohio State students, challenge stereotypes and myths about leadership, inform students about the various leadership education resources that already exist at Ohio State and in Columbus, and help students apply leadership tenets to their personal lives, majors, and career. For more information, visit go.osu.edu/leadershipweek.
Buckeye Leadership Fellows

The Buckeye Leadership Fellows program is a two-year, interdisciplinary leadership development program that provides transformative real world experiences for Ohio State Buckeyes. BLF is the Office of Student Life’s signature leadership experience which engages Fellows in rigorous personal, professional and leadership activities through collaborative partnerships, experiential learning and continuous mentorship and networking. Program highlights include professional and developmental workshops, leadership challenges with corporate and non-profit organizations, cultural immersion experiences and legacy projects. Applications are open from August-October at blf.osu.edu.

LEAD Series

Are you just beginning your leadership journey? Looking to expand your leadership skills? Want to connect with other students while growing skills that will allow you to succeed in class, in your co-curricular experiences, and in your career path? LEAD, which stands for Leaders Engaging in Actions for Development, is a series of open workshops available to all Ohio State students. Our goal is to make leadership more accessible and inclusive to students throughout the year. For more information visit: go.osu.edu/LEADSeries

Student Leadership Advocates

Student Leadership Advocates (SLA) is a peer leadership cohort program supported by Student Activities. SLAs receive training on a variety of leadership development competencies and are trained to facilitate workshops, activities and retreats for other students on campus. Each year SLA facilitates to more than 100 organizations. Information about applications for SLA and other student cohorts will be available at the end of Autumn semester for students to join Spring 2020. Students can request an SLA workshop at any time.

Learn more at sla.osu.edu.

Leadership Classes

The undergraduate minor in Leadership Studies provides students with knowledge of leadership theories, principles and concepts to prepare them for success at Ohio State and beyond. All students are eligible to enroll in leadership classes. The minor is structured to help students explore personal leadership, team and organizational leadership, community leadership, and ethics and diversity. In addition to coursework, students who pursue the minor will also complete a leadership practicum to bridge in-class learning with out-of-class experiences. Visit activities.osu.edu/involvement/leadership_development/academic_courses/ to learn more about leadership classes.

Leadership Awards

Over the past 50 years, The Ohio State University has recognized hundreds of students, advisors and organizations who demonstrate leadership, collaboration and a commitment to the Ohio State community. Award categories recognize individual accomplishments, as well as the work of student organizations. Applications will be available at the end of Autumn semester and will be due early February. The awards celebration is held annually in April. Consider nominating a deserving Buckeye or apply for an award yourself! Learn more by visiting go.osu.edu/leadershipawards.
Recreational Sports
Begin a life in motion through Student Life’s Recreational Sports! Rec Sports offers Ohio State students the opportunity to live active and meaningful lives while on campus. Rec Sports is enhanced by its award-winning indoor and outdoor facilities, including six indoor locations—the Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC), Jesse Owens Recreational Centers (JORC), Adventure Recreation Center (ARC) and the North Recreation Center (NRC) — and outdoor parks, courts and fields.

All students taking 4 or more credit hours in person, on the Columbus campus, have a Recreational Sports membership included in their student fees. Make the most of your membership by utilizing the following amenities:

Free group fitness classes
Five pools, spa and two saunas
Outdoor tennis courts, sand volleyball courts and basketball courts
Over 570 pieces of state-of-the-art fitness equipment
Gaming, lounge, study and leisure space
Free equipment check out
Student meeting and event space
Outdoor fields
Family hours to swim and climb
35-foot tall climbing structure and bouldering wall
Spouse, domestic partner and dependent memberships available

Enjoy these other programs and services
Rec Sports offers:

Group Fitness
Group fitness classes are a fun way to burn calories! Rec Sports offers a wide variety of classes each week, ranging from ZUMBA®, cardio and weights, to abs, kickboxing and more. Classes are FREE for all members! The schedule changes by semester and can be found at go.osu.edu/groupfitness.

Personal Training
Meet your fitness goals with the help of a personal trainer. Our personal training program offers one-on-one training, group training, free equipment orientations and assessments to help you reach your fitness potential.
Intramural Sports

If you played sports in high school and want to continue your involvement, look to intramural sports! Play an old favorite like softball or basketball or participate in a new sport such as ice hockey or wallyball. See go.osu.edu/intramurals for registration dates.

Sport Clubs

Sport Clubs bridge the gap between intramural and intercollegiate athletics by providing competition at specialized levels, participating in tournaments and arranging opportunities to practice. The level of competition varies depending on the club. With 60 clubs, there’s a variety to choose from! View a list of Sports Clubs in the online Student Organization directory or visit go.osu.edu/sportclubs.

Outdoor Adventure

Get out of the city for a weekend or learn a new outdoor skill! The Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC), located within the ARC, plans adventure trips and clinics each semester. Trips range from one-day backpacking excursions to longer sea kayaking and caving journeys. The OAC also offers diverse clinics such as rappelling, top rope belay and lead climbing to help hone or learn new skills. View the trip and clinic schedule at go.osu.edu/adventure.

Open Recreation

Want to play drop-in badminton, squash, racquetball, basketball, volleyball or climb? There are many ways to participate in open recreation at the ARC, RPAC, the OAC, NRC and the JORCs.

Employment Opportunities

Rec Sports offers a variety of employment opportunities in the following areas:

- Aquatics
- Community Programs
- Facility Operations
- Intramural Sports
- Member Services
- Outdoor Adventure Center
- Sport Clubs

Apply online at recsports.osu.edu.

@OSURec  @OSURec
facebook.com/ohiostaterecsports
Research and Curricular Involvement
Being a part of Undergraduate Research at Ohio State is an enriching experience for any and all students. You do not need to have a scientific background to do research!

Research can come in the form of new, unique ideas or assisting graduate and professional students and professors with their already-started research. Research programs can be done as a part of your course schedule, independently, as an internship or even as a study abroad program. Worried about funding research? There are many opportunities to be awarded a grant or scholarship to conduct your research.

Where should you start? There are many means to beginning your involvement in research both in your major and outside of it.

• All students are encouraged to attend a research forum to discover what research is already out there that might interest you.

• Visit the college and department websites to further investigate the research opportunities they offer.

• Talk to professors! Most professors are active in research and if not, they have contact information for those who are. If a certain class or professor interests you, approach them about assisting in their research.

• If you are interested in research related to your major, speak with your academic advisor to see what the department offers.

Visit ugresearch.osu.edu to find more information!

Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry is a resource for students to find help with research. OUR&CI coordinates opportunities in their office and through their website and events. They inform students about how to get started, present their research and find resources, like grant funding. They connect students with advisors, staff, fellows, faculty and others involved with research. Learn more at ugresearch.osu.edu.

Byrd Polar Research Center

The Byrd Polar Research Center (BPCRC) is an international leader in polar and alpine research. For more information, see bpcrc.osu.edu.

Stone Lab

The Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory, located on Gibraltar Island in Put-in-Bay harbor, is the Lake Erie teaching and research laboratory. To find out more, visit stonelab.osu.edu.

Denman Undergraduate Research Forum

The Denman Undergraduate Research Forum provides an opportunity for students to showcase their personal research. It is open to all undergraduate students of every major. Every year, hundreds of students come together to present their work to judges and the Ohio State community. Students participate in the Denman to increase their understanding of their research, network with peers, faculty and corporate judges, learn about internships and jobs, win cash prizes and more. Go to denman.osu.edu to get more information!
Sorority and Fraternity Life
The Ohio State University’s sorority and fraternity community is one of the most time-honored traditions of the university. Composed of over 60 chapters among four student-led governing councils, Ohio State’s sorority and fraternity community provides current students with opportunities to develop as leaders, serve the campus and Columbus communities and make lifelong friendships. Academic success, leadership development, social networking and citizenship among members remain the hallmarks of a community that has existed at Ohio State for over 140 years.

Membership in a Greek organization provides opportunities for students to be successful in their college lives, both inside and outside the classroom. The all-Greek GPA at Ohio State has been above the all-campus average for 40 consecutive academic terms. Collectively, the sorority and fraternity community contributed over 55,000 hours of hands-on community service and contributed nearly half a million dollars towards philanthropies in the last year alone. Sorority and fraternity life provides opportunities for leadership development with annual conferences on diversity and leadership training.

With 26 social fraternities, 9 multicultural organizations, 7 historically black fraternities and sororities and 17 social sororities, the community offers a diverse experience for all students. Students interested in fraternity and sorority life must complete 12 college credit hours and maintain a cumulative 2.50 GPA to be eligible to join any group. This membership process enables first year students to become acclimated to campus life and academic demands while affording opportunities to explore many groups and involvement opportunities. The formal recruitment, intake and joining process for both men and women begins in early January. Visit sfl.osu.edu for more information.

Interfraternity Council (IFC)
The Interfraternity Council (IFC) is the governing body of 26 fraternities on campus. It exists to promote Greek life and serve collegians, alumni and potential Greek students on our campus and in the community.

IFC FRATERNITIES

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Multicultural Greek Council (MCGC)
The Multicultural Greek Council (MCGC) is the governing body for culturally based chapters at Ohio State. This council focuses on being cultural liaisons to the campus community and hosts events like cultural showcases, fundraising and community service projects.

@mcgc.osu

MCGC CHAPTERS
Alpha Psi Lambda National, Inc.
Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.
Delta Phi Omega Sorority, Inc.
Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.
Lambda Phi Epsilon International Fraternity, Inc.
Pi Delta Psi Fraternity, Inc.
Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Inc.
Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority, Inc.
The Interested Members of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.

PROVISIONAL INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS
Zahra

National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC)
The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) is the official coordinating agent for the eight active historically Black Greek letter fraternities and sororities. NPHC and its member organizations have a profound commitment to providing community service and promoting the welfare of the campus and community.

@ohiostatenphc

ACTIVE CHAPTERS
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Panhellenic Association (PHA)
Panhellenic Association (PHA) exists to promote the values of and to serve as an advocate for its member groups in collaboration with those members, the campus and the community. PHA provides support and guidance for its 17 member inter/national sororities/women's fraternities and serves as the campus voice on contemporary issues of sorority life.

@ohiostatepha

PHA SORORITIES
Delta Zeta
Gamma Phi Beta
Kappa Alpha Theta
Kappa Delta
Kappa Kappa Gamma
Phi Sigma Rho
Pi Beta Phi
Zeta Tau Alpha

ACTIVE CHAPTERS
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

PROVISIONAL INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS
Zahra
Spirituality
Developing your spiritual life can give you a sense of purpose and help you figure out where you are most passionate in your professional, social and personal life. Spirituality is not religion, although they may act together, and its definition is different for everyone. Spirituality can help people find their place in the world while still keeping an open mind toward all beliefs.

**Student Wellness Center**

Student Life’s Student Wellness Center, located in the RPAC, is a resource for students seeking wellness in all aspects of life. Among many other things, it is a resource for students exploring their spirituality. They offer spiritual counseling and group presentations. Visit the center at swc.osu.edu.

In working on the spiritual aspect of wellness, a wellness coach can help you find the resources you need at The Ohio State University and in the Columbus community. Your coach will meet with you for 45-minute sessions that are free and help you navigate and adjust to this complex college environment. Your coach will help you determine your own spiritual journey while learning about yourself and others. See go.osu.edu/wellnesscoaching for more information.

[@osuwellness](https://twitter.com/osuwellness)  [facebook.com/osuwellness](https://facebook.com/osuwellness)

**Religious and Spiritual Student Organizations**

There are dozens of student organizations founded on faith-based, spiritual, agnostic and atheist concepts and practices. To explore existing organizations, visit the online student organization directory at getinvolved.osu.edu and either enter keywords or do an advanced search and select “Religious/Spiritual.”

**Ohio State Interfaith Association**

The Ohio State Interfaith Council is an organization that unites a wide variety of faith traditions, worldviews and spiritual communities of faith. Their goal is to promote spiritual wellness through understanding and respect of diverse spiritual beliefs by means of communication, awareness, dialogue, education and advocacy, both on campus and in the greater community.

[facebook.com/university.interfaith.osu/](https://facebook.com/university.interfaith.osu/)
Wellness
Wellness is a key part of your life as a Buckeye, and the Student Wellness Center (SWC) has many great programs and opportunities to support you across the 9 dimensions of wellness.

Ready to get involved with your wellness? The SWC offers lots of opportunities for how to get involved with your wellness.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Student Life Student Wellness Center is supported by more than 150 student volunteers in a variety of topic areas. Our volunteers come from all majors, backgrounds and cultures. We are frequently seeking talented, enthusiastic students to join our team, as we create the extraordinary student experience. Find out more at [https://swc.osu.edu/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/](https://swc.osu.edu/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/)

**Body Project Facilitator**

The Body Project is a body-acceptance program designed to help students feel better about their bodies, challenge the “thin-ideal” and cultivate a culture of positivity in our communities. Volunteers involved in this program will facilitate workshops, presentations, participate in the outreach and plan and facilitate Love Your Body Week. Participants will gain skills and knowledge in body image, body positivity, disordered eating, public speaking and event planning.

**Buckeye Peer Access Line**

The Buckeye Peer Access Line (PAL) is a non-emergency talk line that provides a space for students to engage in brief phone conversations, in order to gain support and learn about campus resources. Student volunteers are available to provide peer-to-peer assistance that promotes and enhances student development and wellbeing. Volunteers will gain skills in motivational interviewing, active listening and one-on-one peer coaching.

**Scarlet and Gray Financial Leadership Development Program**

Scarlet and Gray Financial Coaching is a one-on-one peer coaching service designed to educate the campus community on topics within the financial wellness dimension. Volunteers will gain knowledge of critical financial topics like student loans, credit and credit cards, basic investing strategies, retirement saving decisions and budgeting, as well as one-on-one peer coaching experience.

**Wellness Coaching**

Wellness coaches take a positive approach to personal development, focusing on student strengths and using the 9 Dimensions of Wellness model as a framework for generating goals that are meaningful for to their clients. Volunteers will gain skills in motivational interviewing, active listening, and one-on-one peer coaching.

**Wellness Ambassadors (Outreach and Events Cohort)**

The Outreach and Events Wellness Ambassador team facilitates weekly BeWell Hut outreach events across campus to promote the 9 Dimensions of Wellness as well as plan and facilitate three Signature Events Series. Participants will gain transferrable skills through group facilitation, public speaking, and outreach planning, as well as becoming much more knowledgeable on wellness topics.

**Wellness Ambassadors (Presentation and Workshop Cohort)**

The Presentation Cohort provides engaging and informative presentations to the undergraduate community grounded in our holistic wellness approach by exploring our 9 Dimensions of Wellness. Volunteers facilitate workshops, presentations and outreach events, as well as assist with various Signature Events. Participants will gain skills of group facilitation, public speaking and presentation planning, as well as becoming much more knowledgeable on wellness topics.
**Signature Events**

The Student Wellness Center coordinates campus-wide Signature Events for three awareness initiatives – Recovery Month, Love Your Body Week and Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Find out more at [https://swc.osu.edu/outreach-and-events/signature-events](https://swc.osu.edu/outreach-and-events/signature-events).

**National Recovery Month at Ohio State**

Recovery Month is a university-wide collaboration to celebrate recovery at Ohio State every September. This month of events is devoted to celebrating the transformative power of recovery, highlighting the achievements of those who have reclaimed their lives in long-term recovery from mental and/or substance use disorders, and promotes the message that recovery in all of its forms is possible. It is an opportunity to remember that when those who struggle are properly supported, they do recover!

**Love Your Body Week**

Love Your Body Week is a university-wide collaboration to promote body acceptance and positivity at Ohio State that takes place in February. This week of events is devoted to educating, celebrating and creating a sustainable and supportive campus environment for all body types and experiences. Throughout the week, events will take place all over campus covering topics such as self-expression, fitness, body dysmorphia and eating disorders, media representation and influence, embracing your body and creating a culture of positivity.

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is an annual university-wide collaboration in April to raise awareness about sexual violence and educate communities and individuals on how to prevent it. This month of events is devoted to supporting survivors, educating the campus community on sexual violence, and creating a campus culture that is empowered to address sexual violence. Throughout the week, events will take place all over campus covering topics such as survivor support, self-expression, prevention, advocacy and allyship, media representation and influence and creating a culture of positivity.
Student Organizations
More than 60 percent of Ohio State’s 55,000+ Columbus campus students are involved in at least one student organization. There are more than 1,400 registered student organizations, ranging in size from 5 members to 600. The incredible variety of available groups to join is a direct reflection of Ohio State’s diversity of students and interests.

Why Join a Student Organization?
Like the other ways to get involved detailed in this guide, joining a student organization is a great way to enrich your Ohio State student experience. By getting more involved, you can:
• Meet new people and make new friends
• Build your resume
• Gain leadership skills
• Get better grades
• Make a big school seem smaller

Where Can I Find Out About Student Organizations?
Our online student organization directory, which lists all of the active organizations that you could join, is always changing as new organizations form and old organizations close. You can find the most up-to-date listing of all of the student organizations at go.osu.edu/FindAStudentOrg or on the Discover OSU App. There are many ways that you can search the directory to find the right student organization for you.

Search by Category
When a student organization registers, they identify one primary category they feel best describes them. You can search the directory by those categories, listed below:
• Academic/College
• Awareness/Activism
• Community Service/Service Learning
• Creative and Performing Arts

• Ethnic/Cultural
• Governance Organizations
• Honoraries/Honor Societies
• Media, Journalism and Creative Writing
• Religious/Spiritual
• Social Fraternities/Sororities
• Special Interest
• Sports and Recreation
• Technology

Search by Primary Demographic
Organizations are also able to identify the primary demographic of their student organizations – undergraduate, graduate or professional – and you can search for organizations accordingly.

Search by Key Words
Interested in a particular sport or something from pop culture? Looking to connect with others who are studying the same things as you or on the same career path? Want to find other people who share your secret talent? You can use key words to search the directory by name and purpose statement. (The shorter or more general the phrase, the more results you will likely have).

Other Details to Pay Attention to When Searching the Directory
Student organizations provide additional information about their organization that may be useful to you as you search. Consider the following when browsing the directory:
• Membership dues (if any)
• Membership selection process (open, specific recruitment times, etc.)
• Regular meeting time/location
• Any website or social media presence they have
• Active status (Active/Pending organizations are in good standing with the university)
**Student Involvement Fairs**

The Student Involvement Fair (SIF) is a great place to find a way to be involved on campus that meets your needs and interests. The Fall SIF kicks off Welcome Week each August and the Spring SIF occurs on the second Thursday of classes in January. You’ll be able to connect with hundreds of student organizations, as well as a variety of campus departments and local nonprofits, all providing opportunities to get connected with the Buckeye community. Learn more at [go.osu.edu/SIF](http://go.osu.edu/SIF).

**How Can I Learn More?**

**Keith B. Key Center for Student Leadership and Service**

When it comes to getting involved on the Columbus campus, the Keith B. Key Center for Student Leadership and Service, located on the second floor of the Ohio Union, is a great place to start. The “living room” of campus, the center includes office and locker space for student organizations you can connect with, meeting rooms you can reserve and a Resource Room filled with supplies for students and student organizations, as well as a knowledgeable staff of students. Learn more at [go.osu.edu/KBKCenter](http://go.osu.edu/KBKCenter).

**Can’t Find What You are Looking For?**

The Student Organization Success Coaches are a group of trained peer leaders who can help you in every stage of your student organization journey. If you are not sure where to start or could use some additional support, meet with a Coach and let them help you navigate the student organization directory and the many involvement opportunities on campus. Sign up for a Get Involved Consultation to discuss your interests and receive personalized recommendations of student organizations that might be a good match for you. Book your consultation directly at [go.osu.edu/CoachRequest](http://go.osu.edu/CoachRequest). You can also start a new organization if the one you’re looking for isn’t in the student org community. Complete a New Org Interest Form and start the registration process at [go.osu.edu/StudentOrgRegistration](http://go.osu.edu/StudentOrgRegistration).

**Student Organization Success Coaches**

The Student Organization Success Coaches are a group of trained peer leaders who can help you in every stage of your student organization journey. If you are not sure where to start, meet with a Coach and let them help you navigate the student organization directory and the many involvement opportunities on campus. To learn more, you can visit [go.osu.edu/sosco](http://go.osu.edu/sosco).
Timeline for Getting Involved
Every student chooses a different way to get involved and a different timeframe that suits their own schedule. Some find one or two things right away to start meeting people and getting acclimated. Others wait a few weeks or even a semester before jumping in. It’s never too late to get involved, but the sooner you do, the sooner you start reaping the benefits.

Here’s a timeline for some of the more popular ways students get involved...

*Note that deadlines are likely to change. Consult individual websites for most up to date information.

**Autumn Semester**

- **Student Involvement Fair:** Held during Welcome Week on the Sunday before autumn classes begin [welcomeweek.osu.edu](http://welcomeweek.osu.edu)
- **Community Commitment:** Start the first weekend of the semester with community service [payitforward.osu.edu](http://payitforward.osu.edu)
- **Community Councils:** Elections to community council positions are at the start of autumn semester (Check with your RA or Hall Director)
- **USG Committee Representatives:** Application online beginning of autumn semester [usg.osu.edu](http://usg.osu.edu)
- **OUAB:** Applications due beginning of autumn semester [ouab.osu.edu](http://ouab.osu.edu)
- **Commuter Mentoring Program:** Sign up in Autumn or Spring [offcampus.osu.edu](http://offcampus.osu.edu)
- **Basketball Tickets:** Order basketball tickets in the beginning of autumn semester [ohiostatebuckeyes.com](http://ohiostatebuckeyes.com)
- **Participants/Dancers for BuckeyeThon:** Sign up beginning autumn semester [buckeyethon.osu.edu](http://buckeyethon.osu.edu)
- **BuckeyeThon’s Dance Marathon:** Register in September to participate in November [buckeyethon.osu.edu](http://buckeyethon.osu.edu)
- **Leadership Week:** A week of leadership programs held the first week of October [go.osu.edu/LeadershipWeek](http://go.osu.edu/LeadershipWeek)

- **Buck-I-SERV Alternative Winter Break Trip Leader and Participant Applications:** Available during October [buckiserv.osu.edu](http://buckiserv.osu.edu)
- **MLK Day of Service Site Leader Applications:** Available in November [payitforward.osu.edu](http://payitforward.osu.edu)
- **Buck-I-SERV Alternative Spring Break Trip Leader and Participant Applications:** Available during November/December [buckiserv.osu.edu](http://buckiserv.osu.edu)
- **Sorority and Fraternity Life:** Meet chapters in all four councils before recruitment or intake begins [sfl.osu.edu](http://sfl.osu.edu)
- **Peer Leader Applications:** Available at the end of autumn semester and generally due around the third week of January [fye.osu.edu](http://fye.osu.edu)
- **Beanie Drake Scholarship:** Application available at the end of autumn semester and due mid-February [go.osu.edu/beaniedrake](http://go.osu.edu/beaniedrake)
- **BuckeyeThon General Body and Morale Captains:** Applications open at the beginning of autumn semester [go.osu.edu/btgeneralbody](http://go.osu.edu/btgeneralbody)
Spring Semester

**Spring Student Involvement Fair:** Held during January in the Ohio Union [go.osu.edu/SIF](http://go.osu.edu/SIF)

**Intramural Sports:** Sign up during the first full week of each class semester

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service:** Occurs on MLK Day in January [payitforward.osu.edu](http://payitforward.osu.edu)

**Resident Advisor:** Applications due in January [housing.osu.edu](http://housing.osu.edu)

**Student Activities Cohorts:** Applications for Buck-I-SERV Board, OSU Votes, Pay It Forward, Student Org Success Coaches, and Student Leadership Advocates due in early Spring [go.osu.edu/cohorts](http://go.osu.edu/cohorts)

**SAC Scholarships:** Typically come out the first or second week of January and are usually due around the end of January [osu.edu/alumni/communities/sac/](http://osu.edu/alumni/communities/sac/)

**Leadership Awards:** Applications open in early January and close at the end of January. Celebration occurs in April! To learn more, visit [go.osu.edu/LeadershipAwards](http://go.osu.edu/LeadershipAwards)

**Class Honoraries:** Applications out in January and due in February [getinvolved.osu.edu](http://getinvolved.osu.edu)

**BuckeyeThon Steering Committee & Morale Captains:** Applications go out on the Monday following the event (February), and they are typically selected in March [buckeyethon.osu.edu](http://buckeyethon.osu.edu)

**Denman Undergraduate Research Forum:** Applications out in January and due in March [ugresearch.osu.edu](http://ugresearch.osu.edu)

**Panhellenic Association Recruitment:** January [sfl.osu.edu](http://sfl.osu.edu)

**Inter-Fraternity Council Fraternity Recruitment:** Starting spring semester [sfl.osu.edu](http://sfl.osu.edu)

**USG Elections:** Petitions to run for an elected office are due in February. Elections are held in March [usg.osu.edu](http://usg.osu.edu)

**Homecoming Court:** Applications available mid-March and are generally due in mid-April. The length of service on the Homecoming Court is a full year [homecoming.osu.edu](http://homecoming.osu.edu)

**OWL Coordinator:** Applications available at the beginning of spring semester [housing.osu.edu](http://housing.osu.edu)

**Denman Undergraduate Research Forum:** The forum itself takes place in April [denman.osu.edu](http://denman.osu.edu)

**Community Commitment Site Leader applications:** Available spring/summer prior to August [payitforward.osu.edu](http://payitforward.osu.edu)

**Buck-I-SERV Alternative Spring and Summer Break Trip Leader and Participant Applications:** Available in February [buckiserv.osu.edu](http://buckiserv.osu.edu)

**RHAC:** Elections for the Residence Halls Advisory Council executive board held during spring semester [rhac.osu.edu](http://rhac.osu.edu)

**Community Ambassadors:** Applications available spring semester [offcampus.osu.edu](http://offcampus.osu.edu)

**Football Tickets:** Order student football tickets in late May/early June [ohiostatebuckeyes.com](http://ohiostatebuckeyes.com)

**Spring into Service:** Participate in sustainability related service near Earth Day [payitforward.osu.edu](http://payitforward.osu.edu)

**Second Year Transformational Experience Program:** While submitting your housing contract, enroll in the STEP program [step.osu.edu](http://step.osu.edu)

**Housing Contracts:** All students living on campus should submit your housing contracts [housing.osu.edu](http://housing.osu.edu)

**BuckeyeThon Spring Events:** Attend the BuckeyeThon Fashion Show, Field Day, and more throughout the semester. Participation is free for all registered Team Members [buckeyethon.osu.edu](http://buckeyethon.osu.edu)
Ongoing

**Student Organizations:** Many student organizations accept new members all year go.osu.edu/FindAStudentOrg

**Heritage and Awareness Events:** Weeks and months honoring cultural history traditions throughout the year mcc.osu.edu

**D-Tix:** Purchase discount tickets to events, museums, and experience around Columbus dtix.osu.edu

**OUAB Events:** OUAB hosts free educational, entertaining and thought-provoking programs all year ouab.osu.edu

**Apply for a job on-campus:** On-campus employers are hiring all year handshake.osu.edu

**LEAD Series** Develop your leadership skills in this workshops open to all Buckeyes. Learn more at go.osu.edu/LEADSeries

**Intramural Sports** Get active and have fun with friends playing intramural sports. Learn more and sign up at https://recsports.osu.edu/intramural-sports
Advice for Letters of Recommendation
Most students will need a letter of recommendation from a faculty or staff member sometime during their college years. Such letters are generally required for applications to graduate or professional school, as well as for many internships, awards, scholarships and jobs. It’s never too soon to start thinking about them and building the relationships that lead to outstanding letters. Here are some of our best tips and advice on what to do (and not do) when requesting letters of recommendation:

- Do begin by building relationships with faculty and staff with whom you interact. This doesn’t mean you need be a “teacher’s pet” – but find faculty and staff with whom you have common interests and can connect. This could look like taking more than one class with a professor, going to office hours, or meeting with your advisor outside of required meetings.

- Don’t be afraid to ask faculty and staff for letters of recommendation. Most consider it part of their job, as long as they know the student and receive the request with enough time and information to complete it effectively.

- Do choose your letter writer carefully. The best letters come from people who know you best, or can best speak to skills relevant to the experience for which you are applying.

- Don’t ask someone to write your letter because their title sounds “important.” How well they know you matters more.

- Do give your letter writer plenty of time to complete the task. Two weeks is a bare minimum and more is always appreciated.

- Don’t forget to provide your letter writer additional information that will allow them to write a strong letter. Some faculty or staff may have their own guidelines, but some general expectations would be to include:
  - An updated copy of your resume with relevant educational and work history, co-curricular experiences, awards, certifications, and community service
  - Description of the job, position, or program to which you are applying
  - Any requirements from the employer or program about format or content for the letter, as well as when, how, and where to submit the letter
  - Concise specific reminders about times you have interacted with the letter writer or specific experiences you may want them to highlight, such as when you helped with their research or led a meeting on their behalf.

- Do follow up with a thank you note or message. This will allow you to continue the relationship, particularly if you will need to request another letter in the future.
Top 50
Things to do before you graduate...

1. Get a picture of yourself with Brutus Buckeye
2. Attend a Student Involvement Fair
3. Dance for the kids at BuckeyeThon
4. Participate in Education Abroad
5. Join a student organization
6. Walk the Long Walk
7. Attend at least one football game and at least one other Ohio State sporting event
8. Laugh your head off at an OUAB comedy event
9. Find a staff member, a professor or an upperclassman to be your mentor
10. Get D-Tix tickets to at least one event in Columbus
11. Vote in every student government election
12. Attend a Skull Session
13. Build a float for the Homecoming Parade or watch the Parade with friends
14. Go on a Buck-I-SERV Alternative Break Trip
15. Participate in Community Commitment
16. Follow the Buckeye football team to an away game or a bowl game
17. Sing the Buckeye Battle Cry with 105,000 friends
18. Yell “O-H” into a crowd
19. Walk through the Buckeye Grove
20. Make your own buckeye necklace
21. Sit next to Bronze Brutus at the Ohio Union
22. Take a stroll around Mirror Lake
23. Ride a CABS Bus
24. Try at least one intramural sport
25. Try one of the exclusive late night milkshake flavors at Sloopy’s Diner
26. Participate in Buckeye Block Watch in the University District
27. Visit the Keith B. Key Center for Student Leadership and Service

28. Rub the head of the bust statue of William Oxley Thompson for good luck on your way into the main library
29. See a star show at the Ohio State Planetarium in Smith Lab
30. Sing Carmen Ohio at the Commencement Eve Candlelight Ceremony
31. Go to the Step Show
32. Make the Dean’s List
33. Get a campus job
34. Complete a STEP signature project after your second year
35. Give a lucky buckeye to someone special
36. Explore Orton Hall
37. Visit an exhibit at the Wexner Center
38. Attend a Department of Theatre or School of Music production
39. Take a fun class outside your major—e.g., golf, ceramics, language, etc.
40. Try another food from a different part of the world at Taste of OSU
41. Go to a concert or event at the Schottenstein Center
42. Attend a Short North Gallery Hop
43. Visit every building at least once
44. Play Frisbee on the Oval
45. Watch the band practice on the Lincoln Tower turf field
46. Take in the view from the 11th Floor of Thompson Library
47. Participate in a karaoke or quiz night at Woody’s Tavern
48. Pose for an O-H-I-O picture somewhere in the world that’s special to you
49. Enjoy the bubble bench at the RPAC Aquatic Pavilion
50. Make your own Buckeye Bucket List!

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