



FALL 2022

Welcome Widener Families!

We are thrilled to welcome your students for a new year.

For families receiving this message for the first time, welcome to Widener! We send this communication quarterly to help you stay connected to all the great things happening on and off campus. Your role as a guide and support to your student is critical and we want to do everything we can to make it a positive experience for you.

Positive experiences are something we take very seriously at Widener. In fact, we recently received the results of a nationally administered survey that allows us to track student satisfaction at Widener, and compare ourselves with hundreds of similar institutions. It showed **student satisfaction has improved in EVERY category since 2018!** [Read more about it here.](#)

In this issue we also touch on exciting opportunities for you and your students, and share insights into helping students manage activities without losing focus on their studies.

Have a great start to the new year!

John P. Downey, PhD
Dean of Students, Widener University



MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT: DR. STACEY ROBERTSON

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Stacey Robertson as the 11th president of Widener University. We invite you to hear why she chose Widener, and how she's getting to know the university community as she begins making her mark.

"I am passionate about understanding how our past can inform our present and future, especially as it relates to equity, justice, and belonging," explains Dr. Robertson.

[Watch President Robertson talk about the Widener experience.](#)

[Read a Q & A here.](#)



THE BALANCE OF ATHLETICS PARTICIPATION AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Many students enjoy the camaraderie and challenge of participating in athletic programs at Widener. Whether they play on one of the 24 varsity teams or enjoy the sportsmanship of our many intramural and club teams, there is plenty of opportunity for the sports enthusiast.

Widener's Associate Athletic Director and student mentor, Larissa Gillespie, shared insights on how to support student athletes as they juggle sports and academics:

- Balancing time throughout the day is one of the top concepts students juggle most, especially how much they dedicate to studies while still allowing down time, out-of-classroom study time, and athletics. I encourage students to work on looking at their day and allowing time for each activity. Procrastinating is often the culprit of stress — so realizing there is more time throughout one day is something I work on with students.
- Encourage your student to ensure they have time to reset each day to recharge themselves for the day ahead.

- Setting a sleep schedule becomes very important. Residence hall life or living more independently can often bring the excitement of no curfews or late nights. Encourage your student to set themselves some limitations — sleep is a tremendous asset to mental health.
 - When your student participates in a competitive season, the schedule becomes even more critical to allow balance. Look ahead at the week, schedule down time and study time - and have your student talk to their academic advisors and coaches if you see them become overwhelmed. They are there to help!
 - If you notice your student struggling, it's important for them to seek assistance early. Students can get help from an academic coach through the Office of Student Success. This is a premier resource for anyone looking to gain better balance. The Counseling and Psychological Services Office (CAPS), is another great resource. Peer mentoring is available for student athletes, so be sure to encourage students to talk with their coaches to learn more.
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BUILDING COLLABORATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

As Fall takes shape and students immerse themselves in course work, we are proud to welcome them to the newly renovated Academic Center North (ACN).

The building's progressive spaces are home to multiple health science programs. Students

in the [physical therapy](#) (PT), [occupational therapy](#) (OT), and [speech-language pathology](#) (SLP) programs now have four state-of-the-art clinical laboratories, a clinical anatomy lab, six classrooms, three student-gathering areas, and an administrative suite for program leaders.

Widener's goal with ACN was to build an environment with progressive spaces that reflect the collaborative nature of health science fields, and the interprofessional approach to this education – which the university has pioneered!

Read more about this exciting project [here](#).



ENCOURAGING STUDENT WORK EXPERIENCES

Deciphering Between Internships/Co-Ops and Externships

Widener students have outstanding opportunities to gain career experience before they graduate. It might seem a bit confusing since there are multiple ways to access hands-on work, but — not to worry — there are many supports in place to lead students in the right direction.

[Read on to learn more](#) about internships, externships and co-ops and how they add value to your student's Widener education!

DATES TO NOTE!

Oct. 10–15 • Homecoming & Family Week

Oct. 14 • Parents Network Reception – [watch for registration to open Sept. 15](#)

Oct. 15 • Homecoming tailgate village – [register here](#)

Oct. 24–25 • Fall break (no undergraduate day classes), classes resume Oct. 26

Nov. 1 • Last day to petition for spring 2023 graduation

Nov. 7–25 • Registration for spring 2023 classes

Nov. 24–25 • Thanksgiving break, classes resume Nov. 28

Dec. 5–9 • Final Exams

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Your feedback is so important to creating a healthy and supportive environment for your student's learning experience at Widener University. Please contact us with any questions about the articles we shared at studentaffairs@widener.edu

Division of Student Affairs

Call 610-499-4385, email studentaffairs@widener.edu.
Office located on first floor of University Center.

Office of Residence Life

Call 610-499-4390, email residencelife@widener.edu.
Offices located in Cann Hall.

Widener Dining

Email campusdining@widener.edu.

Student Health Services

Call 610-499-1183, email studenthealth@widener.edu.
Located in Metropolitan Hall on campus.

Counseling and Psychological Center (CAPS)

To make an appointment, call 610-499-1261.
Located at 522 E. 14th Street on campus.

Financial Aid Services

Call 610-499-4161, email finaidmc@widener.edu or
visit Lipka Hall on the corner of 14th and Potter Streets.



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