

PRIDE GUIDE

2026

A resource
for families
and supporters



Widener University

FIRST OFF, WELCOME!

As your student begins their journey at Widener University, we recognize this transition is meaningful for your entire family. Our faculty and staff are committed to supporting your student's academic, personal, and social success every step of the way.

This guide offers insight into your student's **first-year experience**, information about **campus resources and support services**, and guidance on how to **support your student's transition**.

SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT'S TRANSITION

The first six to eight weeks are a major adjustment period. Students may experience academic pressures, homesickness, and social challenges. Here's how you can best support them.

- Listen and encourage **independence**
- Avoid **immediate** problem-solving
- Reinforce the use of **campus resources**



CONNECT WITH THE PRIDE

Stay in the loop with Widener and fellow parents and families through:

- **pridefamilies.widener.edu**: Your go-to for FAQs, parent-to-parent advice, and other helpful tools.
- **Widener Family Connection**: Our quarterly newsletter highlights important deadlines, university initiatives, and upcoming events.
- **Parent Facebook Groups**: Share your Widener experience with other families in two groups: one open to all class years and another for the Class of 2030.



DEAR WIDENER FAMILIES AND SUPPORTERS,

It is my honor to serve as our students' chief advocate, and I look forward to engaging with your student during their time at Widener. For now, I want to offer three pieces of advice to help your student start strong.

- **Prioritize academic success:** Advise your student to utilize academic resources including professors, academic advisors, and tutoring—and ask for help when they need it.
- **Get involved:** There are countless opportunities to explore campus life, including student clubs, athletics, fraternities and sororities, and other fun, community-building events.
- **Focus on well-being:** We offer a network of campus resources, such as the Student Health Center and Counseling and Psychological Services [CAPS].

I am thrilled that your student has chosen Widener as the critical next step in their academic career, and I am committed to partnering with them for a successful experience. Please reach out to me as well as the entire Student Engagement and Transformation team if we can be of assistance during your student's journey.

Sincerely,

Fred McCall

Fred McCall, PhD

Vice President, Student Engagement and Transformation & Dean of Students

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TOOLS YOUR STUDENT WILL USE AT WIDENER

Most academic and campus systems are accessed directly by students. Encourage your student to check these regularly.

Campus1Card

This is your student's official ID and is required for building access, dining, and campus transactions.

CampusDish

What's for dinner (or breakfast or lunch?) Your student can find out at Widener's dining services website—and view on-campus restaurant hours, sign up for a meal plan, and add Pride Bucks to their account.

> widener.campusdish.com

Canvas

This is the hub for all things related to your student's courses, including syllabi, assignments, grades, and more.

> widener.instructure.com

Microsoft 365

A Widener account grants access to Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneDrive applications.

mySuccess

Your student's one-stop-shop for resources, tools, and services they can leverage for academic, personal, and career success.

> mysuccess.widener.edu

myWidener

From academic, library, and IT resources to financial aid and housing & dining information, they're all here.

> my.widener.edu

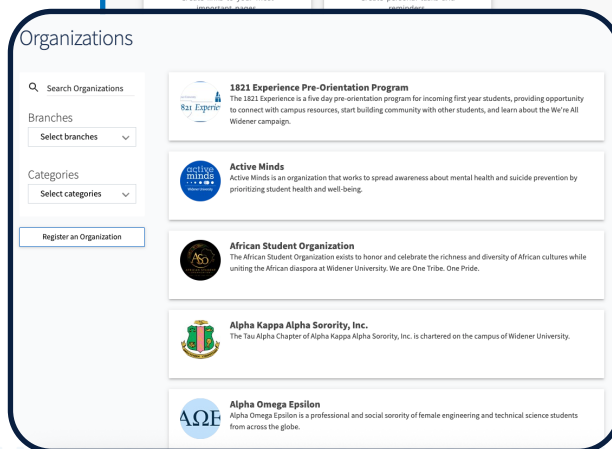
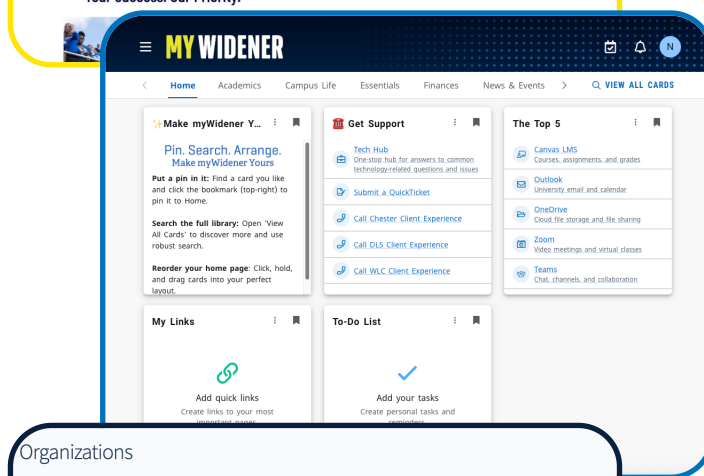
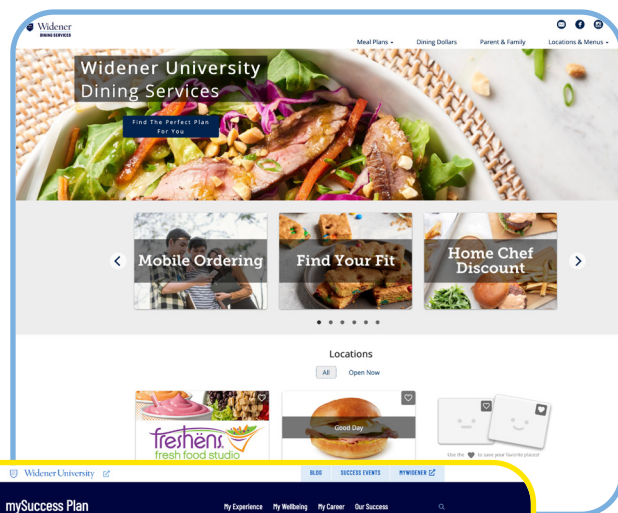
Widener Engage

Our student life portal features info about clubs and organizations, an events calendar, and more.

> engage.widener.edu

Gain insider access to FAQs, parent advice, ways to connect with our community, and other resources for parents, guardians, and families of Widener students.

> pridefamilies.widener.edu



SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT'S ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Encourage your student to take advantage of these resources and experiences early in the semester.

FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE

The First-Year Experience brings together academics, student-life activities, and community engagement around a shared theme. Its goal is to consider questions from multiple perspectives, share ideas and conversations in the classroom and beyond, and introduce students to intellectual life and community at Widener.

Widener's general education curriculum, Foundations and Transformations, is a cornerstone of the First-Year Experience—including the first course, **ASC 101: Thinking Through**. Students choose from dozens of complex questions to explore during the fall semester of their first year. As they dig deeper, they'll examine the big issues that shape our world and our ways of relating to one another.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The **Wolfgram Memorial Library** is a great place for your student to study, collaborate with others, and find help with research. Here's what they can do:

- Stop by the information desk to check out books, study room keys, course reserves, or even board games. They can also borrow a laptop or charger for a phone or tablet.
- Visit the Technology Support Center (TSC), located on the main (second) floor, for assistance with computers and handheld devices. No appointment is necessary.
- Find a favorite study spot, from individual quiet study to collaborative group spaces.
- Make use of the library's desktop computers, black-and-white and color printers, photocopier, microfilm system, and scanner.
- Visit the library's homepage, widener.edu/wolfgram, to access online databases, journals, videos, and eBooks. From here, students can also reserve a study room, view hours, or chat with library staff. If they need a resource the library doesn't have, the Interlibrary Loan service can get it for free.

Visit my.widener.edu/task/maincampus/stsc for hours and contact information.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Academic advisors help students translate their goals and interests into an effective and successful educational experience. Advisors also help them understand and navigate academic requirements, policies, and procedures while guiding course selection.

- Encourage your student to **build relationships** with professors and advisors
- Remind them to **seek tutoring early**—not just when struggling
- Normalize **asking for help** as part of college success
- Ask **open-ended questions** about their experience (not just grades!)



OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS

Our caring, expert staff can connect your student with resources that enhance their academic performance and success—at no additional cost.

Academic coaching is provided through one-on-one sessions and group meetings with a trained academic coach who assists students in a variety of areas.

Academic coaches also offer several academic success workshops throughout the academic year. Any full-time student can sign up to meet with an academic coach.

Tutoring, facilitated by a trained staff of Widener students, is available for most introductory and upper-level courses. While most tutoring is offered one-on-one, some courses—like physics, biology, and chemistry—have walk-in sessions to foster collaboration and group learning.

MATH CENTER

Experienced professional and undergraduate tutors provide help with mathematics content for all courses—no appointment needed! Students can also connect with a tutor virtually via Zoom.

WRITING CENTER

Students receive personalized, one-on-one help with research papers, essays, or other writing assignments from our faculty members, many of whom teach English courses at Widener.

CONTACT

610-499-1266
tutoringservices@widener.edu
526-528 14th St.

CONTACT

Dr. Hallenbeck, Math Center Director
kxh0002@widener.edu
Kapelski Learning Center, Rm. 131

HOURS

In-person: Mon.-Thurs.: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.;
Fri.: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Virtual: Mon.-Thurs., 4-9 p.m.
[Call 610-499-1253 prior to hopping on Zoom]

CONTACT

610-499-4332
Old Main Annex, 1st Fl.

HOURS

In-person: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Virtual: 4-9 p.m.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

The office approves and facilitates accommodations that provide equal access to Widener's academic and campus programming. Whether your student had an IEP or a 504 plan in high school, or was recently diagnosed with a disability, they can work with the team to customize a support plan. **If your student received accommodations in high school, we encourage them to register with our office as soon as possible.**

HELPFUL LINKS

> catalog.widener.edu



Academic catalog

Find the curriculum, with course descriptions, for each academic program.



Academic calendar

Look here for important dates, such as the first and last day of classes, midterms, and final exams.



Student handbook & code of conduct

Refer to this document for all university policies.

> bkstr.com/widenerestore



Campus Store

Purchase course materials and Widener swag here.



Scan the QR code
to explore more
academic success
resources.

SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT'S HEALTH & WELL-BEING

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Here, your student will access free, confidential medical services and educational resources that empower them to seek appropriate health care for wellness, illness, and injury. View them at widener.edu/health-services.



CONTACT

610-499-1183
studenthealth@widener.edu
Metropolitan Lane
(adjacent to Metropolitan Hall)

HOURS

Fall & Spring: Mon.-Fri.: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Winter & Spring Break: Closed

Summer: Mon.-Thurs.: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)

The office is staffed by a team of licensed mental health clinicians dedicated to supporting your student's emotional well-being. It offers individual counseling and psychotherapy services—all of which are free and confidential—in addition to education and outreach programming.

Its work is guided by a short-term, solution-focused model. When appropriate, members of CAPS will work in partnership with faculty and staff across campus to connect your student to additional support services that may be beneficial to their success. Staff will also consult with off-campus providers to support their wellbeing. Often, maintaining a connection with a prior treatment provider can further assist your student's transition to college.

CONTACT

counselingcenter@widener.edu

SERVICES

- 24-hour escort service
- Transportation to local medical facilities
- A shuttle bus that circulates the campus; it runs Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-1 a.m.; Sat., 12 p.m.-1 a.m.; and Sun., 12 p.m.-12 a.m. The shuttle also accommodates those with physical disabilities and provides transportation to the nearby Wawa, Walmart, Springfield Mall, and Target.

CONTACT

610-499-4200
campussafety@widener.edu
Old Main

CAMPUS SAFETY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Officers patrol campus with gas and electric vehicles and walking patrols 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The campus and surrounding neighborhood are closely monitored via 450 closed-circuit surveillance cameras.

All of Widener's officers receive mandatory on-the-job and in-service training and are certified by the American Red Cross in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and in how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Widener enjoys an excellent working relationship with the City of Chester Police Department, which has primary police jurisdiction for the Chester campus.



PRIDE MENTOR PROGRAM

The program provides support services to students from a variety of backgrounds and aims to help them make the most of their Widener experience.

What your student will gain

- Support adjusting to college life
- Opportunities to build productive relationships with peers, faculty, and administrators
- Leadership skill development

What they'll do

- Make weekly connections between protégés and mentors
- Participate in monthly social activities and events planned by protégés and mentors
- Work on community service projects
- Take part in celebration and recognition events



Scan the QR code to explore more well-being and belonging resources.

CONTACT

Office of Student Inclusion & Belonging
University Center, Lower Level
osib@widener.edu



STUDENT EXPERIENCE: WHAT FAMILIES SHOULD EXPECT

STUDENT LIVING

Students receive housing assignments in their Widener email account and on the housing portal. Visit widener.edu/livingfaqs to learn about housing accommodations, guest policies, quiet hours, and more.

DINING

All first-year and sophomore students are required to live on campus and must select a meal plan. Incoming first-year residential students can choose between three unlimited meal plans in the Pride Café. Visit widener.campusdish.com to check out meal plans options—and what's for breakfast, lunch, and dinner at the Pride Café.

COMMUTER STUDENTS

As a commuter, it's helpful to know as much about Widener's campus and its surrounding areas as residential students. Be sure that your student reviews the campus map and familiarizes themselves with the location of buildings, landmarks, streets, and parking lots. We recommend that your student arrive at least 15-20 minutes before their classes start. Both university and public transportation provide access to the entire university and surrounding areas.

Since parking is at a premium at Widener, students without a specific need are advised not to bring a vehicle to campus. If they choose to drive, parking permits are required to park in campus lots. While on campus, students can take advantage of commuter-friendly spaces, like the Melrose Lounge—lovingly nicknamed “the Garage”—a commuter lounge on the University Center's lower level. If your student plans to drive, they must purchase a parking permit via myWidener. Visit widener.edu/commutingfaqs for answers to commuting-related questions.



CAREER DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

The team is ready to help your student choose a major; explore career paths; write their resumé; find internships, co-ops, or jobs; apply for graduate school; and build their professional skill set.

The office offers virtual and in-person coaching sessions, workshops, special programs, classroom and organization presentations, website tools, industry-specific career fairs, and networking events.

Meet **Handshake**, a one-stop career planning and job search portal. It provides access to hundreds of job opportunities every month and even offers customized job and career event suggestions.

Handshake is available to students throughout their Widener journey. To activate an account, visit widener.joinhandshake.com and enter an existing Widener email and password (single sign-on).

ATHLETICS

Widener's athletic teams compete at the NCAA Division III intercollegiate level. The athletics program places the highest priority on the overall quality of the student-athlete educational and athletic experience.

The Pride competes as a member of the Middle Atlantic Conference, one of the oldest and largest Division III conferences in the nation. Widener sponsors 20+ varsity sports teams. The athletic department is also supported through intramural and club sports and physical education. Learn more and access game schedules at widenerpride.com.

PRIDE RECREATION CENTER

Widener's state-of-the-art fitness facility features cardiovascular and strength training equipment; two group fitness rooms; functional training areas; and a multimedia, all-purpose classroom.

Students also have access to the gym, pool, and track facilities of the attached Schwartz Athletic Center when not in use for team practices or meets. Pride Recreation Center staff is available to help students get the most out of their workouts and reach their health and fitness goals by providing equipment orientations and a variety of programs and special events. The Pride Recreation Center hosts group fitness classes and oversees informal recreation, club sport, and intramural programs. The facility has recreational games and equipment available to check out free of charge. View hours of operation at widener.edu/priderec.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Students are encouraged to explore Widener's 90+ clubs and organizations at engage.widener.edu and at the involvement fair, held each semester. The same website also highlights upcoming events.

Those interested can start a new student organization by emailing studentengagement@widener.edu.



MAJOR EVENTS

These programs help your student build connections and a sense of belonging at Widener.

Welcome Back Bash: The Pride Activities Council offers dinner, entertainment, and giveaways at this outdoor party.

Pride Nights: Student clubs and organizations partner with the Office of Student Engagement to host free events on Friday and Saturday evenings.

SGA Town Hall Meetings: Helps students stay informed and provide feedback on campus projects, initiatives, and events.

Involvement Fair: Students discover how to join clubs and organizations.

Homecoming: Alumni and current students enjoy a picnic, the crowning of our Homecoming Royalty, and the main event football game.

Strut Your Mutt: Students, faculty, and staff celebrate Halloween by dressing their furry friends in costume.

Greek Week: Students involved in fraternity and sorority life come together through a series of events including a day of service, athletic activities, and a barbecue.

Late-Night Breakfast: Students take a break from studying for finals to enjoy a meal at the Pride Café.

Spring Fling: Closes out the semester with music, games, and prizes.

International Week: Students celebrate cultures around the globe during tours and restaurant trips in nearby cities, international film screenings, cultural performances, and a multicultural fair.

STUDENT TRADITIONS

Students pass through the dome by Old Main before classes start—and again when they graduate, to symbolize the beginning and end of their Widener journey.

Another one: Rubbing the nose of the Pride statues is a source of good luck. Situated at the heart of campus, the father lion, Chester, is named after our home city. The mother, Melrose, is named after the main road that runs through campus. And hiding in the back is Legacy, our youngest lion symbolizing future legacies at Widener.

VOLUNTEERING IN THE COMMUNITY

Students can jump into a volunteer experience at home or abroad through the **Center for Civic Engagement**. They can also register for courses that infuse community service into the curriculum and partner with local businesses and organizations, where they'll give back while gaining on-the-job skills.

STUDENT INCLUSION & BELONGING

Widener is committed to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for all students. The office hosts a variety of programs and activities where students can meet friends and share perspectives from around the world—all while challenging their views and broadening their perspectives.

In addition to facilitating diversity- and inclusion-themed workshops and events, this team is available to help students develop programs during the academic year. Staff can also assist with addressing personal concerns and difficult situations.



CONTACT

cce@widener.edu
University Center, second floor

SUPPORTIVE SPACES FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

Many faculty and staff are trained and recognized as LGBTQA+ allies. These individuals can provide safe places on campus for students who may need support with issues concerning gender identity, the coming-out process, bullying or harassment, and other related issues. A “safe space” decal is displayed in the office spaces of recognized allies. These spaces provide support and advocacy for students navigating identity, belonging, and personal growth.

CONTACT

Office of Student Inclusion & Belonging
University Center, Lower Level
osib@widener.edu

STUDY AWAY

The Office of International Student Services provides support to Widener students looking to study abroad or elsewhere in the United States. As one of the few Pennsylvania schools partnered with the International Student Exchange Program, the cost of studying away is about the same as a semester at Widener.



Scan the QR code to explore more resources that enhance the Widener experience.



CAMPUS RESOURCES

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Technology Support

Walk-in: The tech support center in the library provides troubleshooting assistance for computers and mobile devices. For information and hours, visit my.widener.edu/task/maincampus/stsc.

Phone: Help is available 24/7 by calling 610-499-1047.

Submit a request for assistance: quickticket.widener.edu.

Technology Discounts

Free Office 365 is available for download to all students. Discounts at Apple, Dell, JourneyEd, and CDW-G are also available.

Learn more: sites.widener.edu/its.

Wi-Fi

Connecting a device to the **wu-secure** or **wu-secure-resnet** network and accessing a browser will automatically take students to the registration page. To gain access, register an iPad, PC, tablet, laptop, or phone using a Widener username and password.

Most gaming systems will automatically register and allow your student to play immediately. Some gaming systems (very new or very old) and devices such as Smart TVs, Apple TV, Firestick, and Amazon Echo require students to submit a ticket to the CX Team (quickticket.widener.edu), fill out the form, and provide the MAC address of the device.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES & AUTHORIZED USERS

Pay Your Bill

Semester e-Billing: All billing is done through Widener University e-Billing. Students can log in through myWidener to view e-bills, pay bills, set up a payment plan, and assign authorized payer(s) to view and pay their semester account. Families can become authorized users to access billing and make payments through the student account system.

Information on billing, Widener payment plans, and authorized user setup for parent users is provided on widener.edu/bursaroffice under "Information and Links."

You can also view and pay semester tuition bills or set up a Widener payment plan online at the Widener University Student Account Suite: widener.edu/mybill.

Course Registration

Approximately three weeks prior to the beginning of online course registration, the Registrar's Office will send an email to all currently enrolled students with the date and time of their registration. The email also gives instruction for using myWidener to determine registration timing.

Key Steps with Financial Aid

Complete Federal Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note (MPN): If you intend to borrow a Federal Direct Loan, be sure to complete both the Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note for Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loans, available at studentaid.gov.

You will need your FSA ID to log in to the site. This is the same FSA ID you use to submit the FAFSA. Your Federal Direct Loan proceeds cannot be disbursed until both tasks have been completed. Once you complete your Federal Direct MPN and Widener disburses the funds into your student's account, you will not have to sign the MPN again—it's valid for 10 years.

Submit Your FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the gateway to state aid, federal aid, and need-based aid from Widener. Include Widener's school code (003313) in the application to ensure Student Financial Services receives your FAFSA. Keep an eye on deadlines for state grant aid, if you qualify.

Important: Student Privacy (FERPA)

Federal law protects student educational records. This means:

- Families do not automatically have access to grades or billing details.
- Students must grant permission for shared access.
- Open communication with your student is essential.

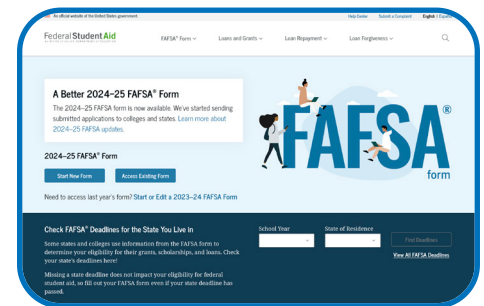
For questions about:

FINANCIAL AID

Student Financial Services
610-499-4161
finaidmc@widener.edu
Lipka Hall

BILLING

Bursar's Office
610-499-4161
busoffmc@widener.edu
Lipka Hall



CAMPUS MAPS & DIRECTIONS

Explore maps and directions, and learn more about parking, by visiting widener.edu/campus-maps.



CAMPUS CONTACTS

From the Athletics Department to the Writing Center, this directory provides contact info for important offices across campus. View the full Widener directory at widener.edu/directory. Looking for a faculty member? Search at widener.edu/faculty.

OFFICE	PHONE	EMAIL
Office of Student Success <i>[includes Tutoring & Student Accessibility Services]</i>	x1266	acadsupport@widener.edu
Athletics Department	x4444	athletics@widener.edu
Bookstore	x7012	wubookstore@widener.edu
Campus1Card Services	x1018	enrollmentservices@widener.edu
Campus Safety and Shuttle Service	x4200	amtaddei@widener.com
Career Design and Development	x4176	careers@widener.edu
Counseling and Psychological Services	x1261	jlorowitz@widener.edu
Student Health Services	x1183	studenthealth@widener.edu
University Honors Program	x4349	honorsprogram@widener.edu
Interfaith Center	x4103	mmDavis@widener.edu
Enrollment Services <i>[Lipka Hall]</i>	x4161	enrollmentservices@widener.edu
Financial Aid, Loans	x4161	finaidmc@widener.edu
Library	x4561	wolfref@widener.edu
Center for Civic Engagement	x4695	cce@widener.edu
Office of Student Inclusion & Belonging	x4413	osib@widener.edu
New Student Orientation Program	x4411	orientation@widener.edu
ITS/Client Experience [CX] - Technology Assistance	x1047	cxteam@widener.edu
Office of Student Living	x4390	studentliving@widener.edu
Vice President and Dean of Students	x4385	set@widener.edu
Office of Student Engagement	x4411	studentengagement@widener.edu
Student Government Association	x4470	widenersga@widener.edu
Pride Recreation Center	x1323	priderecreation@widener.edu
Writing Center	x4332	tefriedman@widener.edu

COLLEGE/SCHOOL	PHONE	EMAIL
Center for Graduate and Continuing Studies	x4507	gcs@widener.edu
College of Arts & Sciences	x4336	artsandsciences@widener.edu
College of Health & Human Services	x4351	deanshsp@widener.edu
Delaware Law School	302-477-2100	delawarelaw@widener.edu
School of Business Administration	x4300	sbadeansoffice@widener.edu
School of Engineering	x4037	engineering@widener.edu
School of Nursing	x4213	school.nursing@widener.edu
Widener Law Commonwealth	717-541-1955	admitcwlaw@widener.edu

KEY CONTACTS

Dean of Students - Student concerns
set@widener.edu

Student Health - Medical services
studenthealth@widener.edu

Academic Advising - Academic issues
studentsuccess@widener.edu

Campus Safety - Emergencies
campussafety@widener.edu





Widener University

Office of Student Engagement
University Center, Lower Level
610-499-4411
studentengagement@widener.edu