

Empowering ALL Students to
MAXIMIZE their Penn State Experience!

MAX
Penn
State



PennState

One Penn State 2025

MAX Penn State Background & Intro

- Stemmed from response to GP3 Charge Letter
- *Penn State must engage its constituents and use its resources to gather information to ensure relevance and to evolve the **professional skills curriculum** to match the pace and needs in the industry, government, and education sectors it supports.*
- *We will also enable and incorporate a variety of **professional skills content** that will be shared across disciplines and that will be easily and regularly accessible to all students.*

MAX Penn State **Faculty-Staff Involved**

- **GP3 Curriculum Committee Discussions**
- **Alan Rieck, *Associate VP & Associate Dean for Undergrad Ed***
- **Mike Zeman, *Director of the Student Engagement Network***
- **Bob Orndorff, *Director of Career Services***

- A system-wide initiative empowering all students to maximize their Penn State experience through developing the skills and competencies necessary to make meaningful contributions to their personal and professional communities.
- Students will develop and implement a customized, four-year engagement plan for acquiring the essential competencies in and out of the classroom.

Upon President Barron's arrival to Penn State in 2014, Dr. Barron described Penn State as "sort of the educational equivalent of an American sports car," like a "blue and white Corvette" or a Mustang. He said, "We need to ask, 'Why is it that so many students drive it 20 miles an hour when there is so much that is worthwhile?'"

<https://pennstatermag.com/2014/02/17/eric-barron-in-his-own-words/>

The purpose of MAX Penn State is to empower ALL Penn State students to *“put the pedal to the metal in their customized blue and white sports car”* and maximize their college experience – both in and out of the classroom.

MAX Penn State The MAX Competencies

- **SIX MAX Competency Areas from two main sources:**
 - Council on Engaged Scholarship
 - Eight Career-Readiness Competencies from NACE
- **Diversity:** Multi-cultural Awareness/Respect/Social Justice
- **Resilience:** Manage Adversity/Strong Character/Work Ethic
- **Analysis:** Systems Thinking/Problem Solving
- **Teamwork:** Collaboration/Interpersonal/Civic Responsibility
- **Leadership:** Ethical Leadership/Integrity/Authenticity
- **Communication:** Oral/Written/Digital/Active Listening

- A 4-Year MAX Penn State Plan Template and Sample Plans
- A Menu of Engagement Experiences for Acquiring Competencies
- A 1st Year Seminar Canvas Module introducing MAX Penn State
- Infusion of MAX Penn State activities & assignments into curricula
- Knowledge Center with training modules, assignments, quizzes, articles

- Juniors & Seniors selected and hired to serve as Peer Mentors
- Faculty, staff, & advisors serve as MAX Penn State Mentors/Allies
- Certificates and/or badges to evaluate students' competency areas
- A full tracking & reporting system on Canvas, with rubrics for reviewers
- Capstone showcase and individual recording of acquired competencies

- Incentives for all students to continue to engage in MAX Penn State
- Scaling challenges related to mentors, coaches, & seminar instructors
- Institutional support needed to infuse into academic curricula
- Financial support for student mentors and faculty/staff incentives
- Establishing & evaluating minimum standards for acquiring competencies

- **One-credit MAX PSU Seminars available to all students each semester (required participation at some level)**
- **Colleges adopt MAX PSU as the Standard for their Students' Competencies**
- **Corporate or Alumni Sponsorship of the MAX Penn State Program**
- **Supplemental compensation to faculty & staff serving as mentors**
- **Annual Competency-Acquisition checkpoints infused into mainstream**
- **Create scalable evaluation system demonstrating students' competencies**

- We plan on leveraging what already exists, including the SEN Portal
- Acquiring competencies will provide a lift to underrepresented students
- Fulfills aspects of land-grant mission in service to state's future workforce
- Employers see these competencies as difference makers
- Thanks for your interest in MAX Penn State, let the conversation continue