



PennState
Dickinson Law

INTERNATIONAL & GRADUATE STUDENT WELCOME ORIENTATION GUIDE

International Programs & Graduate Education
150 South College St.
Carlisle, PA 17013
DickinsonGradEd@psu.edu
717-241-3532

Fall 2025

Welcome to Penn State Dickinson Law!

Thank you for choosing to study with us here at Penn State Dickinson Law. Get ready for a transformative journey filled with growth, knowledge, and unforgettable experiences. Embrace diverse connections, seek support when needed, and prioritize your well-being. Together, let's make your time here extraordinary.



Dr. Anthony C. Ogden
Cell: 1-814-574-0120
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Ms. Amy McMurdy
Office: 717-242-3532
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OUR MISSION AND CORE PRINCIPLES

As the oldest law school in Pennsylvania and as one of the oldest law schools in the country, Dickinson Law's mission remains similar to its founding vision: *to prepare students of law thoroughly for the practice of their profession.*

While remaining steeped in the tradition and values that have distinguished the Law School from its inception, Dickinson Law has redefined how it is preparing students to lead their profession in a competitive and evolving 21st century legal landscape.

Dickinson Law has adopted the following core principles:

I. To vest in our students the entire range of concrete lawyering skills necessary to most effectively perform as legal professionals at the local, state, national, transnational, and international levels in the 21st Century.

II. To engage in a constant quest for knowledge and wisdom that we can share not only with our students, but with the legal profession, scholars, policy makers, and others, consistent with Penn State's role as a world-class research university.

III. To willingly contribute our services to the university and to local, state, national, and international efforts to improve global understanding and the lives and well-being of our students and the worlds in which they will live.

IV. We pledge that on a daily basis we will strive to foster a sense of community and mutual support between and among faculty, students and staff, and in our interactions outside the Law School.

Please see the [website](#) for a full description.

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STUDYING AT DICKINSON LAW

All students in attendance at Penn State Dickinson Law should be familiar with the [J.D. Student Academic Handbook](#), which is the primary source for Dickinson Law's academic policies and protocols. LL.M., S.J.D., and Exchange students are expected to understand and adhere to all academic policies and protocols. Additionally, the LL.M. students and S.J.D. students have supplemental academic handbooks for specific program policies and protocols.

Meeting Your Professors

At Penn State Dickinson Law, [our faculty](#) welcome individual meetings by appointment or visiting during the office hours listed on the course syllabi for their courses. Most professors also have an "open door" policy, meaning that you can visit them when their office doors are open. The proper way to address your professors is by calling them "Professor," followed by their family name. Learn about our faculty and [their professional impact](#).

Honor Code

Penn State Dickinson Law does not tolerate any form of academic misconduct. Because policies on academic conduct at U.S. schools may be different than those in other countries, please be sure to review the Dickinson Law Honor Code, available in the [J.D. Student Academic Handbook](#), about expectations on how students will conduct themselves during examinations, reporting information to the law school, etc. *Please note, with importance, the provisions on plagiarism and the consequences for this honor code violation.* Students who fail to comply with the Honor Code may be subject to academic discipline up to and including expulsion from the Law School.

Academic Calendar

Review the [academic calendar](#) to check when classes and exams begin, the deadlines to add or drop classes, and a list of school holidays.

Course Descriptions

Please visit the [website](#) for course offerings and brief descriptions. Note that not all courses are offered on a regular basis and that many will not be available in any particular semester. Tentative lists of classes to be offered can be found [here](#).

Class Recordings

Most classes at Dickinson Law are recorded, and each professor has a policy governing student access to recordings. Students may ask their professors to provide access to class recordings via the request feature on the Canvas course page. Students are not permitted to make their own recordings of any part of a class by any means without prior express authorization of the faculty member. Unauthorized recording, distribution, or use of a class recording may be a violation of the Honor Code. Please read the class recording policy on the syllabus for each of your courses, particularly during the coronavirus pandemic.

Textbooks

Students have a variety of options to buy, sell, or rent textbooks. You may purchase your textbooks from [the Penn State bookstore](#) and have them delivered to you. Review instructions for ordering textbooks [here](#). Students may also borrow textbooks, upon availability, from the Sharing Shelf on the lower level. Used textbooks may also be available on Amazon and related online vendors. Be sure to order the correct editions. Please note that textbooks are not available in the library. *As advanced reading is often required, students must acquire all required textbooks well ahead of the start of classes.*

Academic Assistance & Accommodations

At Penn State Dickinson Law, we are always willing to assist international students with the adjustment to academic life in the US. Please direct questions to the [Office of Academic and Student Services](#).

Student Services also assists students with requests for academic accommodations. [Follow these steps](#) to request accommodations related to any disability.

International students for whom English is not a first language may request the use of a hard-copy English language and/or translation dictionary during timed, in-class assessments. In circumstances where a hard-copy translation dictionary is not available, the student may request the use of a foreign language translating dictionary in electronic form, provided it has no memory capacity, contains no other functions besides language translation, and does not connect to the internet. Legal dictionaries are not permitted for use during timed, in-class assessments.

Contact the Office of Academic & Student Services with questions regarding language-related exam accommodations.

Library Information

Students have access to vast library resources available through Penn State. The [H. Laddie Montague Jr. Law Library](#) at Penn State Dickinson Law provides students with a place to research and study. To learn more about its services, visit the Law Library located inside Trickett Hall. The law librarians are happy to assist students new to American legal research.

The law school library provides students with access to premier online databases including: LexisNexis, Wolters Kluwer, Weest Academic, HeinOnline, etc. Law students can also access many other legal databases and research guides.

[Bosler Library](#) is the public library located on High Street in downtown Carlisle. In addition to lending books for free, they have Blu-Ray DVDs, books on tape, and e-books available to borrow. A driver's license or item of mail with a Cumberland County address is sufficient to obtain a library card.

The [Dickinson College library](#) is also open to the public, and Dickinson Law students may borrow books and DVDs.

Exams and Grades

Each course will be graded on different bases: some will require students to write papers, some may have multiple shorter examinations, some may have only a final examination, etc. Students must therefore look at the syllabus for each of their courses for information on the bases for grading in that course. For courses that require students to take a final examination, please be sure to read the "Final Exam Information" section in the Student Resources section of MyDL. For information on grading standards, how to receive grades, see the "Grading and Evaluation" section in the Student Resources section of MyDL. [Click here](#) to review information on academic standing (minimum academic performance) policies for J.D. students.

[Click here](#) to review information on academic standing and grading policies. Please note that LL.M. students will receive a GPA

WHO'S WHO AT DICKINSON LAW



Danielle M. Conway
Dean & Donald J. Farage
Professor of Law

[Meet the Dean](#)

GETTING ESTABLISHED

Email & IT Support

Be sure to regularly check your Penn State [email](#) for communications from the law school. Be aware that all important information from your professors, law school staff, and other students will be sent to you by email, so it is very important for you to check your email daily. The IT office is in Room 010, and the IT team is happy to assist you with getting your Penn State accounts set up.

Lockers

Students may opt-in to receive an on-campus locker. Lockers are often used to store books and other materials for class. Keys are available through the Office of Student Services in the lower level of the building.

Financial Matters

Billing begins in August for fall semester and January for spring semester. Click [here](#) for more information on tuition due dates. An e-mail notification will be sent to your official Penn State e-mail account when the Statement is available to view and/or pay on LionPATH. [Click here](#) for more information on paying tuition and payment options. Scholarships awarded through Penn State Dickinson Law will be reflected on one's student account. For more information on financial aid, see [here](#).

Access to School Accounts

Use your [LionPATH](#) student account to gain access to information about student billing, ordering textbooks, and other important issues. Another important platform is Canvas, which is Penn State's learning management system where students can access academic assignments and materials for their courses. Professors usually use Canvas to communicate remotely with their students.

[MyDL](#) is the Penn State Dickinson Law intranet (linked from the website homepage) where you may find more detailed information on policies, requirements, faculty, courses, etc. Students receive access to MyDL when setting up their Penn State email. If you have questions, be sure to contact the IT team.

Immigration Compliance

International students are supported by the [Office of International Students and Scholars](#) at Penn State Global for all immigration matters. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST Monday through Friday (closed 12:00 p.m. -1:00 p.m. for lunch). Please do not hesitate to reach out to Penn State Global with any questions or concerns you might have. You can call 1-814-865-6348 or email DISSA-Adviser@psu.edu.

Student Health Insurance

Health insurance is mandatory for all international students. Each international student will be automatically enrolled in the [Penn State Student Health Insurance plan](#) ("SHIP"). To waive out of this requirement, one must submit a waiver request at the start of the semester documenting proof of insurance coverage that meets Penn State's insurance requirements. SHIP does not cover visual or dental insurance. Health insurance charges are added to your semester bill. Please direct questions to the Student Health Insurance Office at UHS-insurance@psu.edu.

WHO'S WHO AT DICKINSON LAW



Jeffrey Dodge
Associate Dean, Academic
Affairs

[Meet Dean Dodge.](#)

THRIVING AT DICKINSON LAW

Inclement Weather Policy

Penn State Dickinson Law rarely closes due to inclement weather, but occasionally must close or delay opening. In the event of a delayed opening, classes beginning prior to 9:45 a.m. will be canceled, and classes beginning at 9:45 a.m. or later will continue as scheduled. A text message of any delay or closing will be sent to all cell phones of faculty, staff, and students who have enrolled in the [PSUAlert](#) service. Please contact the IT team if you need assistance with registering for PSUAlert.

Counseling and Psychological Services

It is not unusual for law students to face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, or emotional well-being. Dickinson Law offers a variety of confidential services to help students through difficult times, including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, online chats, and mental health screenings.

Subsidized and/or free counseling services are available year-round at Franco Psychological Services, 26 State Avenue, Carlisle, PA. All international students should be enrolled in the Penn State Student Health Insurance Plan. Your insurance will be billed for the cost of visits and, if requested, Penn State Dickinson Law may cover the cost of co-pays. For other students without insurance coverage, Penn State Dickinson Law will cover the cost of up to two (2) counseling sessions per month. If finances are at all an issue standing in the way of counseling or mental health care, please see the Office of Student Services for assistance.

Counseling and Psychological Resources:

- Franco Psychological Associates PC
26 State Ave., Suite 101, 717-243-1896

- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) at University Park (CAPS) - 814-863-0395
- [Counseling and Psychological Services at Commonwealth Campuses](#)
- Penn State Crisis Line (24 hours/7 days/week): 877-229-6400
- Crisis Text Line (24 hours/7 days/week): Text LIONS to 741741
- Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers (24 hours/7 days/week): 888-999-1941

Questions about counseling and psychological service can be referred to Giselle Santibañez-Bania, Assistant Dean for Academic and Student Services at gps5491@psu.edu or 717-240-5247.

WHO'S WHO AT DICKINSON LAW




Giselle Santibañez-Bania
Assistant Dean, Academic
and Student Services

[Meet Dean Santibañez.](#)

Getting Involved

One of the best ways to enrich your studies at Penn State Dickinson Law is to become involved with one of the many opportunities available to students. Students play a variety of intramural sports including flag football, soccer, frisbee, basketball, and softball. During the fall semester, Dickinson Law hosts an intraschool moot court competition at the Law School. During the spring semester, you can observe the moot court teams prepare for competition, observe the law review symposium, or serve as a volunteer witness for the National Mock Trial Team. Be sure to watch the [events calendar](#).



There are also many student organizations that will allow you to become involved. Student organizations make it easier to meet your classmates and learn about areas of the law or other interests that you have. If you arrive during the fall semester, be sure to attend the student organization fair at the beginning of the semester. There is no limitation on how many student organizations a student can join. Students may also apply for Executive board positions.

Below is a selection of [student organizations at Dickinson Law](#):

- Student Bar Association
- Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)
- Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
- Criminal Law Society
- Environmental Justice Law Society
- Federalist Society
- Health Law and Policy Society
- International Law Society
- Latino/a Law Student Association (LLSA)
- Military Law Caucus
- OutLaw
- Public Interest Law Fund (PILF)
- Women’s Law Caucus (WLC)

Career Services

International students seeking to work in the U.S. should visit the Career Services Office. Even if you are planning to return to your home country, the Career Services team may be able to assist you with your future career wherever that may be. Schedule a meeting by visiting the [Career Services](#) website. Services include:

- Résumé and cover letter writing skills
- Interviewing and networking skills
- Mentoring
- Job search skills and legal practice programs
- Year-round job recruitment

Working on Campus

Employment for F-1 and J-1 students is limited, and working without permission is a violation of status and potentially a deportable offense. On-campus employment is permitted with certain restrictions. International students can work on-campus up to 20 hours during the semester and up to 40 hours during the winter and spring breaks. Please contact International Programs and Graduate Education for more information, at DickinsonGradEd@psu.edu.

Working off Campus

Off campus employment for F-1 and J-1 students is restricted and working without permission may be a violation of status and a deportable offense. F-1 and J-1 students may not work off-campus without permission from [International Student and Scholar Advising \(ISSA\)](#) within Penn State Global. Dickinson Law permissions may also be necessary.

In particular, F-1 students should become familiar with Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT). CPT is potentially available to F-1 students who have been enrolled full-time for one academic year. Students in one-year graduate programs (i.e., LL.M. and M.L.S.) are generally ineligible for CPT. Students who have been in F-1 status for at least one academic year are eligible for OPT which is temporary employment in their field of study for purposes of gaining practical experience. Students are eligible for an additional year of OPT at each higher degree level (i.e., Master’s, PhD.).

Penn State offers workshops semester which explain the different types of off-campus work permissions available to F-1 and J-1 students.

Food on Campus

Although there is no campus cafeteria, there are vending machines located throughout campus for your convenience.

Penn State Dickinson Law Merchandise

Dickinson Law merchandise can be purchased in the campus store in Room 020. Please [email](#) Director of Business Services Karlisma Souders to schedule a time to visit the store on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

Social Security Number

A Social Security number (SSN) is issued mainly to record workers earnings over their lifetimes. Students holding F-1 and J-1 status who are employed in the United States must apply for a Social Security number. Dependents in F-2 status are not eligible for a Social Security number. (Students who do not work on campus but who receive a taxable scholarship may apply for an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) for tax purposes).

To receive a Social Security number, the Social Security Administration will require you to show that you are eligible to work in the United States, that you are a full-time student, that you have received a formal offer of on-campus employment, and that you have been authorized for off-campus employment through Curricular Practical Training, Optional Practical Training, or Academic Training. A Social Security number is not required to obtain a driver's license, cell phone, credit card, insurance, admission to an academic institution or for other "non-work" reasons. The Social Security Administration must also verify your immigration documents and status with the government before issuing the Social Security number.

Note that new students may not apply for an SSN earlier than 10 business days after arriving in the United States. The Social Security number itself is not a work permit.

Alumni Information

Dickinson Law graduates have access to both Penn State and Dickinson Law alumni networks. To become involved with the Penn State Dickinson Law alumni community, [email](#) the Office of Alumni Relations.

On-Campus Employment

If you are working on campus, you must [email](#) Financial Officer Doris Orner, inform her that you are an international student, and request that a verification letter containing the following information be forwarded to International Programs and Graduate Education:

- First and last name as it appears on your I-20
- The department you will be working for
- The name of the position you were hired for (job title)
- The date you will begin working (start date)
- Number of hours per week you will be working (approximate)

Students with On-Campus Employment must complete the on-campus verification process with the Registrar. Students may also need to apply in person for a Social Security number at a local [Social Security Administration](#) office. Apply no earlier than 30 days before your scheduled employment start date.

Bring with you:

- Completed and signed ISS [Social Security Verification Form](#)
- Job verification letter from employer
- Valid passport (along with old passport if it contains your F-1 visa)
- A printout of your electronic I-94 information, which can be obtained at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/home>
- [Form SS-5](#)

Obtaining a Driver's License

Each U.S. state issues photo identification cards and driver's licenses for its residents under its own laws. Regulations and application processes vary from state to state. In Pennsylvania, [PennDOT](#) is the government agency who has the authority to issue ID cards and driver's licenses.

Pennsylvania honors a valid foreign driver's license with an international driving permit for as long as the foreign license and/or international driving permit are not expired. Generally, holders of foreign licenses must apply for a Pennsylvania learner's permit if they wish to obtain a Pennsylvania driver's license. Some nationals may be exempt from applying for a PA learner's permit (e.g., South Korea, Spain, etc.).

The basic steps of the application process are:

- Obtain and study a driver's manual from the PennDOT [website](#).
- Undergo a physical examination by a certified health professional – for example, at UPMC Urgent Care, 1175 Walnut Bottom Rd, Carlisle.
- Apply for a learner's permit with the appropriate form, fee, and the same documentation required for the ID card (see below). At this time, you must pass a vision test and a test of your knowledge of the material in the driver's manual. If you successfully obtain a learner's permit, you have limited driving rights.
- After a waiting period, you can apply for a driver's license by taking a road test. You will need to borrow a car and be accompanied by the licensed owner who can prove that the car is insured, registered, and safe.

Obtaining a Pennsylvania State Photo ID Card

The application procedure for an ID card generally consists of completing a form, paying a fee and providing the following:

- All your immigration documentation (i.e.,

passport and visa sticker, I-20 or DS-2019 form, I-94 form, etc.) to prove your identity and status, including your passport.

- Your Social Security Card or letter from Social Security indicating they have not decided yet, or Social Security rejection letter (if you are not working, you are ineligible for a Social Security card and can obtain a rejection letter)
- Two (2) proofs of your Carlisle address, such as tax records, bank statements, bills (except mobile phone), etc. (The enrollment verification letter from Penn State Global will include your address and can serve as proof.)

Apply at the PA DMV located at Stonehedge Square, 950 Walnut Bottom Road.

For the most accurate instructions on how to apply for an ID card or driver's license, visit the [PennDOT website](#).

Car Insurance Requirements

Pennsylvania law requires that all Pennsylvania drivers hold both medical benefits (no-fault) coverage and liability car insurance in order to purchase a car. For more information, consult the [Pennsylvania DMV](#).

Taxes

In the U.S., the general rule is that you do not need to file a tax return in any year in which:

- You did not receive any income while you were in the U.S.;
- You received income that is exempted by a tax treaty between the U.S. and your home country; or
- You are a candidate for a degree and any scholarship or fellowship you received was used only for tuition, fees, and required books and other equipment.

Visit [Global Penn State](#) for information on taxes, Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs), and tax forms. You should also visit the [IRS website](#) to make sure you comply with American tax laws.

LIVING IN CARLISLE

Carlisle was settled by Scots-Irish immigrants in 1751 and became the center of their settlement in the Cumberland Valley. Carlisle was incorporated as a borough on April 13, 1782, and was the site of a number of historical events during the early years of U.S. history. The borough was shelled by the Confederates on July 1, 1863, during the Battle of Carlisle, part of the Gettysburg Campaign of the American Civil War. Carlisle was well-known at one time for the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, which trained Native Americans from all over the United States; one of its notable graduates was sports hero Jim Thorpe. Carlisle is also home to Dickinson College, established in 1773 and later chartered in 1783, making it the first college founded in the newly recognized United States.

Penn State Dickinson Law, founded in 1834 and affiliated with Dickinson College until 1914, is the fifth oldest law school in the United States and the oldest law school in Pennsylvania. It remained independent for over 80 years, until it merged with the Pennsylvania State University in 1997, becoming the Penn State Dickinson School of Law.

The U.S. Army War College, located at the Carlisle Barracks, caters to high-level military personnel and civilians, and prepares them for strategic leadership responsibilities. The Carlisle Barracks is the oldest installation in the United States Army and the Army's most senior military educational institution. Carlisle is the home of the U.S. Army Military Heritage Museum.

Health Services

For urgent medical services, the following are some of those that are both nearby and covered by the University's health insurance plan:

- [University Health Services](#)
Student Health Services, University Park
(814) 865-4847

- Sadler Health
100 North Hanover Street, Carlisle
[\(717\) 218-6670](#)
Offers free or low-cost care based on individual circumstances
- [Penn State Health Urgent Care](#)
1211 Forge Rd, Ste 500, Bldg A, Carlisle, PA
(717) 218-3990
- UPMC Urgent Care
1175 Walnut Bottom Rd, Carlisle, PA
(717) 258-9355
- [Concentra Carlisle Urgent Care](#)
1125 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle, PA
(717) 245-2411

Banking

Banks are plentiful in Carlisle. Before opening an account, be sure to ask about fees, minimum balances, etc. Some banks within walking distance of campus include

- Santander Bank
269 Penrose Pl., (717) 249-7911
- PNC Bank
105 Noble Blvd., (717) 243-6021
- M & T Bank
100 S Spring Garden St., (717) 240-4525
- Wells Fargo Wachovia Bank
604 E. High St., (717) 249-8182
- Orrstown Bank
1 Giant Ln., (888) 677-7869

Cell Phone Service

You may purchase a cell phone with a plan or bring your own phone and get a new SIM card. You may also purchase a prepaid SIM card to avoid an annual contract. If you are bringing a phone from abroad, many stores such as Walmart

and cell phone providers offer SIM cards. Below is a list of cell phone service providers located in Carlisle that may be able to help you.

- [Verizon Wireless](#)
299 Westminster Dr., 800-880-1077
- [AT&T](#)
40 Noble Blvd., 223-207-3029
- [T-Mobile](#)
10 Noble Blvd., 717-601-2752

You can also find some affordable mobile network operators, such as Mint, Tello, Visible.

Calling Internationally

To call Canada, the procedure is the same as making a domestic call. To place a call to any other country, dial 011 followed by the country code and phone number. Be sure to review your phone plan regarding charges for international phone calls. WhatsApp, Viber, Line similar also allow for international calling.

Farmers Markets

Farmers markets, or seasonal markets in which farmers sell vegetables, fruits, and other products outside of grocery stores, are popular in the U.S. You can often buy very fresh products at lower prices at farmers markets. Below is a list of farmers markets in the area.

- [Farmers on the Square](#) (Carlisle)
Year-round market (Wednesdays)
- [Spiral Path Farm](#) (Carlisle)
This is a community-supported agriculture distributing locally grown produce. If you join, there are two locations in town where you pick up your veggies/fruit once a week.
- [Deitch's Farm Stand](#) (Carlisle)
10 miles out of town on East High Street

Grocery Stores

There are numerous grocery stores in the area, including Giant, Wal-Mart, Weis and Aldi. Additionally, there are several specialty groceries that sell international products:

- International Grocery and Halal Bazaar
255 Penrose Plaza
- Mersida's Market
726 N Hanover St
- Chhapra 365 - Nepali & Indian Grocery
469 E North St
- Chung Asian Market
125 Gateway Dr., Mechanicsburg, PA
(717) 795-8889
- Josie's German Café and Market
5238 E. Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg, PA
(717) 697-6462
- San Yang Asia Supermarket
1030 S 13th St, Harrisburg, PA
(717) 232 6019

Restaurants

There are many restaurants in the area that serve international food. Here are a few:

- [B & L Caribbean](#)
10 W. Pomfret St., (717) 218-1094
- [Issei Noodle](#)
54 W. High St., (717) 243-7826
- [Chen's Asian Restaurant](#)
310 N. Hanover St., (717) 258-1238
- [Mt. Fuji Sushi](#)
149 N. Hanover St., (717) 243-2788
- [Yak N Yeti](#)
49 W. High St., (717) 462-6984
- [King Tut](#)
120 N Hanover Street
- [Taipei Chinese Kitchen \(Giant\)](#)
255S S Spring Garden St. (717) 612-0155

Cafes

There are number of excellent cafes within walking distance of campus. Here are some:

- Denim Coffee, 1 S. Hannover St.
- Denim Coffee at the Quarry, Dickinson College, 51 N. College St.
- Helena’s Chocolate Café and Creperie, 36 W. High St.

Gyms/Athletic Facilities

There are a number of gyms located in Carlisle. Dickinson Law students receive a discount at Dickinson College’s Kline Center.

- [YMCA](#) – Ask for a student discount.
311 S. West St
- [Kline Center at Dickinson College](#)
Cherry and High St.

Local Transportation

Although public transportation is limited in Carlisle, there are bus routes that run from Carlisle to Harrisburg. For information on routes and costs, visit the [Capitol Area Transit](#) website. [Megabus](#) offers rides from Harrisburg to Philadelphia, State College, and Pittsburgh.

Convenient airports are:

- [Harrisburg International Airport](#)
- [Baltimore-Washington International Airport](#)
- [Washington Dulles Airport](#)
- [Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport](#)
- [Philadelphia International Airport](#).

[Amtrak Trains](#) go to Lancaster, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and New York. There is free parking in Middleton.

Lyft and Uber both operate in Carlisle. There are also private cab and ride services available regionally.

[Enterprise](#) is located at 800 N. Hanover St., Carlisle, PA

Outdoor Activities

Pennsylvania has much to offer the outdoor enthusiast. Here are some opportunities.

- [Pennsylvania State Parks](#)
Kings Gap, Colonel Denning and Pine Grove Furnace are within 15 minutes of town.
- [Waggoner’s Gap](#)
Some of the best raptor bird–watching in the country is 15 minutes away at Waggoner’s Gap.
- [National Parks](#)
There are some beautiful national parks that are an easy day trip, including parks in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, New Jersey, Delaware, and New York.
- [Cumberland County Historical Society](#)
In addition to selling interesting books, including a very good walking guide to historic Carlisle. They have some interesting lectures and other activities.

Local Dry Cleaners

- Classic Drycleaners and Laundromats
254 E. High St., 717-245-9459
- Abe Dry Cleaners and Tailoring
200 S. Spring Garden St., 717-254-6897

United States Post Office

- 66 W Louthier St.
Monday through Friday, 9am to 6pm;
Saturday, 9am to 1pm

Local Internet Providers

Penn State Dickinson Law offers excellent Wi-Fi and computer labs, but reliable home internet is essential for all students. The primary local providers are Century Link, Xfinity/Comcast, and Hughes Net. It always worth checking into what internet options are available with whomever you are renting.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

Cultural Adjustment

The key to dealing with culture shock is to remember that this is a natural process that accompanies being in a new country for an extended period. It is very important to give yourself time to adjust to your new surroundings, remain positive, and not become discouraged. The [UK Council for International Student Affairs](#) has a diagram that helps to explain the different stages of culture shock.

Here are a few ways to find support and channel your homesickness into something positive:

- Represent your country at events.
- Talk with your international student adviser.
- Join a club or society you're passionate about.
- Meet with other international students who are probably going through the same thing.
- Visit and familiarize yourself with nearby places of interest.

You might even experience reverse culture shock when you return to your home country. There are a few ways you can counter this:

- Keep a journal of your time abroad and compare your experiences to those in your country.
- Stay informed of the news at home.
- Keep in contact with people from home with regular video calls.
- When you return, it may be helpful not to overload friends and family with your stories of "when I was in the United States ...". Instead, engage with local international groups or other people who have had similar experiences.

WHO'S WHO AT DICKINSON LAW




Laura Williams
Associate Dean, Administration

[Meet Dean Williams.](#)

Cultural Differences

While you may not think it at first, there are numerous cultural aspects of the United States that you will likely encounter:

- *Tipping.* "Tips," or gratuities, are payments you are expected to make in addition to the bill for many service providers. Tips are usually based on a percentage of your bill: 15-20% for restaurants, 10% for taxis, 10% for hairdressers, \$1-2 per drink and \$1-3 per suitcase carried—not tipping is considered the worst of faux pas.
- *Bargaining.* Americans generally do not bargain over prices for anything except for very expensive items such as houses or vehicles. It is best not to try to bargain when buying something and instead to expect to pay the price listed for the item.
- *Personal Lives.* Americans are very open people and like to share a lot about themselves.
- *Humor.* Humor is probably one of the most difficult things to understand when entering a new culture; do not feel frustrated if you do not understand some of the jokes that you will hear. Americans have strong senses of humor and like to tease each other. Feel free to let others know if they have offended you but try to do so in as gentle a way as possible.

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- *Local Mindsets.* Due to the country's size, news and culture are focused more locally than globally. Do not be surprised if the Americans you meet do not know much about your home country or even have some wrong ideas about it. Feel free to share information about your country and its culture and history. Americans will be eager to learn from you.
 - *Values.* Punctuality, individual responsibility, a strong work ethic, politeness, and proud patriotism are all valued in the U.S. Know that Americans expect everyone to wait patiently in line or to “wait their turn” for everything—do not try to move in front of someone who was waiting before you.
 - *Religion.* The United States was founded on the principle of religious freedom and is therefore religiously diverse. Religious faith is common and widespread across the United States. Christianity is predominant. Certain parts of the U.S. tend to be less religiously diverse and are usually more conservative. Students from these areas may talk openly about their beliefs and can be shocked if you do not share them. At Penn State Dickinson Law, your beliefs will be respected no matter what they are, and opportunities will be provided for you to engage with your faith or lack thereof.
 - *Politics.* Don't be afraid to express your political beliefs on campus but remember to be polite. Americans can be self-critical but will take offense if they think you are insulting the political concept of the United States. You will notice that Americans become particularly politically minded and patriotic during a presidential election. If you happen to be in America during an election year, ask your American friends to explain the two-party system. Presidential candidates often tour certain universities to speak to students during the campaign.