A self-guided campus tour
of the central Columbus campus

Ohio State boasts some of the nation’s finest facilities for students, and we encourage you to explore them. Join the many students, faculty and staff who crisscross campus every day, and feel free to enter any building that interests you. Please don’t enter residence halls or classrooms in session, however. You can complete this tour in about an hour and a half. Enjoy your visit!

1. The Ohio Union is the heart of student life, featuring support for more than 1,000 student organizations, an instructional kitchen, the Archie M. Griffin Grand Ballroom, meeting rooms and event spaces, Stopy’s Dinner and other eating options, a retail shop, and places to study and relax. Also located at the Ohio Union: Undergraduate Admissions Welcome Center, Student Life Center for Belonging and Social Charge, satellite office for the alumni association, and Student Life Off-Campus and Commuter Student Engagement.

2. Hale Hall welcomes all students and guests as home to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. This recently renovated facility is also home to one of the finest Black Cultural Centers in the country, an exceptional art gallery, and several student support centers and student retention offices.

3. Orton Hall was named for Ohio State’s first president, Edward Orton, and was built in 1893 using 40 types of Ohio building stone. Orton houses the bell tower chimes — 14 bells weighing more than 25,000 pounds — that ring at the top of every hour and each quarter hour. Stop by the Geology Library and the Orton Geological Museum (and gift shop) to check out minerals, fossils, crystals, and our Cryolophosaurus eolopus replica.

4. Mendenhall Laboratory first opened in 1905 and is the current home of the Department of Geological Sciences. Check out the “fossil-like” design of the floor in the main lobby. This building also houses the Writing Center, where the university community gets help with research papers, lab reports, dissertations and resumes.

5. Hagerty Hall, home of the World Media and Culture Center, houses several academic departments, foreign language laboratories and an international media library.

6. Page Hall opened in 1902 and is recognized by its classic architectural elements, including grand Ionic columns. These architectural elements were preserved when it was renovated to house the John Glenn College of Public Affairs. Check out John Glenn mementos in the lower level -- there’s even a piece of the moon!

7. The Weaner Center for the Arts is an internationally renowned research lab and center for contemporary art, film, dance and other performances. Admission to the galleries is free. While you’re there, stop by the Weaner Center store or grab a bite at Heirloom Cafe. Check wvarts.org for hours.

8. The Oval, the open grassy area stretching from Thompson Library to College Road, has symbolized Ohio State to students and visitors for generations. At the heart of campus, the Oval is a favorite place for reading, relaxing and meeting friends. Legend has it that if you take the “Long Walk” from the seal at the east end to the William Oxley Thompson statue on the west end while holding hands with your loved one, you’ll be together forever.

9. Hopkins Hall is home to fine art, industrial design and art education classes. Visit the Hopkins Hall Gallery to view exhibits by faculty, students and visiting artists. Open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

10. Bricker Hall houses the Office of the President and other administrative offices. The Bricker Hall Exhibit Area (on the first and second floors) regularly features university collections, artifacts and the work of university artists.

11. The 18th Avenue Library, one of Ohio State’s 17 libraries, is open 24/7 and houses one of the 20 computer labs on campus.

12. Scott Laboratory is actually three buildings joined by an elevated walkway. Home to the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering, Scott Lab houses several computer labs, an electronics lab and a machine shop for class projects.

Continued on back

Beyond the tour: North campus highlights
If you have time, head north to check out these points of interest.

A. Ohio State’s student newspaper, The Lantern, is created by students in the Journalism Building and published Monday through Friday. The paper was chartered in 1881, making it one of Ohio’s oldest newspapers.

B. The Enarson Classroom Building is home to the Office of International Affairs. OIA supports international students and scholars and facilitates international opportunities for Ohio State students and faculty. Come here when you’re ready to study abroad.

C. Knowlton Hall is where you’ll find the School of Architecture and lisa cafe. You may want to check out the roof garden, accessible from the fourth floor.

D. The campus of our nationally ranked Fisher College of Business includes the Blackwell Inn, a four-star hotel.

E. The Student Academic Services Building is home to undergraduate, graduate and professional admissions offices and Buckeye Link — a one-stop shop for taking care of Buckeye business.
University Hall is a replica of Ohio State’s first building, which was built in 1873. The tower clock, entrance and pillars are from the original building. The new structure, which opened in 1976, houses the Graduate School and other academic departments.

The William Oxley Thompson Memorial Library, Ohio State’s main library, hosts thousands of students daily. The library is home to 1.25 million volumes of books, 230 computers, 1,800 study seats and the Berry Cafe. Be sure to check out the Campus Reading Room on the 11th floor to see spectacular views of campus and downtown Columbus.

Ohio Stadium, completed in 1922, was the first horseshoe-shaped, doubledeck stadium in the United States. Nicknamed “The 'Shoe,” the stadium holds approximately 105,000 wildly cheering Buckeyes.

The Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC) is a state-of-the-art recreation center and one of six recreational facilities on campus. Staying fit is easy with 12 multi-purpose courts for basketball, volleyball and more, 10 racquetball courts, an indoor running track, and lots more. Students also get a splash out of the McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion, taking advantage of the pools, diving well, 25-person hot tub and saunas. You can get a visitors pass to tour the facility at the RPAC Welcome Desk.

Originally fed by a natural spring, Mirror Lake figured prominently in the site selection for the university in 1870. A two-year renovation of the area, with a focus on enhancing sustainability and safety, was completed in 2018. Mirror Lake Hollow includes Browning Amphitheatre, Bucket and Dipper Rock, the Faculty Club and Pomerene Hall — all great campus landmarks.

The Kuhn Honors and Scholars House, former home of university presidents, is now home to the University Honors and Ohio State Scholars programs. If you look closely, you might notice that the back of the building faces the street. The building was originally slated for the other side of 12th Avenue, but when the university decided to cross over to the current plot, the architect neglected to turn the plan around!

Using the map
Buildings in red are points of interest. These dots indicate other areas to explore:

- Campus of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CFAES)
- West of the Olentangy River, north of Lane Avenue
  - Bill Davis Baseball Stadium
  - Buckeye Field (softball)
  - Buckeye Varsity Field (field hockey)
  - Covelli Center (gymnastics, volleyball, wrestling, fencing)
  - Jack Nicklaus Golf Museum
  - Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium (track and field)
  - Longaberger Alumni House – home to the Alumni Association
  - Schottenstein Center/Value City Arena – events, plus Buckeye basketball and hockey
  - Ty Tucker Tennis Facility
  - Woody Hayes Athletic Center

At the Gateway you’ll find Barnes & Noble – The Ohio State University Bookstore, the Gateway Film Center, food and drink, shopping, and convenient parking.

Lennox Town Center, just west of the river and SR315, features lots of shops and restaurants.

Put campus in your pocket:
Download the Ohio State app at go.osu.edu/osuapp for help finding parking, dining locations and more!

Campus, Columbus and more: visit.osu.edu
Virtual tour: osu.edu/tour
Questions? askabuckeye@osu.edu