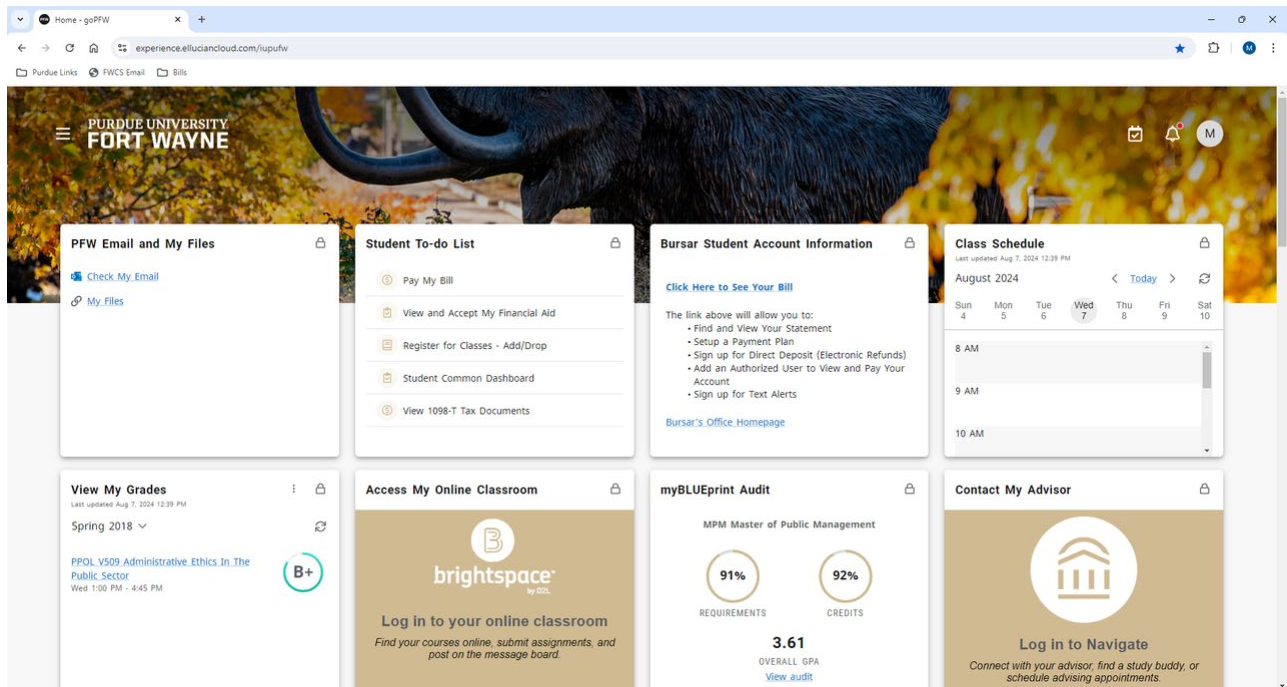




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The new goPFW portal includes an updated design that's much more appealing and functional. Shown here is a simulation of what a student will see after signing in.

New goPFW Portal to Offer Better Experience for Students and Employees

One of the more exciting changes students and employees will notice at the start of the fall 2024 semester has nothing to do with bricks and mortar. After a year of planning, the revamped **goPFW portal** is set to officially launch next week, but users can preview the big changes now by visiting the existing **go.pfw.edu** and clicking on the "do so here" hyperlink in the Luminis Announcements message. The full transition is scheduled to take place Thursday.

A major goal during development of the new portal was to simplify and enhance the entire experience, adding functionality and efficiency to the application. Work started with a student survey last fall.

"I think this is the biggest user interface change at the university in maybe 10 years," said Irah Modry-

Caron, executive director of the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis at Purdue University Fort Wayne and the project's lead. "The old app has gone away, and there is a new one, which is the portal to doing all university business on people's phones."

For staff and faculty, the new portal makes navigating all the information more straightforward.

"People like their tools, and they are there," Modry-Caron said.

For students, they'll be able to interact more easily with resources such as the Office of the Registrar, the Office of the Bursar, the Office of Financial Aid, and others while also tracking their progress toward a degree, grade point average, email, class schedules, and personal calendars. It will also be easier for them to contact their advisor, and many other options off the home page have been added.

Instead of looking in five places on the university website, the new goPFW portal will be the one place to start. As Modry-Caron said, while **pfw.edu** is more outward-facing, the portal will be inward-facing for everyone who works at or attends the university.

"The new goPFW is modern and easy to navigate," said Maria Norman, M.P.M '18, a business analyst with Student Information Support Services who helped develop the student-focused content. "The best feature of the new portal is that it will work on any device. It will automatically resize the screen based on your device's specifications. Now students will be able to take this with them anywhere."

To help get the launch off to a great start, Norman is offering demonstrations for students with **drop-in sessions** at Walb Student Union, Room 114, for three weeks. Employees are also invited to get a demonstration **online via Teams** or in person at Walb **using this schedule**.

Modry-Caron credited Norman and Benjamin Rueger, lead enterprise architect with Purdue IT, for their roles on the project.

"The one thing I wanted to do with this application was pure simplification and to give everyone what they wanted—only the information that they need," Modry-Caron said. "That's what we put front and center.

"I interact with portals in my daily life all the time, so I asked myself, 'What is the easiest to use?' I always went back to the banking example. There are literally four squares of information I needed, and I thought maybe we could reduce what we have to something as simple as that."

Modry-Caron said the app will continuously improve with usage and feedback. He's already considering a second version and compiling ideas for a third.

Don Life is an official university communication sent weekly on Wednesday to all currently enrolled students. Don Life Special Edition is a supplement to the regularly scheduled newsletter. It covers breaking news and time-sensitive information directly related to university operations.

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