

donlife



For Students

February 5, 2025



The Purdue Fort Wayne Scanning Electron Microscope Laboratory, located in the Science Building, is part of the Argast Family Imaging and Analysis Laboratories, along with the Environmental Engineering Laboratory.

Purdue Fort Wayne Now Offering State's Only Master's in Applied Physics

Starting this fall, graduate students attending Purdue University Fort Wayne will be able to pursue a Master of Science degree in applied physics. The addition of this degree program received its final required endorsement by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education on Thursday. No other university in Indiana currently offers this master's, which is often described as a bridge between pure physics and engineering.

Increased interest has led to a 300% growth in physics majors at PFW over the last two decades,

while rapidly growing technology industries in northeast Indiana have led to a regional need for skilled professionals with an advanced degree. The master's in applied physics at PFW will prepare students to apply materials science and quantum theories in associated fields, such as optoelectronics, materials manufacturing, and acoustics. Graduates will also gain advanced experimental, computational, and analytical skills to address real-world industry challenges while meeting the region's need for a skilled workforce in these key sectors.

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Enrollment at PFW up Again for 4th Straight Semester

Spring semester enrollment numbers at Purdue Fort Wayne continue to fuel an upward trajectory that appears to be picking up steam. A census report completed last week by the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis was highlighted by two specific areas of sustained growth: credit hours and retention.

For the fourth consecutive semester, non-dual credit undergraduate and graduate credit hour production, which includes service hours provided by PFW to IUFW students, increased. The spring-over-spring figure was +2.5%. Breaking it down further, credit hour production for domestic, non-resident students rose by 11.5%; there was a 75.7% increase in credit hour production from students enrolled in the Contiguous States Tuition Reciprocity Program; and a 7% increase from Ohio Tuition Reciprocity counties.

The retention rate for first-time, full-time undergraduates between the fall 2024 semester and spring 2025 semester was 87.6%, which is the highest new student fall-to-spring cohort since before the 2018 realignment.

Describing the progress as more of a starting point than a finish line, members of PFW's leadership team are pleased with what the university community has collectively been able to accomplish.

"Being significantly up in credit hour production from out-of-state students continues to confirm the attractiveness of PFW as a destination for higher education," said Krissy Surface, vice chancellor for enrollment management and the student experience. "What remains critical now is that we continue to provide a campus experience that students are looking for, because word-of-mouth marketing is a powerful tool in recruiting."

General registration for the summer semester begins Feb. 17. Early registration for the first of four priority groups—degree candidates, graduate students, and seniors—begins March 25.

Herd That

The student experience is a big part of who we are as Mastodons. Here's one of our stories.



Recent Grad Encourages Others to Push to Commencement

For students yearning to start the next phase of their lives, the march to commencement can feel endless and full of life-altering traps.

"One thing I would tell seniors who are right on the brink of finishing is just to power through and lean on your classmates," said Alysia Cavender, B.S. '23. "I felt like my class, we helped each other out so much and were all so interconnected. Never be afraid to ask for help.

"It sounds so broad, but be as tough as you can be. It is hard to power through, and I feel for them because there are times when you feel like you want to give up, but fight through that because it's worth it."

[READ MORE](#)



Next Omnibus Series Presentation Approved as Civics Literacy Event

The current season of PFW's Omnibus Lecture Series returns Feb. 27 with University of Michigan marketing professor Marcus Collins. His appearance has been approved as an educational activity for students to count toward their **Civics Literacy Proficiency Requirement**.

Collins, who has worked with such brands as Apple, Nike, McDonald's, and Anheuser-Busch, will present "For the Culture: The Power Behind What We Buy, What We Do, and Who We Want to

Be.” The show will start at 7:30 p.m. in Auer Performance Hall. Tickets are free and will be available beginning Feb. 13 through the **Schatzlein Box Office**.

Students are also encouraged to watch the announcements in **Brightspace** for future events.



CSD Clinic Serves Dual Role to Help Community and Students

Until actually stepping into a real-life client session, the skills of a student majoring in communication sciences and disorders are mostly untested and based on theory. Undergraduate classes provide a foundation, but when do students discover if their chosen field is correct—and if they can genuinely help people? When does theory become practice?

That’s the goal of the **CSD Clinic** at Purdue University Fort Wayne, which allows CSD students to work directly with clients. Located in the Classroom Clinic Building that sits between the Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science Building and Helmke Library, the clinic is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Through their efforts, CSD students gain practical experience and confidence. During 2024, they worked with 105 clients over 1,697 hours of treatment or evaluation. Undergraduate students see one client, while graduate students work with up to four.

The clinic offers multiple services, all at no charge to clients of all ages. Individual or group sessions are available, and therapy goals are personalized to help clients maximize their potential

in everyday life.

READ MORE

Friday's New Leadership Retreat Looks to Reach Across Generations to Promote Understanding

Purdue University Fort Wayne's Department of Organizational Leadership and Student Government Association are bringing a multigenerational communication and leadership event to campus on Friday. The Student Leadership FUSION Retreat runs from 8 a.m. to noon.

Registration is free.

Along with a mix of students, faculty, and staff, the presentations will include people at different stages of life. Mitch Isaacs, executive director of Shafer Leadership Academy, is presenting the session, which will explore various social, political, and economic influences that shaped the working attitudes of the Greatest Generation, Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennials, and now Generation Z.

The workshop is designed to help participants be more effective communicators and leaders through understanding the various generations in the workplace today. A board game is featured to help appreciate each generation's worldview.

Eventful

There's always plenty to do at Purdue Fort Wayne. To find your favorites—or discover new activities—check the full [events calendar](#) often to see what's happening on campus.

FEBRUARY

7

Fri., 7–11 p.m.

Spielfreaks Campus-Community Tabletop Board Game Night

Play all kinds of modern tabletop board games like Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, 7 Wonders, Splendor, and more. You'll find an eager crowd ready to play your favorites and teach whatever you want to learn...

FEBRUARY

7

Fri., 9 p.m.–midnight

Indoor Ice Skating

Grab your friends and glide over to Walb Circle for free transportation to the Parkview Ice House. Your skate rental will be free! The bus will run in a continuous loop to the ice house. The event is free and open to all IUFW/PFW students...

FEBRUARY

12

Wed., 6–10 p.m.

Lazer Tag with WellRec and SAB

Tag, you're it! Join WellRec and the Student Activities Board at Lazer X. Remember to bring your student ID...

News Spotlight

A sampling of external news coverage of Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Step Afrika! 101 energizes audience at PFW

21Alive and WANE 15 | Monday

Attempting to make sense of tariff threats

21Alive and WANE 15 | Monday

Little River Wetlands Project celebrating World Wetlands Day with week of conservation-themed activities

21Alive | Sunday

Mastodon Moments

Seen and noted around campus. Monitor our university social feeds for more great moments of Mastodon life.



The special events team rolled out the red carpet on Monday for the Mastodon Mania department door decorating competition. You'll see many areas decorated to show school spirit this week; judging will take place Friday.

Athletics



Events Calendar



News Center



Don Life Archive



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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