

The logo for 'donlife' features the word 'don' in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font, followed by 'life' in a white, sans-serif font. A thin yellow swoosh underline is positioned beneath the 'don' portion.

For Students

May 7, 2025



GRADUATING DONS 2025

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
FORT WAYNE

The Wait for Commencement Is Almost Over: Graduating Students Reflect on Their Time at Purdue Fort Wayne

With finals week now underway, the stress of last-minute studying is starting to wind down for many of the nearly 800 students who are expected to participate in Purdue University Fort Wayne's 2025 Commencement on May 14. They'll join family and friends at Memorial Coliseum who will share with them a sense of satisfaction that comes from this life-changing achievement.

For these soon-to-be PFW alumni, it required sacrifice, perseverance, and hard work to earn the degrees that will help them launch careers across this region, the country, and beyond. They are determined to make a better world.

Here are a few of their stories:

[READ MORE](#)

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

CAREER AND SALARY DATA

How far will you go?

Our Physics students can go into these careers:

- Materials Scientists
- Physicists**
- Atmospheric and Space Scientists
- Nuclear Engineers
- Natural Sciences Managers
- Nuclear Technicians
- Biochemists and Biophysicists
- Astronomers
- Nuclear Monitoring Technicians
- Secondary School Teachers, Exce...
- Physics Teachers, Postsecondary

POWERED BY  Lightcast DATA



\$156k per year	1,526	21,438
Median Salary	Job Openings	Currently Employed

Top Skills

Physics	Treatment Planning
Radiation Oncology	Radiation Therapy
Medical Physics	



Fort Wayne ☐ National

PFW Adds Valuable Career and Salary Data to Its Popular Academic Program Finder

The **program finder** section of the Purdue University Fort Wayne website is its most visited section. It's where prospective and current students can go to learn more about PFW's majors and minors. To enhance this already important tool, supplemental career data, including related job titles and projected salary data for Fort Wayne and the nation, has been added to all 200+ listings.

"We're really pleased to be able to add this real-time, real-world data to the academic program finder," says Jerry Lewis, vice chancellor for communications and marketing. "This puts one more powerful tool into the hands of students and families who are making critical decisions that will affect the trajectory of their education and careers."

While general labor market and salary data may not represent the outcomes experienced by all PFW graduates in these programs, the added information can be indispensable during the decision-making process. Salary and employment outcomes vary by geographic area, work experience, education, and opportunities for employment that are outside the university's control.

Senior Send-off Scheduled for Tuesday

In lieu of the traditional commencement after-party, the Office of Development and Alumni Engagement will be hosting a Senior Send-off on Tuesday, the day before PFW's 2025 Commencement. The festivities will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Steel Dynamics Keith E. Busse Mastodon Alumni Center.

Graduating students can come enjoy food, drinks, photo ops, lawn games, cap decorating, postgraduation resources, and a senior gift.

[RSVP HERE](#)

Complete the First Destination Survey, Earn a Chance to Win a Diploma Frame

Purdue University Fort Wayne's annual invitation to graduating undergraduate students to share reflections on their experiences launched just over two weeks ago with personal emails sent via Handshake. Those who have not completed the survey will continue to receive periodic email reminders every two weeks until Sept. 25. The survey closes Oct. 9.

As an incentive to share this valuable feedback—and to get removed from the reminder distribution list—the first 200 students who complete the FDS will be entered into a drawing to receive one of 10 diploma frames.

Career Development Center team members will also be hosting a table at Senior Send-off on Tuesday to answer questions and encourage participation.

Any graduating undergraduate students wishing to complete the survey immediately may click on this hyperlink: **Graduating Undergrad Survey SP25**. Eligible students and their email addresses have already been submitted to Handshake.

Key Summer Hours to Note

Mastodon Campus Store: Beginning May 27

Monday–Thursday | 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Friday | 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

The FRIENDS of the University Pantry

Walb Student Union location
Thursday | 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Students are welcome to email

Dining Services: All locations closed May 12–16

Einstein Bros. Bagels

Monday–Thursday | 7:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Don's at Walb: June and July

Monday–Friday | 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Java Spot

June 5, 9, 17, 19, 23, 26

July 7, 8, 15, 17, 28, 30

9 a.m.–noon

wellbeing@pfw.edu if they need to schedule an appointment outside of those times.

Student Housing Cole Clubhouse location

Closed during the summer

Fitness Center at Gates Sports Center:

Starting May 12

Monday–Friday | 7 a.m.–7 p.m.

Closed Saturday and Sunday



Campus Community Invited to Help 'Top Out' Surack-Sweetwater Music Industry Building Tomorrow

The tradition of topping out a new construction with its last—and often highest—beam will be observed Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at the site of the Surack-Sweetwater Music Industry Building on the campus of Purdue University Fort Wayne.

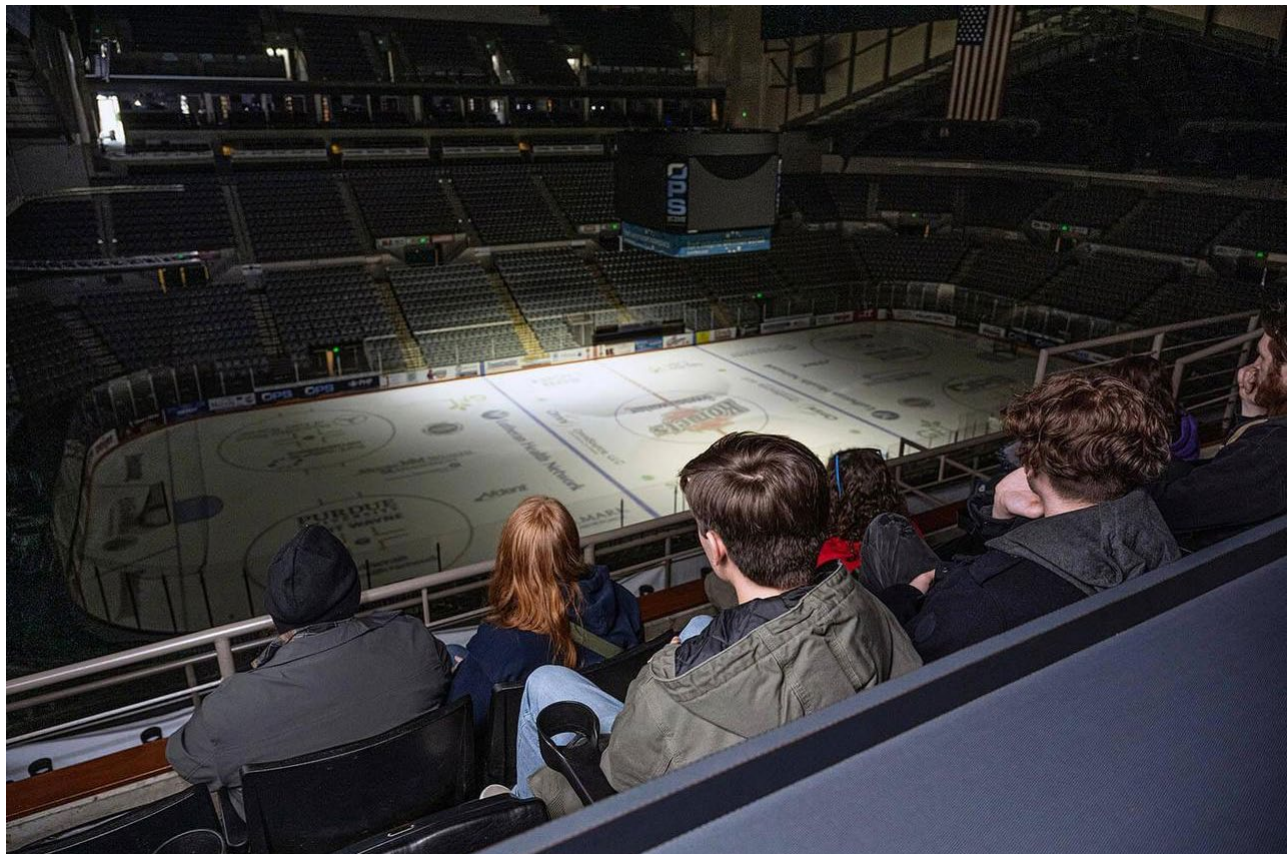
Leading up to this milestone, students, faculty, and staff are also invited to help leave their mark on the project by signing the freshly painted piece of steel up until noon on Thursday. The beam is currently located on the southeast corner of the construction site along Mastodon Way. Those wishing to take advantage of this opportunity are encouraged to bring their own Sharpies.

After the beam is hoisted into place Thursday afternoon, it will be adorned with an American flag.

Several representatives of the university, its College of Visual and Performing Arts, and Weigand Construction will be on hand to observe the topping out and share additional information. Interviews will also be available, upon request.

A ceremonial groundbreaking for the university's \$25 million, 26,000-square-foot facility that's scheduled to open in time for the fall 2026 semester took place in September. Its name recognizes and honors the crucial support Chuck and Lisa Surack have provided to the project, and to acknowledge their essential role in the PFW School of Music's growth since it welcomed its first students nearly seven years ago.

Click [here](#) to learn more.



Behind-the-Scenes Coliseum Tour Previews Days and Nights on the Job for Music Industry Students

Of the tidbits learned during a recent Memorial Coliseum visit, two incredulous items stood out for students from Jason Lundgren's concert and events production class. A comedian wanted only orange M&Ms for his dressing room, and a rock musician asked for a dozen tube socks.

"I think they put a lot of that stuff in the requests just to make sure we are reading it," said Nathan Dennison, the Coliseum's vice president of sales.

That might have been behind the M&Ms, but the tube socks were a real need because of the musician's sweaty feet, and he used all 12 pairs by the end of his appearance in Fort Wayne.

Exposing his students to such behind-the-scenes details is why Lundgren, a clinical assistant professor of music recording and technology, annually takes his Purdue University Fort Wayne students to Fort Wayne's largest venue. He wants them to get a full picture of what's expected during such a career—and after 18 years, Dennison is a pro at giving the 90-minute informational tours.

[READ MORE](#)

Parnell Avenue Bridge Closure May Impact Route to Commencement

Anyone who might normally approach the Coliseum from the south via Parnell Avenue, including all those attending PFW's 2025 Commencement on May 14, needs to be aware of a closure and posted detours that could impact that specific route.

The City of Fort Wayne has announced that the Parnell Avenue Bridge located just north of St. Joe River Drive will be closed for "rehabilitation work" beginning Monday. It is not expected to reopen any earlier than Sept. 18. Drivers are advised to plan ahead and allow for potentially more time to get to the Coliseum.

News Spotlight

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

Students at PFW let off steam ahead of finals week

21Alive | Thursday

PFW stages 'ribbon-crushing' ceremony for new UTM

WANE 15 | April 28

Mastodon Moments

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



Members of the campus community including these two students had a blast destressing before finals week at Thursday's car smash event hosted by the Division of Enrollment Management and the Student Experience's engagement board.

[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.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY[®] FORT WAYNE

