

insidepfw



For Faculty and Staff

May 8, 2025



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.

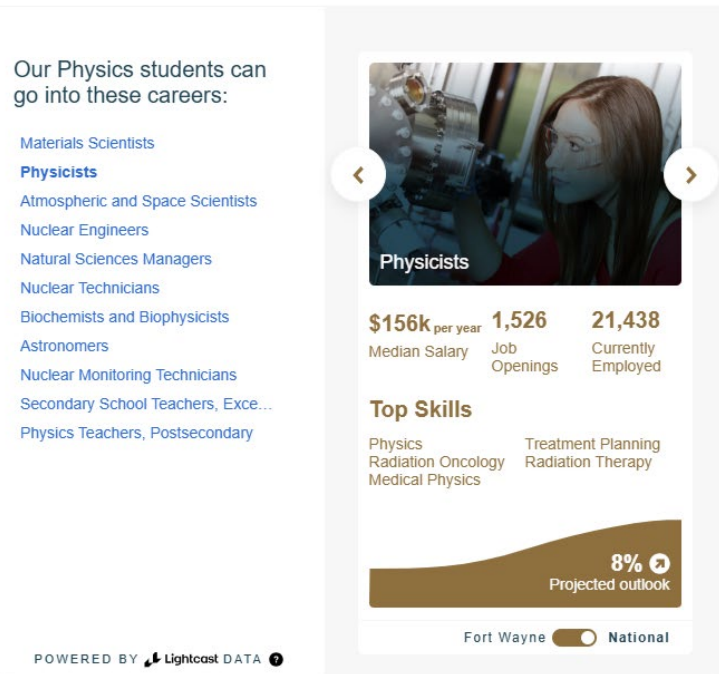
For these soon-to-be PFW alumni, it required sacrifice, perseverance, and hard work to earn the degrees that will help them launch careers across this region, the country, and beyond. They are determined to make a better world.

Here are a few of their stories:

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CAREER AND SALARY DATA

How far will you go?

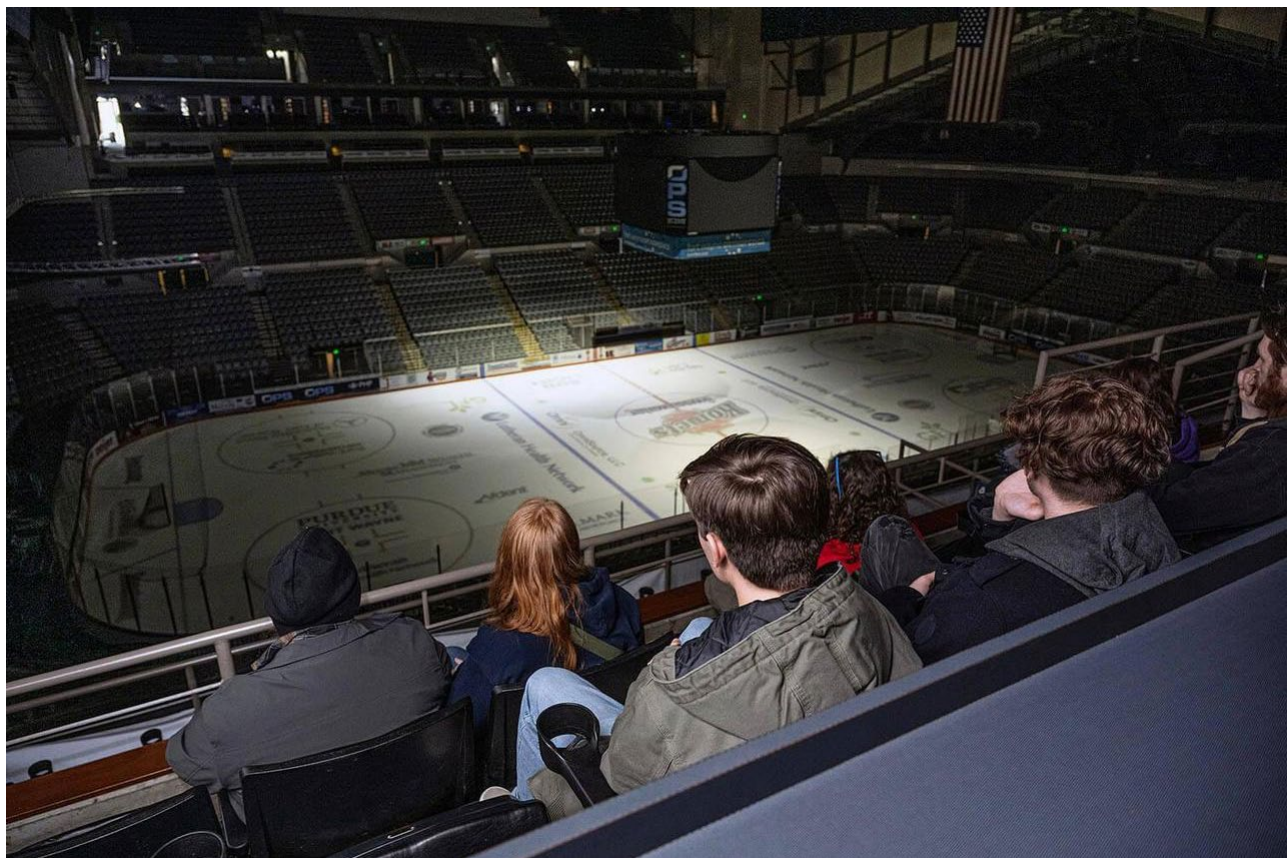


PFW Adds Valuable Career and Salary Data to Its Popular Academic Program Finder

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.



Behind-the-Scenes Coliseum Tour Prepares 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.

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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.

Good to Know

Topping Out Ceremony Is Today

The construction tradition of topping out a new structure will be observed today at 3:30 p.m. at the site of the Surack-Sweetwater Music Industry Building. Faculty, staff, and students still have until noon to leave their mark on the project by signing the last steel beam located on the southeast corner of the construction site along Mastodon Way. Those wishing to take advantage of this opportunity are reminded to bring their own Sharpies.

Donate Professional Clothing to the Mastodon Career Closet at Drive-Thru Event on May 16

The Career Development Center will host a professional clothing drive on May 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For added convenience, staff members will be stationed at Kettler Hall on the back circle drive that's bordered on two sides by **parking lots PL6 and PL9** so donors won't need to get out of their vehicles.

News Spotlight

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

Students at PFW let off steam ahead of finals week

21Alive | May 1

PFW stages 'ribbon-crushing' ceremony for new UTM

WANE 15 | April 28

In a Snap

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 a car smash event on May 1 hosted by the Division of Enrollment Management and the Student Experience's engagement board.

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Inside PFW is an official university communication for faculty and staff. All submissions should be sent to **inside@pfw.edu** no later than 2 p.m. on the day prior to the next edition to be considered for inclusion. Newsletter guidelines can be accessed in the PFW **News Center**.

Inside PFW is produced twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday by the Office of Communications and Marketing. *Inside PFW 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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