



Purdue Fort Wayne Plans Major Expansion of Club Sports Ahead of Fall 2026 Semester

For most high school athletes, the final games, meets, and matches of their senior year come with a bittersweet realization that the opportunities to compete at that level may also be drawing to a close. To help these future college students and those already enrolled fulfill their passion to play, Purdue University Fort Wayne announced today that it will offer as many as 13 club sports starting next year. They will include men's and women's soccer, tackle football, women's flag football, and men's and women's rugby.

Already the home to northeast Indiana's only NCAA Division I athletic programs, Purdue Fort Wayne will now give more non-scholarship athletes another chance to represent their school on the field of play beginning with the fall 2026 semester. Additional newly added club sports on PFW's expanded list are coed running, men's and women's volleyball, and disc golf. These join an already established and competitive roster of club men's basketball, esports, and dance.

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Building Doors Will Now Be Locked during Overnight Hours

To enhance safety and security, nearly all entrances to campus buildings will be locked daily starting at 9 p.m. and unlocked at 7 a.m. This overnight practice will begin Saturday (Nov. 1).

For those who have not done this already, faculty and staff should work with **Campus Credentials and Transportation** to have their ID's programmed for after-hours building access if needed.

One exception to the new practice will be an entrance to the 24-hour lab at Neff Hall. In addition, two main entrances to Walb Student Union—south of Starbucks and west of parking garage P2—will also remain unlocked during the fall and spring semesters. Those entering Walb using these access points may also use the skybridge and reach Helmke Library while it is open. Specific library hours can be viewed by [clicking here](#).



Jon Pickett, John Murphy, Nadia Tovar, Jacob Goldberg, Chase Ratcliff, and Bennet Ripplinger dressed last year as their instructor, John LaMaster (center).

LaMaster's Students Showed Impeccable Style for Halloween 2024

Whenever John LaMaster teaches a class on Halloween, the senior instructor in Purdue University Fort Wayne's Department of Mathematical Sciences tells his students he'll award extra credit if they wear a costume. Most do, and often so does their teacher. One year, LaMaster, B.A. '86, M.S. '91, dressed as Obi-Wan Kenobi and spouted Star Wars references as he was challenged to an after-class lightsaber battle by student Kadya Mueller, who dressed as Anakin Skywalker.

Last year, six students took the option a bit further. Scrambling over two days to visit various thrift shops and collect just the right items, they were uniquely dressed for their 9 a.m. class. Their choices drew grins and understanding nods of encouragement from classmates.

A few minutes later as his students were taking a quiz, LaMaster walked up to Bennet Ripplinger's desk, noting his sweater and glasses, and said, "I'm sorry Bennet, but I don't get your costume."

With a smile, Ripplinger replied, "I'm you," and the reality hit LaMaster, who looked around to also see Jon Pickett, John Murphy, Chase Ratcliff, Nadia Tovar, and Jacob Goldberg wearing similar outfits.

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Chili Fest Expected to Heat up Tastebuds on Tuesday

The ninth annual Chancellor's Chili Fest will be held Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union. Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer has hosted the event since coming to Purdue University Fort Wayne in 2017, inviting students, faculty, and staff to enjoy chili, cornbread, and bluegrass music.

Fresh Ideas will be preparing approximately 30 gallons each of three submitted recipes—"Athletics Chili," "The Best Vegetarian Chili in the World," and "Hot Dam Chili."

"Typically, large batches of chili need to simmer 4 to 6 hours for proper heat distribution and for the flavors to marry," said Todd McCrory, director of dining services for Fresh Ideas Food at Purdue Fort Wayne. "Production of these is definitely a three-day event for our cooks prepping the proteins and veggies, building and simmering, and then serving."

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Good to Know

Faculty and Staff Portrait Session Scheduled for Monday

A photographer will be available on Monday between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to take complimentary professional portraits of faculty and staff. This will take place on the north end of the skybridge, which links Helmke Library and Walb Student Union. Please note that this is being offered on a different day than the usual opportunity on the first Tuesday of each month.

In a Snap

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



Carl Drummond, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at Purdue Fort Wayne, delivers his remarks Wednesday on behalf of the university during a news conference hosted by Fort Wayne Community Schools to announce its partnership with seven local institutions to increase access to higher education. Several FWCS students and Don the Mastodon were among those who participated in the event. [Click here](#) to read more.

News Center



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Athletics



Ripples



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