

# donlife



For Students

March 18, 2026



## Student Training in ROTC to Become Army Chaplain

Several years ago, Tanis Arnold was driving on a country road when he stopped at a four-way stop. Noticing a large oncoming truck racing down the other side of the road, Arnold felt a sudden urge to turn right instead of left as originally intended.

"I get this little pull, and I don't know exactly how to describe it," Arnold said. "So I go with it for some reason and take this right, and as I finish my turn, I see the truck race through the stop sign in my rearview mirror."

Driving a small Ford Focus, a shocked Arnold knew immediately that if he had turned left, the truck would have T-boned him.

"I probably wouldn't be on this planet anymore," Arnold said. "I would have been taken off the

road instantly. I think about this very often.

“I think I know what that voice was, and it’s obvious to me. I think that was saying that God has a plan, and I think He needed me for something.”

Arnold, now a senior at Purdue Fort Wayne, started listening to those hunches, and he’s about to graduate with a degree in art and design and a minor in military science. He’s finishing his college commitment to the ROTC program in a few weeks with a career goal of becoming an Army chaplain.

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## PFW/FWCS Collaborate to Support Students through New Mental Health Program

Every day, Trevor Helmkamp gets to live his dream of making a positive impact on high school students. The third-year Purdue University Fort Wayne graduate student is serving a year-long internship at Snider High School as a guidance counselor, helping students deal with mental health issues.

"I could have walked in here and been like, 'I don't know what I'm doing,' but I was well-prepared," Helmkamp said. "PFW's influence on what I do here and how I'm using my education is instrumental to even be able to do a position like this."

Helmkamp is part of PFW's partnership with Fort Wayne Community Schools to provide graduate students across the district through a five-year U.S. Department of Education grant the corporation received. According to Brooke Sellhorn, clinical director of the **Department of Counseling and Graduate Education**, PFW has provided the program with 29 paid interns over the first three years. Many have been later hired for full-time positions.

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## Early Registration for Fall Classes Starts Next Week

The opportunity to register early for the fall 2026 semester opens Monday for degree candidates, military affiliates, graduate students, and seniors.

Starting at 8 a.m. on the next three Mondays, students in other priority groups will be able to begin reserving their spots in the classes they want at the times they need. That schedule includes:

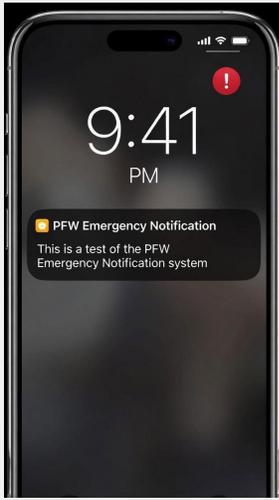
- Juniors, honors students, student-athletes, and students with disabilities: March 30
- Sophomores: April 6
- Freshmen and others: April 13

Make sure to meet with your advisor so they can answer any questions you may have and ensure you're on track for graduation.

## Campus-wide Emergency Alert Test Scheduled for Monday

Purdue Fort Wayne will conduct a semiannual test of its emergency notification system at 2 p.m. on Monday.

In the event of severe or inclement weather, the test will be rescheduled.



**Follow this link** to view the steps to follow during an emergency, including a tornado. Additional information can be found on the campus's **Safety and Security website**.

If you haven't already, please consider signing up to receive **emergency mobile alerts**, which arrive much faster and with greater reliability than automated phone calls.



## In-Person Appointments Available at the Center for Healthy Living

While One to One continues its search for a permanent practitioner for the Center for Healthy Living at Purdue Fort Wayne, a visiting provider has been secured to offer several in-person appointments over the next couple of months.

A nurse practitioner will be available March 17–18, March 23–25, April 6–7, and April 20–22.

Please note that walk-ins cannot be accommodated. However, in-person appointments will be available on the dates listed above.



## Graduation Countdown: Key Details and Updates

It may not seem like it today, but Purdue Fort Wayne's 2026 commencement season is coming up soon. Graduating students should remember the following.

### The Ceremonies

Tuesday, May 12 | Graduate Commencement Ceremony | 4 p.m. at the Embassy Theatre | 125 W. Jefferson Blvd.

Wednesday, May 13 | Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony | 4 p.m. at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum | 4000 Parnell Ave.

### Required Steps

Students who plan to participate in either ceremony are asked to review the deadlines and steps below.

1. **Confirm name pronunciation and attendance** by April 13. Students must complete these steps to ensure their names are pronounced accurately as they cross the stage at the ceremony.
2. **Order a cap and gown.** All orders will be shipped directly to the address that's entered, along with a return shipping label. To get the best price, order by April 20. The last day to order commencement regalia is April 27.

3. **Visit the commencement website** often for important information, reminders, and updates.

## Eventful

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*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.*

MARCH

18

Today, 7–9 p.m.

### SAB March Bingo

It's time for March Bingo with the Student Activities Board and Campus Recreation! Bring your A-game, gather your friends, grab a card, and get ready for a slam dunk of a night...

MARCH

19

Thurs., 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

### SAB Candle Making

Need a mid-week breather? Come unwind and get creative at this candle-making event! SAB is bring all the cozy vibes so you can make your very own personalized candle...

MARCH

23

Mon,, 7:30–9 p.m.

### Omnibus Speaker Series: V Spehar

Digital journalist, TikTok personality, and podcaster V Spehar launched UnderTheDeskNews with the aim to make news media less intimidating and easier to understand. Quickly, Spehar gained a collective 4 million subscribers across their various social media platforms...

## Mastodon Moments

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



As part of Thrive Week, students had the chance to participate in the Bunny Obstacle Challenge, guiding furry friends through a small obstacle course that required plenty of patience and teamwork. Many thanks to Sunny PATHH Farm for bringing this playful experience to campus on Monday morning!

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