



For Students

August 26, 2026



New Student Premium Parking Option Now Available for Purchase

Purdue University Fort Wayne is introducing a new premium parking option for registered students, providing more convenient access to campus with parking locations closer to academic buildings. You can purchase premium parking by [clicking here](#).

Premium parking spaces are marked with orange paint and are available in Lots 4, 6, 10, and 11, as well as the P1 parking garage. The permit cost is \$135 per semester.

The new parking option was developed with support from the Student Government Association, whose advocacy and collaboration helped bring the initiative to fruition.

The launch of premium student parking coincides with updates to campus parking and transportation policies aimed at improving safety and accessibility across campus.

Students are reminded that bicycles and scooters are not permitted inside university buildings and should be secured at designated outdoor bike racks. Additionally, all bicycles and scooters operated on campus must be registered with the Purdue Fort Wayne Police Department.

For more information about parking permits, campus parking regulations, and scooter registration, visit the **University Police Parking website**.



School of Education Earns National Recognition

Purdue Fort Wayne's School of Education has earned national recognition for excellence in teacher preparation, receiving an A+ rating from the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) for literacy instruction and earning accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), the nation's leading accrediting body for educator preparation programs. Together, these distinctions affirm PFW's commitment to preparing highly qualified educators who will strengthen classrooms, schools, and communities across northeast Indiana and beyond.

[READ MORE](#)

Share the story:



Make Your Voice Heard, Mastodons!

Whether you're beginning your first semester or returning for another year, we want to hear about your experiences and goals, and how Purdue Fort Wayne can better support you.

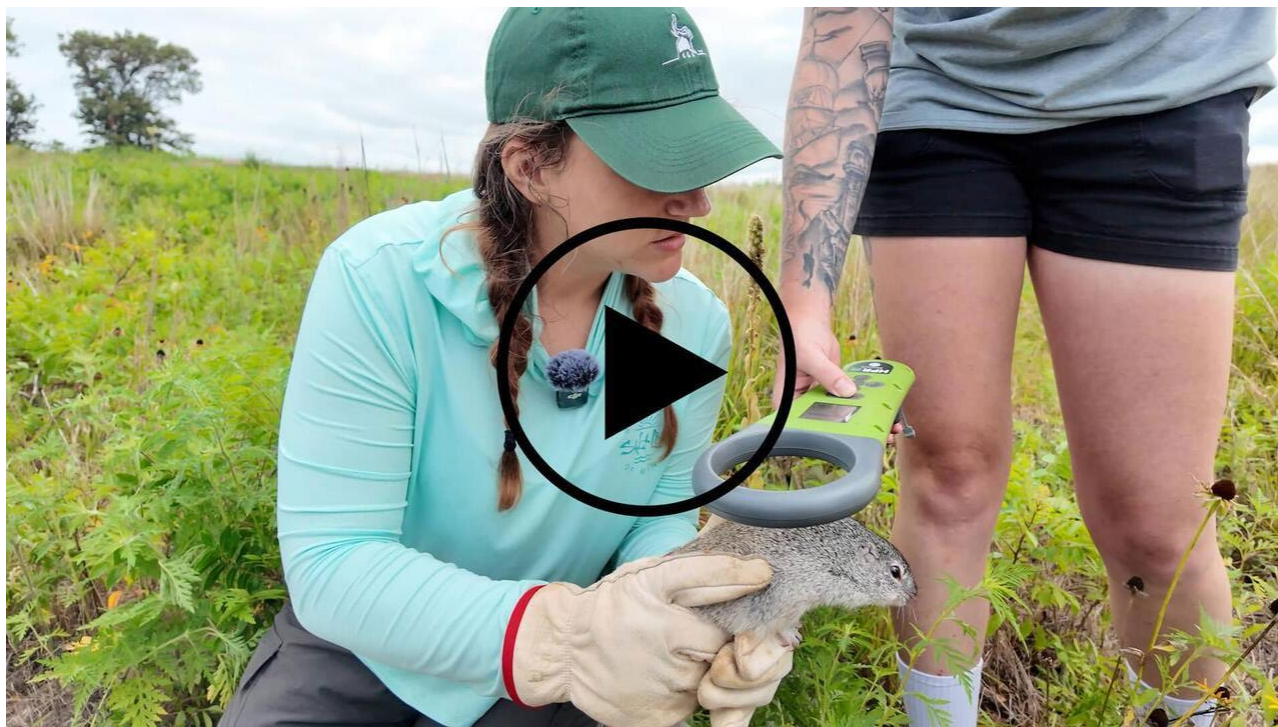
Watch your PFW inbox on Monday, Sept. 14, for a student survey from purduefortwayne@hedsconsortium.org. It takes about 10 minutes, and your feedback will help us better support you throughout your college journey.



Mastodon Minute: How the Admissions Team is Here to Help, with Michelle Kuhlhorst

In this week's Mastodon Minute, Michelle Kuhlhorst shares how she and her Admissions team are passionate about Purdue University Fort Wayne and helping new and prospective students navigate the college admissions process.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



From Volunteer to Researcher: PFW Graduate Student Helps Restore Rare Franklin's Ground Squirrels

For Purdue University Fort Wayne graduate student CJ Klopfenstein, the summer represents an opportunity to help restore one of Indiana's rarest mammals to its native habitat.

Klopfenstein, a master's student in biology, is leading research focused on the reintroduction of Franklin's ground squirrels to Kankakee Sands Nature Preserve in Morocco, Indiana, about a three-hour drive west of Fort Wayne. The project combines wildlife conservation, population monitoring, and genetic analysis to better understand how the species adapts and survives after being released into the nature preserve, which features native prairie habitat and a herd of bison.

Now in its third year, the reintroduction effort has brought approximately 25 Franklin's ground squirrels to Kankakee Sands annually. The project's first two years formed the basis of former PFW graduate student Justin Moore's master's thesis, which focused on squirrel reintroduction, habitat use, and vegetation preferences. Klopfenstein's thesis builds on that foundation by continuing reintroduction efforts while assessing the population's long-term success through trapping surveys and genetic analysis. While Klopfenstein is conducting the latest phase of the research, she is no stranger to the work. Before beginning graduate school, she volunteered on the project as an undergraduate biology student at PFW, helping Moore monitor and release squirrels in the

[READ MORE](#)[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Share the story:





Get Ready for Party at the Pitch

Join the Purdue Fort Wayne community for a night of soccer and fun at the Hefner Soccer Complex. The event kicks off Thursday, September 3, at 4 p.m. when the Mastodons women's team takes on Valparaiso. And be sure to stick around for the men's team matchup against Manchester at 7 p.m.

Enjoy food from local food trucks, games, giveaways, live music, and more.

All PFW students, faculty, and staff receive complimentary admission to regular-season home contests. This fun-filled event is a fantastic opportunity to socialize, meet other students, and show support for Purdue Fort Wayne Athletics. Feel free to bring family and friends!

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.

AUGUST

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Thurs., 5:30–8 p.m. p.m.

Slip & Slide into the New School Year

Get ready to suds up at the Student Activities Board's Foam Party! Dive into the fun with great tunes, free food, and score a free waterproof phone pouch to keep your tech safe while you party...

AUGUST

28

Fri., 1–7:30–11 p.m.

Movie on the Lawn

Grab your blankets and come watch a movie on the lawn with SAB! Enjoy free snacks and a great film under the stars with your campus crew...

AUGUST

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Mon., 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Career Closet Open House

Drop by Walb Student Union G25 anytime between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm to get prepared for your next big interview, a classroom presentation, or the Mastodon Internship and Career fair by taking home a professional outfit from the Mastodon Career Closet...

AUGUST

31

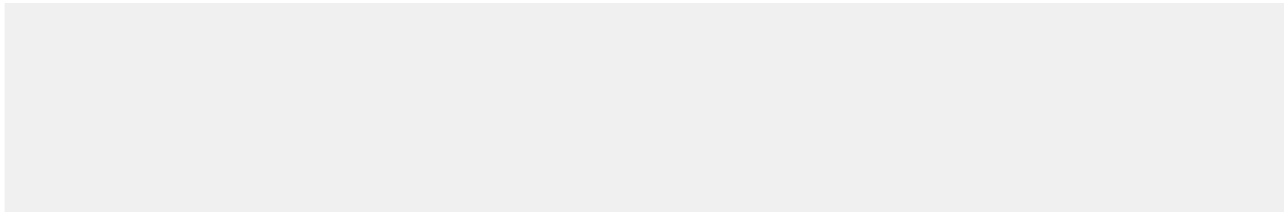
Mon., Noon–1 p.m.

Fall 2026 Convocation

Convocation is an opportunity for the campus community to come together to celebrate the start of a new semester, reflect on the momentum we have built together, and look ahead to the opportunities that await us this academic year...

Mastodon Moments

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





On the first day of classes, John Buteyn, clinical assistant professor of music and director of popular music, gives his students a tour of the new facilities within the Surack-Sweetwater Music Industry Building.

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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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