



Division of Financial Aid

Winter 2008 Newsletter

PURDUE
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Index

-  **Purdue Financial Aid Estimator**
(page 1)

-  **Purdue School/College Scholarship Process Changing**
(page 1)

-  **Student Grade Level Issue in Banner Impacting Financial Aid**
(page 2)

-  **The 2008-09 Division of Financial Aid Application Campaign**
(page 2)

-  **Division of Financial Aid Promotions**
(page 3)

-  **New Purdue Promise Program Being Implemented in 2009-10**
(page 4)

-  **SmartMoney ranks a Purdue degree among nation's best buys**
(page 4)

Purdue Financial Aid Estimator

An online financial aid and cost estimator is now available to help families plan for future educational costs at Purdue University-West Lafayette. Students of all grade levels are encouraged to use the tool at www.purdue.edu/dfa/estimator to estimate "what if" levels of need-based and merit-based aid that might be available to them. Costs and financial aid are estimated based on expected future educational expenses, available funding sources, and scholarship criteria that is subject to change. The estimate of financial aid and costs provided is for 2009-2010 academic year.



The estimates of financial aid awards provided assume that an incoming freshman (class of 2009) will apply for admission by the November 15, 2008 merit-based scholarship priority date, and that all students will file the 2009-10 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by a March 1, 2009 priority date. Financial aid opportunities can be significantly reduced if these deadlines are not met.

Purdue School/College Scholarship Application Process Changing

Purdue has developed a Purdue Scholarship Application (PSA) for school and college scholarship awarding. The application will be made available in early December on the DFA website and will have a February 1, 2009 priority deadline.

This PSA will allow Purdue schools and colleges to gather specific information needed to find students that are eligible for restricted scholarships and merit-based scholarships with a need component. It should improve the scholarship selection process for Purdue College/School Scholarship Administrators.

Students can be referred to the PSA through Admissions and academic areas. Newly admitted students will be encouraged to complete the PSA when they receive their admittance packet in early December.

Each Purdue College/School Scholarship Administrator will have the capability to obtain specific student application information for incoming freshman and returning students as the data will be integrated within Purdue's institutional scholarship database.



Student Grade Level Classifications Impact on Financial Aid

Beginning in the fall 2008 semester, student grade level classifications (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, etc.) are based strictly on credit hours posted on the official Purdue academic transcript. In the past, undergraduate grade level classifications at Purdue-West Lafayette were impacted by how many credits a student had accumulated within a particular degree program and could change if a student changed degree programs. Grade level classification can affect student eligibility for federal loans.

For undergraduates, grade levels are now determined as follows:

- 0-29 credit hours = Freshman grade level
- 30-59 credit hours = Sophomore grade level
- 60-89 credits = Junior grade level
- 90+ credit hours = Senior grade level

For graduate students, grade levels are all the same regardless of credit hours accumulated at the graduate level

For professional students (Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy), grade levels are now based on professional program credits accumulated:

- 0-36 credit hours = First Year Professional
- 37-73 credit hours = Second Year Professional
- 74-110 credit hours = Third Year Professional
- 111+ credit hours = Fourth Year Professional

Students should be able to view their official Purdue academic transcript to determine their grade level classification on [myPurdue](#) (select the Student Folder, then Student Records). Note that transfer credits will not be recorded and included in a student's Purdue classification for financial aid purposes until the [Purdue University Credit Evaluation Office](#) has reviewed the student's transcript from the transferring institution. Once the transcript has been reviewed and the credits have been officially recorded, the student's classification will be updated. The student will receive a report from the Credit Evaluation Office detailing the acceptable transfer credits.

For questions regarding the academic transcript, students should contact the [Office of the Registrar](#) or their academic advisor. For questions regarding transfer credit evaluation, students should contact the Office of Admissions [Credit Evaluation Office](#). If a grade level classification is changed, the student can contact the [Division of Financial Aid](#) to have aid eligibility reviewed.





The 2009-10 Financial Aid Application Campaign

The Division of Financial Aid will use a variety of ways to notify both newly admitted and current Purdue students about the procedures required to apply for 2009-10 federal, state, and institutional aid by the March 1, 2009 preferential filing date. The 2009-10 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is expected to have several changes from previous versions. While a few questions have been added, worksheets A, B, and C have been eliminated. All students are encouraged to file the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

A Purdue “How to Apply for Financial Aid” brochure is used to inform newly admitted students about the steps they need to follow to apply for financial aid. In a change from previous years, this brochure will be mailed with the Admissions Notifications starting in early December and continuing into the spring semester.

Students will also be informed about the need to file the FAFSA through information on the DFA website, advertisements in the Purdue Exponent, and direct student e-mails to upperclassmen. Lafayette area high school seniors will also be able to attend financial aid presentations from Purdue and Ivy-Tech Community College staff on December 10, 2008, January 13, 2009, and at College Goal Sunday on February 15, 2009. All of these events will be held at Ivy-Tech’s Ivy Hall in Lafayette.

Purdue staff will be invited to attend information sessions on the 2009-10 financial aid processes via staff presentations to groups like the Purdue Academic Advising Association (PACADA) and the Purdue Recruitment Council (PRC) after the first of the year.



Division of Financial Aid Promotions

- **Marvin Smith** has been promoted to Senior Associate Director of financial aid services and operations within the Division of Financial Aid. Marvin has more than 20 years of financial aid administration experience with a bachelor's and master's degree from Purdue.
- **Carol Cooper** has been promoted to Senior Associate Director of Fiscal Management, Research and Quality Assurance within the Division of Financial Aid.. Carol has nearly 25 years of financial aid administration experience with a bachelor's degree from Indiana Wesleyan University.
- **Maria Drake** has been promoted to Assistant Director of Research and Quality Assurance within the Division of Financial Aid. She has nearly 10 years of research experience with a bachelor's degree from Purdue and a master's degree from Indiana Wesleyan University.
- **Emily Del Real** has been promoted to Assistant Director of Scholarships within the Division of Financial Aid. She has more than six years of financial aid administration experience and a bachelor's degree from Purdue.
- **Shelley Havrilesko** has been promoted to Assistant Director of Packaging and Aid Authorization within the Division of Financial Aid. She has more than five years of financial aid administration experience and a bachelor's degree from Purdue.
- **Peggy Morgan** has been promoted to Coordinator of Data and Systems within the Division of Financial Aid. She has worked as a Programmer Analyst for more than 20 years at Purdue.
- **Jonell (Joni) Byrd** has been promoted to Coordinator of Financial Aid Documentation within the Division of Financial Aid. She has worked as a Financial Aid Administrator for nearly 15 years at Purdue.



New Purdue Promise Program Being Implemented in 2009-10

The Purdue Promise ensures a Purdue education to Indiana students whose families earn \$40,000 or less and who meet the requirements of the Twenty-First Century Scholars Program. Purdue will provide a combination of grant aid and work-study funding that will meet financial need for four years.

Purdue Promise students also will benefit from academic and social support programs designed specifically for Purdue Promise scholars through the coordination of the Student Access Transition and Success Programs (SATS). The first recipients will start class in fall 2009. About 200 students a year are expected to be enrolled in the Purdue Promise program. More information about the program is available at http://www.purdue.edu/sats/purdue_promise/index.html



SmartMoney ranks a Purdue degree among nation's best buys

From Purdue University News Service West Lafayette, Ind. (December 11, 2008) - Purdue University ranks ninth nationally in SmartMoney magazine's college "payback" survey, which quantifies the long-term value of a college education.

"Public universities turn out to be a far better deal than virtually all the privates we surveyed," according to the magazine.

Purdue Provost Randy Woodson said, "This survey reinforces the reality that a degree from Purdue University has great value in the marketplace. We offer an excellent education and attract top students to our flagship campus in West Lafayette."

The article agreed, stating, "Public schools reminded us that it's not just lower degree costs that explain their ranking; they're also attracting brighter students than before. Experts say that with the number of high school grads soaring (last year marked an all-time peak), state schools have been fielding more applications - and becoming increasingly selective. Many public schools we spoke with report a steady rise in their incoming students' SAT scores, GPAs and class rankings."

Tuition at Purdue is \$7,750 for in-state students and \$23,224 for out-of-state students. The average critical reading SAT score is 554 for current Purdue freshmen. The average SAT math score is 598 and average writing SAT score is 545.

To rank the best buys, the magazine highlights the relationship between tuition costs and graduates' earning power. To determine each school's "payback" ratio, the magazine started with a list of 50 four-year institutions from three categories: Ivy League, liberal arts and public. Data from a survey by PayScale.com, a consultant and online salary database, was used to look at median salaries alumni are earning at two career stages - within five years of graduation (median: three years) and after 10 years (median: 15 years). Each of those figures was divided by the school's historical degree cost and averaged together.

The median salary for Purdue graduates three years after graduation was \$51,400, with out-of-state degree costs of \$66,472 (class of 2005), according to the survey. Purdue graduates' median salary 15 years after graduation was \$90,500, with out-of-state degree costs of \$28,660 (class of 1993), according to the data.

The University of Illinois, at No. 7, was the only other Big Ten university in the top 10. The University of Georgia ranked first. Indiana University was 13th.

The entire article is in the January 2009 issue, available on newsstands Friday (Dec. 12).