PURDUE UNIVERSITY - WEST LAFAYETTE
OFFICE OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

PURDUE DEGREES AND COMMENCEMENT

In this issue of the Enrollment Management Newsletter we take our annual look at degrees and certificates awarded at Purdue West Lafayette.

From achieving an all-time high in degrees conferred to details about graduates and the May 2015 commencement ceremonies, the newsletter provides a comprehensive overview of the University’s newest alumni.

For questions, comments, and suggestions, please contact: enrollmentmanagement@purdue.edu.

PURDUE CONFFERS OVER 10,000 AWARDS IN 2014-15

DEGREES ATTAINED
BY AGE & TYPE

Undergraduate
Youngest recipient: 19
Oldest recipient: 62
Over 75% are 22 or 23 years old at graduation

Graduate
Youngest recipient: 20
Oldest recipient: 71
Over 67% are 23 - 30 years old at graduation

Professional
Youngest recipient: 23
Oldest recipient: 58
Over 70% are 24 - 26 years old at graduation

For the first time in its history, Purdue West Lafayette conferred more than 10,000 degrees or certificates during a single academic year. This all-time record of 10,305 is an increase of 312 over the previous record of 9,993 set last year.

There were increases in each degree category (undergraduate, graduate and professional). And, although Purdue continues to confer associate’s degrees, the numbers (37 in 2014-15 compared to 33 the previous year) remain quite low.

Steadily increasing enrollment in graduate programs is contributing to a parallel increase in graduate degree conferment. In 2011-12, graduate students made up about 20 percent of Purdue’s overall enrollment vs. more than 22 percent of the campus’ overall enrollment in 2014-15.

In 2014-15, master’s degree programs contributed the most to the increase in the graduate degree category, with 81 more conferred in 2014-15 than in 2013-14. Also contributing to the increase are Purdue’s post-secondary and post-baccalaureate certificate programs, which conferred 116 more certificates than in the previous year.
Not surprisingly, degrees conferred by state closely mirror Purdue enrollment, with Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and California residents topping the list.

Other states in the 60+ category (Michigan, Texas, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida and Wisconsin) are consistently among Purdue’s top-10 enrolling states.

Many of the states with 25-59 conferred degrees (Missouri, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Virginia, Washington, Maryland, Tennessee, Colorado, Kentucky and Georgia), also are either among traditionally top-enrolling states or have been increasing enrollment based on U.S. demographic shifts and/or Purdue recruitment priorities.

AWARDS BY COLLEGE AND DEGREE LEVEL FOR 2014-15

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<td>Veterinary Medicine</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>Total by Certificate or Degree Type</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>6,981</td>
<td>1,843</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>64</td>
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TOTAL AWARDS BY STATE IN 2014-2015
Purdue graduation ceremonies are relatively intimate among large universities. All students’ names are read and they receive their diplomas on stage. In addition, ceremonies take place in Elliott Hall of Music, which is climate controlled and small enough that families can recognize their students on stage. At many large universities, commencement ceremonies often are at large athletic venues and undergraduates just stand as a group to be recognized.

For Purdue’s spring graduation, this level of personalization requires multiple ceremonies that begin Friday evening and end Sunday afternoon. Of the 6,307 students who earned their degree or certification in May 2015, 5,444 participated in one of five graduation ceremonies.

5,883 online visitors from 64 different countries also viewed the live streams of the five commencement ceremonies.