Purdue University, in my opinion, is hands down the best university in the country. With its beautiful campus and world-renowned academics and research, what’s not to love?

When my friends from other schools visit Purdue I love that they and are amazed by the beauty of the campus. It really makes one appreciate the State of Indiana and all it has to offer. Every student and alumni I have met seems to have so much pride for Purdue. Many of them know the university’s vast history dating all the way back to May 6, 1869, and often even those who aren’t alumni know the school’s colors are old gold and black.

While researching and designing this tartan, I learned more about Purdue’s history. I believe knowing the history of one’s university is vital to maximizing the collegiate experience. I knew that our aeronautical engineering program is very prestigious (like the rest of our engineering programs), but through my research I learned that we sent both the first and the last man to walk on the moon. Many know Neil Armstrong’s legacy, but I didn’t realize he was one of several astronauts who graduated from Purdue University. This is but one of many bits of history I uncovered, and it makes me even more proud to be a Boilermaker!

The design process challenged me as I worked to interpret the richness of Purdue’s history into a tartan pattern. I first incorporated the university’s colors as the focus of my design. The small inclusion of white and gray served to enhance the old gold and black which reflect Purdue spirit. The next step was to determine the number and placement of colors and yarns to make the design attractive.
I consulted various Purdue websites as part of my design research. Everything about my tartan design relates to Purdue — from campus history to my favorite features of the university.

Purdue sporting events have always been one of my favorite experiences at Purdue. Because Purdue's athletics program is a vital part of the Big Ten, I made the dark grey yarn count 18 to represent the number of NCAA team sports offered at Purdue.

Through my research I also learned that one-third of NASA-manned space missions have included at least one Purdue graduate as a crew member. I think this is an amazing statistic! The yarn count for the black is 22 because Purdue has educated 22 astronauts, including Neil Armstrong, Gus Grissom and Eugene Cernan.

Being a member of Purdue’s Greek system has completely changed my life. The experiences I’ve had and the friendships I’ve made through the Greek system will be with me forever. The yarn count for gold is 48, representing the 48 fraternity chapters on Purdue’s campus.

Finally, I think “Hail Purdue” is the perfect song to rally Purdue students, faculty, staff, alumni and fans everywhere. The words to our fight song were written in 1912, by James Morrison (Class of 1915) and set to music by Edward Wotawa (Class of 1912); hence I made the white yarn count 12.
Approximate Scarf Layout Marked by (V)