

Welcome to Purdue, ***NEW BOILERMAKER!***



Incoming Exchange Student Guide *2025-2026*



PURDUE
UNIVERSITY®

Study Abroad

About Purdue University

Purdue University is a public research institution demonstrating excellence at scale. Ranked among top 10 public universities in the United States, Purdue discovers and disseminates knowledge with a quality and at a scale second to none. More than 105,000 students study at Purdue across modalities and locations, including over 55,000 in person on the West Lafayette campus.

Congratulations!

Welcome to Purdue University! This guide is intended to provide you with practical exchange student information you need to prepare for your time at Purdue University. Be sure to take time to review this and all of the resources available to you in preparation for your exchange period at Purdue. We look forward to welcoming you to campus soon!

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Preparing for Arrival

Make It Official

Complete your scheduled Virtual Mandatory International Student Check-in (vMISCi)

- Exchange students who are beginning a new program at Purdue must complete vMISCi. Completing a vMISCi session at Purdue is required by federal law for international students.
- Your check-in is completed through myISS and will consist of pre-arrival, arrival, immigration video and immigration quiz e-forms.

Failure to comply with vMISCi may jeopardize your lawful status.

Confirm your Purdue enrollment

- To finalize your student enrollment at Purdue, you have to confirm your enrollment by logging in to your MyPurdue account using your Purdue Career Account login and password. Failure to do so will cost you a late registration fee!
- After you confirm your enrollment, the “Academic” section in your MyPurdue page should indicate the classes for which you are registered and the rooms where they meet. Once you know your official schedule, you can purchase your books.
- If you are mistakenly billed for tuition, inform the Study Abroad Office so we can correct the problem.

NOTE: Your tuition waiver will not be applied to your account unless you are registered full-time. Once registered full-time, it might take a day or two for the waiver to be applied to your account.

Obtain Your Purdue ID

- Your Purdue ID card sometimes referred to as your PUID card or photo ID, proclaims you as a member of the Purdue community. It provides access to a variety of services on and off campus with a solution that encompasses academics, finance, access, and identification. All incoming exchange students will be issued Purdue Mobile ID - not a physical identification card.
- Visit <https://www.purdue.edu/business/card/index.php> to upload your photo and take next steps to obtain your PUID.

Attend the Exchange Reception Hosted by the Study Abroad Office

- The Study Abroad Office holds a casual **Exchange Reception** each semester on the first day of class. We invite new incoming exchange students as well as Purdue students who have just returned from their own studies abroad. It is a wonderful way for students to mingle, share stories, and match faces with names!
- We will also invite you to join PASSPORT, a social group of exchange students and Purdue students who have studied abroad. Many fun activities are planned through PASSPORT, so take advantage of the opportunity!

Preparing for Arrival

Medical and Insurance Requirements

- The United States Department of State has strict requirements for exchange students on J-1 visas. You must have insurance that meets the requirements of both the U.S. government and Purdue University for anytime that you are in the US, including any periods when you are traveling within the U.S. before or after classes are in session.
- Exchange students can choose to purchase the Purdue University sponsored health plan- the international plan- or opt to waive the insurance provided you meet exchange student waiver eligibility requirements.
- Failure to enroll in the Student Health Insurance Plan or to submit a valid waiver by the compliance deadline will result in loss of the waiver option, loss of eligibility to enroll, and a late fee.
- You should be aware that American health insurance policies may not cover eye and dental care; we suggest that you take this into consideration when reviewing options and plan to take care of these needs before you leave home.



Indiana state law requires that all new, regularly enrolled students at public universities are immunized and that international students are tested for tuberculosis after arrival in the US.

Additional details: www.purdue.edu/push/immunization/index.html.

Money Matters

- Before you travel, confirm that your credit card and debit card will work in the United States.
- Plan on bringing or having access to funds to cover initial costs of getting to campus and at least one month's expenses. You will need a certain amount of money in the first month to purchase textbooks and supplies, enjoy social activities, and pay for housing and meals. Keep in mind that you will probably spend more during this time while you get set up.
- There are several banks near campus, including one that is located in the Purdue Memorial Union. As an exchange student, you will need to present your passport with student visa, proof of local residence, and Purdue University identification number (PUID) to open a local bank account.



Preparing for Arrival

Travel to Purdue

- ♦ It's your responsibility to get from the airport to the Purdue campus. We recommend that you book your flight to one of the following airports:
 - *Purdue University Airport (LAF)*
 - *Indianapolis International Airport (IND) - about 70 miles from West Lafayette.*
 - *Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) - about 140 miles from West Lafayette.*
- ♦ Shuttle services run between the Indianapolis or the Chicago O'Hare International Airports and West Lafayette. Shuttle services should be booked in advance. If your flight is delayed, it might be possible to get on the next shuttle, but you'll need to check with your shuttle company about available seats.
 - Lafayette Limo (www.lafayettelimo.com)
 - Reindeer Shuttle (www.reindeershuttle.com)



Academics

Academic System

Overview

The higher education system in the United States is probably very different from the style of instruction at your home university. While many exchange students have done well at Purdue, it will be more reassuring for you to know what to expect as a Purdue undergraduate student.



In the United States, **class attendance and participation are normally considered course requirements**. You can expect daily or weekly homework assignments, frequent short tests or “quizzes” (announced and unannounced), and teachers keeping track of the number of times you participate in class discussions. At the end of each semester, final examinations are given and may cover the entire course content or only a portion of it. In addition to the final exam, most classes will have a mid-term exam.

University professors in the United States generally welcome classroom questions and discussions with their students. In addition, professors maintain regular “office hours” - times during the week when they are available to meet with their students to discuss course topics, homework assignments, or any related subject matter of interest to the student. Take advantage of office hours if you want to have additional discussions with your professors about a previous lecture, homework assignment, or if you have concerns.



Your class may also have one or more teaching assistants (TA), who are usually graduate students who teach recitation sections, grade papers, take attendance, conduct tutorials, and hold office hours for consultations. If you did not quite understand the professor’s lecture, but feel apprehensive seeing them during office hours, you should certainly see the TA.

Academics

Classes

The list of courses offered at Purdue comes out in October for the spring semester and in March for the fall semester. Because of the Purdue application deadline, you may have submitted your exchange student application before the course list came out. Contact your academic advisor if you'd like to tweak your course requests.

Note that you should choose

100–400 LEVEL COURSES

Advanced students may be permitted to take 500-level courses with the permission of the instructor. Undergraduate students are not permitted to take 600-level courses.

You can access the course list website at:

www.purdue.edu/IPPU/SA/Incoming/courseRegistration.html.

Credits

- Exchange students are required by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to maintain fulltime student status while at Purdue, which means a minimum of 12 credits every semester for undergraduate students. Only one 3-credit online class may count toward the minimum full-time enrollment.
- Since most courses at Purdue are worth 3 or 4 credits, students generally take between 3 and 5 courses per semester. Plan on spending two or three hours outside of class for reading and homework for every hour spent in class. We do not recommend that you take more than five courses per semester.



Academics

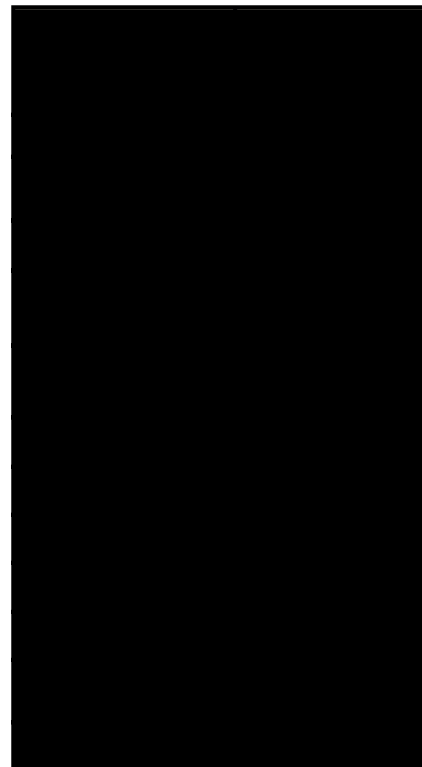
Grades

Academic performance in each course is evaluated by the professor using letter grades of “A” to “F.” The grading system used to evaluate a student’s academic performance is based on a four-point scale.

At the end of the semester, you will receive a number of credits corresponding to the courses you have successfully completed. These credits are multiplied by your grades to determine your “grade-point-average (GPA).” A GPA provides a general indication of overall academic performance and is used by U.S. graduate school admissions offices and employers interested in a student's academic history.

Generally, undergraduate students are expected to complete their studies with a “C” average or better, which explains why achieving good grades is so important to American students.

NOTE: It is your responsibility to ask your home university’s International Programs Office how grades from Purdue will be converted to your home university’s grading system.



Libraries

- The Purdue University Libraries system on the West Lafayette campus includes the Hicks Undergraduate Library and several subject-oriented libraries.
- Hours of operation vary, but all Purdue libraries are open during weekdays. More information:
<https://www.lib.purdue.edu/>

Purdue Transcript

- At the completion of your exchange period at Purdue, the Study Abroad Office will email you instructions on requesting an official transcript to be sent to the International Programs Office at your home university.
- If you would like additional official transcripts for your own use, you can also request this online through your myPurdue account.

Life at Purdue

University Residences

University accommodation (University Residences or UR) is available to undergraduate exchange students. Please visit <http://www.housing.purdue.edu> for a list of housing options and other detailed information regarding university accommodations and meal plans.

Undergraduate exchange students apply online for University Residences (UR) accommodations after acceptance by Purdue.

As an exchange student there are a few additional points you'll need to keep in mind:



University Residences' Housing Interest

- University Residences' Housing is in great demand, particularly during the fall semester.
- Once your housing application is processed, a housing contract will be sent to your purdue.edu email account. Read the document carefully, choose your preferences (please note that these are preferences and not guaranteed), and return it as instructed.
 - You'll receive notification of your room assignment about one month before the start of the semester.

Housing Contract

- If you are coming to Purdue for the academic year (fall-spring) your housing contract will automatically be valid for the entire academic year. Academic year students are required to stay in University Residences' housing for the entire academic year. If you are a fall semester student, your housing contract will initially be for the academic year, but you can notify University Residences that you will be leaving at the end of the fall semester and they will terminate the contract in December. Spring semester or calendar year students will have housing contracts just for the spring semester.
- You will not receive a refund for any portion of the housing contract processing fee if you cancel the application, reject the housing contract, or cancel your plans to study at Purdue.
- A non-refundable housing contract processing fee will be charged to your Purdue account before the start of the semester, even if your plans change and you do not attend Purdue University on exchange

Life at Purdue

University Residences

Roommates and Housing

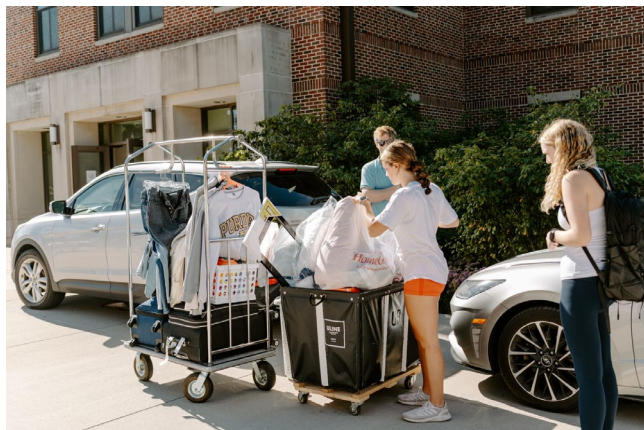
- Exchange students are typically placed with roommates unless you have specified a roommate on your housing application. If you are incompatible with your roommate(s) or dissatisfied with your room assignment, University Residences will attempt to relocate you, provided alternate rooms are available.

Campus Housing Charges

- Your campus housing charges will begin the day you check-in. Students pay room and board fees directly to the Bursar's Office according to the payment schedule chosen by the student on the housing contract. Students are also responsible for any fees for loss or damage.

Housing in University Residences' Housing Over Breaks

- Students living in University Residences' housing can stay in their rooms at no extra charge during October, Thanksgiving, and Spring Breaks, but are expected to vacate their rooms during the Semester Break. Academic year students, however, may leave their things in their room over the Semester Break. If you have any questions specific to your room assignment, you should contact University Residences.



Life at Purdue

Living in Independent Off-Campus Housing

You may prefer to search for private off-campus accommodation instead. Like other college towns, housing in the Greater Lafayette area is in extremely high demand, so you may find it more difficult than expected to secure appropriate, affordable housing on your own. Be aware that when searching for off-campus accommodation, it is also possible to encounter housing scams, and as an international student you may be especially vulnerable to such schemes.

Unfortunately, the Study Abroad Office cannot help you locate off-campus housing or assess its suitability.

Additional information about off-campus housing for Purdue students is available at <https://www.housing.purdue.edu/offcampus>.

Meal Plans and Dining

Most UR accommodations require students to enroll in a meal plan: <https://www.dining.purdue.edu/ResidentialDining/mealplans/index.html>

If no meal plan is available or required, all students have the option to purchase Dining Dollars and/or a Retail Dining Membership accessible by your PUID.

Student Clubs & Organizations

Take your first step toward participation and enjoy opportunities to build friendships and rewarding experiences by joining any of the 1,000+ student organizations on campus. You can join sports clubs, academic organizations, professional or special interest organizations, or international student groups. For the scoop on the latest student campus activities, check out the Purdue BoilerLink website at www.boilerlink.purdue.edu.

All exchange students are invited to become members of the Purdue Association of Student Study Abroad Participants and Other Recent Travelers (PASSPORT). This social organization is sponsored by the Study Abroad Office to foster friendship between current exchange students and Purdue students who have returned from studying abroad. In addition to casual gatherings, PASSPORT members have organized group excursions and participate in university events. Email studyabroad@purdue.edu for more information.

Life at Purdue

Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Purdue University strives to create a university that values each individual and their viewpoints. We are committed to providing equal access and opportunities to all current and future employees including individuals from groups which have been historically under-represented in the academy. This includes, but is not limited to, women; racial/ethnic minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals; individuals with disabilities; and veterans.

Purdue is home to several cultural and resource centers that welcome incoming exchange students during your time at Purdue: <https://www.purdue.edu/diversity-inclusion/about-us/departments.html>

Student Support Services

The Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) is an umbrella of units that empower, support and advocate for students in the classroom and beyond. Specialized areas within ODOS include: Counseling and Psychological Services; Center for Advocacy, Response and Education; Fraternity, Sorority and Cooperative Life; Off-Campus Housing; Recreation & Wellness; Student Health Services; Student Legal Services; and Student Rights and Responsibilities. Learn More about Student Support Services: <https://www.purdue.edu/odos/>.

Athletics and Recreation

For students interested in maintaining their physical fitness while at Purdue, the Recreational Sports Center (www.purdue.edu/recsports), or “Co-Rec,” is free for exchange students. Amenities include an Aquatic Center, cardiovascular and weight training equipment, basketball, racquetball, handball, in-line hockey, wallyball, and soccer courts, as well as outdoor playing fields for soccer, softball, and Ultimate Frisbee. Students can also enjoy the tennis and jogging facilities.



Life at Purdue

Varsity Sports

Because Purdue University is a member of the Big 10 Athletic Conference, you will have many opportunities to attend various athletic events throughout the academic year. In the fall semester, American football, volleyball, soccer, tennis, cross-country, and golf competitions take place. The spring semester includes basketball, swimming and diving, track and field, baseball, and wrestling. Most events are free, but students are charged a nominal fee to see football, basketball, and volleyball games.

During the fall, Football Saturdays are always festive and boisterous affairs. Gather your new Purdue friends and head to Ross-Ade Stadium to watch the game and hear the Purdue “All-American” Marching Band!

Arts and Entertainment

Purdue Convocations brings world class performers to Purdue. Musicals, concerts, comedy, opera, symphony, and dance performances are regularly presented at the 6,000- seat Elliot Hall of Music in the heart of the Purdue campus.

Chamber orchestra, jazz, and individual performances are presented in the 2,000-seat Loeb Theater. Students are eligible for discounted tickets to any performance as well as ticket packages. The Purdue Convocations website is www.purdue.edu/convos.

In addition, Purdue’s Theatre Department stages several theatrical student/faculty productions every season in the state-of-the-art facilities at the Pao Hall for Visual and Performing Arts. Students can purchase season tickets or individual tickets at discounted prices. Theater productions also need volunteers; if you are interested, inquire at the Theatre Department at theatre@purdue.edu or by calling (765) 494-3074.



Festivals and Events

Check out the latest events and annual festivals at <https://www.homeofpurdue.com/events/annual-events-and-festivals/>

Life in West Lafayette

Employment

Exchange students can be employed on campus up to 20 hours per week during the semester.

Information about student employment opportunities can be found at <https://careers.purdue.edu/go/West-Lafayette-Students/7721500/>.

In addition, students may apply for Academic Training. Academic Training is employment in the field of your academic program in the U.S. Typically, exchange students may engage in Academic Training equal to the length of time they were registered as a student at Purdue (e.g., one semester = four months of academic training). Once you arrive on campus, most employment inquiries related to your immigration status should be directed to the Office of International Students and Scholars (ISS). The ISS website has information about on-campus employment and academic training: <https://www.purdue.edu/ippu/iss/student/j1/academic-training.html>.

English Language Lessons

- Purdue University does not offer an English as a Second Language program or true ESL classes; however, exchange students who wish to improve their English communication skills can participate in non-credit English classes offered by two different organizations.
- The Purdue Language and Cultural Exchange (PLaCE) offers classes aimed at improving oral and writing skills. For more information, including qualification requirements, visit www.purdue.edu/place.
- The International Center (IC) offers courses to improve speaking and writing skills. These classes are usually free, but some may require a nominal fee. For more information, the IC's website is www.intlctr.org.



Life in West Lafayette

Safety

Purdue University and Greater Lafayette are relatively safe. Most crimes that take place involve personal belongings. As in all cities, you are advised to be sensible and to walk accompanied rather than alone at night.

Students in need of an escort to and from campus buildings may call the Safe Walk Program 24 hours a day, seven days a week for assistance at (765) 494-SAFE (7233). A member of the Purdue Student Security Patrol or a Purdue University Officer will escort you to your campus destination. Additionally, there are nearly 300 emergency telephone call boxes across campus to contact you directly with the Purdue Police Department.

TIP:

If you need to call the police, fire, or an ambulance for an emergency, dial 9-1-1.
This works on all phone systems all over the country.

Attention:

The legal drinking age in Indiana is 21. Students who are not yet 21 cannot purchase or consume alcohol in public (not even in their dorm rooms). Indiana, like most states, also has an open container law. Even if you are 21, you cannot be seen in public or ride in a vehicle with an open container of alcohol.

Penalties for providing alcohol to minors are harsh.
If you are 21, do not purchase alcohol for a minor.

Traveling In and Around West Lafayette

The Lafayette CityBus provides bus service around campus and within the greater West Lafayette/Lafayette community. There are several campus loop routes that service the dormitories and apartments in the vicinity of the campus area. For schedules, maps, to download the app, or to sign up for text alerts, visit the CityBus website at www.gocitybus.com.

Purdue University and West Lafayette are bike friendly! You'll also find campus easy to navigate by skateboard, e-scooters, and e-bikes.

Like most cities, Uber and Lyft are available in the Greater Lafayette area. For longer distance travel, you can take the Greyhound bus or Amtrak train from Lafayette. The train station is at Riehle Plaza in downtown Lafayette; the bus station is just a short walk from Riehle Plaza. For more details visit: www.greyhound.com or www.amtrak.com.

Life in West Lafayette

Shopping and Dining

- The university is within easy walking distance to bookstores, shops, restaurants, hair salons, banks, and other conveniences. There are also nearby shops that sell basic grocery items and several ethnic grocery stores near campus. Target (a.k.a. Tiny Target) and the LA Village Food Mart is in the Chauncey Hill area right outside the Purdue campus. Larger grocery stores, such as Wal-Mart and Payless are a few miles from campus.
- Amazon allows Purdue students to shop online for textbooks, school and dorm supplies, electronics, and other necessities and have them shipped free and fast to the Amazon@Purdue location in the Krach Leadership Center.
- Students who need table lamps, eating/cooking utensils, or room decorations, may be able to buy such items second-hand or used. There is a large Goodwill Store, not far from the Purdue campus, that sells used items in good condition at low prices.
- For students who want to dine out, there are several restaurants around campus or in downtown Lafayette worth trying. In and around campus are several restaurants that have a student's budget in mind. There are also various ethnic restaurants near campus, including Thai, Korean, Indian, Chinese, Middle Eastern, Mexican, Japanese, and many others. For a list of local restaurants and their locations, please consult <https://www.homeofpurdue.com/restaurants>.

Weather

Weather in the Midwest

- While the weather is often unpredictable in the Midwestern part of the United States, you can expect hot, humid summer days and sub-zero (Fahrenheit) winter days with snow and ice.
 - Generally, July and August are the hottest months while January and February are the coldest
 - September to late October is very nice with cool, sunny weather, and it is also a treat in the fall to see the leaves on the trees turn from green to various shades of yellow, red, orange, and brown.
 - The months from March to May are also beautiful as the first buds appear and flowers bloom.

Winter Season

- Winters can be harsh in Indiana, and the cold weather is usually compounded by wind-chills that can make the outdoor temperature seem 10 to 15 degrees colder. Warm clothes, such as heavy coats, scarves, gloves, and boots, are essential for the winter months of December through March. Winter clearance sales start in January, so if you are short on warm gear, take comfort that you should be able to find good deals!
- If you are coming for the “spring” semester, and you are not used the cold, brace yourself for really frigid weather upon arrival! (But when it snows, have fun sledding on Slayter Hill!)

Life in West Lafayette

Befriending Americans

Overview

While Purdue University has one of the largest international student populations among large research universities, the majority of your classmates at Purdue will be your average American college student.

- When meeting people from other countries, it may be helpful to be aware that ways of getting to know someone may be different in different countries and to try to avoid making judgments about the people of that country.
- **Don't be afraid to take the initiative:** Start a conversation, show interest in others by asking questions; invite someone to have coffee with you after class. Even if they can't go, once you have taken the initiative, they are much more likely to be open or to even invite you the next time.
- **Be positive:** Don't assume someone doesn't like you if they don't respond in a way that you expect. They may just be busy or preoccupied with school or work. Just as you are apprehensive starting a conversation with an American classmate, your classmates may also initially feel the same way.
- **Be informed:** Read the campus or local news, like the Purdue Exponent or the Lafayette Journal and Courier. This way you will be more aware of what is happening on campus and in the area. This may help create a more common background to start conversations and let you know what activities are going on.
- **Take advantage of Purdue's international activities.** Many Americans who have traveled or lived abroad particularly enjoy meeting people from other countries. Activities sponsored by the Purdue Study Abroad Office, Office of International Students and Scholars, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, the International Center, and various international student organizations are a good place to meet people who have an interest in other cultures.
- **Take advantage of campus and area clubs and activities** that sponsor activities that you enjoy. Sing in a choir, take a pottery or a dance class, or participate in team sports. Sharing activities is a good way to meet people with common interests. Eventually, this could lead to friendships.
- **Be aware** that differences in expectations about making and having friends may sometimes be confusing or frustrating and that misunderstandings or miscommunications may occur.
- **Remember to be patient with yourself and others.** Try to suspend your judgment and don't take things too personally if you run into difficulties.

Finally, relax, have fun, and realize that it takes time to make friends, no matter what country you are from!

Quick Contacts

Office of Programs for Study Abroad

Purdue University
155 S. Grant Street
Young Hall, Room 105
West Lafayette, IN 47907 USA
Tel: +1 (765) 494-2383
Fax: +1 (765) 496-1989
studyabroad@purdue.edu
www.studyabroad.purdue.edu

International Students & Scholars

Purdue University
155 S. Grant Street
Young Hall, 5th Floor
West Lafayette, IN 47907 USA
Tel: +1 (765) 494-5770
Fax: +1 (765) 494-6859
iss@purdue.edu
www.iss.purdue.edu

University Residences' Office

Purdue University
105 Smalley Center
West Lafayette, IN 47906 USA
Tel: +1 (765) 494-1000
Fax: +1 (765) 494-0718
hfsweb@purdue.edu
www.housing.purdue.edu

Quick Links

Homepage	http://www.purdue.edu
Course Information	https://www.purdue.edu/IPPU/SA/Incoming/courseRegistration.html
Housing	http://www.housing.purdue.edu
Libraries	http://www.lib.purdue.edu
Transportation	http://www.gocitybus.com
Student Newspaper	http://www.purdueexponent.org
Student Organizations	https://boilerlink.purdue.edu
Athletics	http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/athletics/index.php http://purduesports.com
Rec Center	http://www.purdue.edu/RecSports http://www.purdue.edu/convocations
Entertainment	http://www.homeofpurdue.com https://cla.purdue.edu/academic/rueffschool/theatre/Tickets/index.html
Social Media	https://www.admissions.purdue.edu/socialmedia https://www.purdue.edu/vpsl/marketing/resources/social-media.php