

Questions

Purdue Graduate Student Concerns.....

What are the university's plans regarding the provision of free CityBus transportation tokens for graduate students during the Summer and Fall 2025 semesters? Will the program be expanded or adjusted? Additionally, will graduate students be required to purchase their own tokens for Summer or Fall 2025?

- Campus transportation services are under review for Summer and Fall 2025. Summer transportation plans are currently being evaluated, while Fall 2025 services are under review through an open RFP process. We appreciate that many students depend on reliable transportation options and will share updates with the campus community as soon as more information becomes available.

Are there plans to increase the minimum stipend for graduate students for the 2025-26 academic year to account for inflation and rising costs of living?

- Over the past three years, the average graduate student salary has increased by 23% due to additional institutional investments. We are currently reviewing the option of returning to the practice of adjusting the minimum stipend by the same percentage as the faculty and staff merit pool, as was the case prior to recent major increases to the minimum stipend. Colleges and departments will continue to have the flexibility to set higher minima to support competitive recruitment efforts. Most of the Ph.D. students have stipends much higher than the minimum.

Since graduate students are not eligible to live on campus, they do not have access to non-commuter dining court passes. Would the university consider a pilot program to offer subsidized dining court passes for graduate students on assistantships in Spring 2025? Given the significant time demands of assistantships, access to affordable dining options would reduce challenges faced by graduate students who spend considerable time on campus due to classes and meetings. The lack of affordable housing makes them stay far away from campus and not be able to access their homes for mid day meals. Could this option be integrated into assistantship offers if increasing stipends proves challenging?

- Graduate students can purchase a commuter meal plan from Purdue Dining & Culinary, subject to availability based on demand from residence hall students. Additionally, Purdue Food Co. offers meal plans with reduced rates at retail dining locations.

The cost of health insurance for graduate students on 1/4-time appointments is significantly higher than for those on 1/2-time appointments. Would the university consider adjusting health insurance premiums to be proportionally fractional based on employment status to address this disparity?

- Currently, the university provides premium contributions for graduate students whose total appointments equate to 0.5 FTE or higher, similar to the university's approach to medical premium support for employees at 0.5 FTE or greater.

Affordable childcare remains a challenge for graduate students with families. Are there plans to expand affordable childcare options on or near campus or to provide subsidies for graduate student parents to help with these costs?

- Information about childcare efforts can be found [here](#). Through a Lilly grant, the university continues working with the Greater Lafayette community to expand childcare options for families.

Additionally, each of the three childcare programs affiliated with the West Lafayette campus accepts CCDF vouchers for eligible families. Human Resources also provides [online resources](#), including childcare referral services, community childcare options, and information on the au pair program.

Access to A parking passes is currently limited. Would the university consider making A parking passes available for purchase by all graduate students, particularly those with time-sensitive commitments like teaching or research assistantships?

- Parking adjustments are made throughout the year to accommodate campus needs and address parking pressures. In Fall 2024, the parking team implemented changes that increased parking capacity for C permit holders and activated underutilized spaces through the South Campus shuttle. Additionally, 100 more permits were released in January 2025 to help meet demand while balancing overall parking availability.

The university continues to evaluate parking needs and explore potential adjustments. More information on future parking plans will be shared with the campus community as it becomes available.

As housing costs continue to rise, how is the university addressing the availability of affordable housing near campus for graduate students in the year 2025?

- While housing costs in the Greater Lafayette area have risen in recent years, there are indications that they may stabilize. Purdue is contributing to this effort by opening two new residence halls—one in Fall 2025 and another in Fall 2026—adding housing for approximately 1,900 residents.

Additionally, the community has seen a nearly 4% increase in available beds over the past year, with more major projects underway. This growing housing supply, combined with the University's efforts to limit enrollment growth in West Lafayette, is expected to help moderate rental increases.

Graduate students significantly contribute to teaching and research. Are there plans to introduce additional recognition, awards, or incentives to acknowledge their contributions and improve retention?

- The Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Schools (OGSPS) is actively exploring new ways to recognize and reward graduate student excellence in research and teaching. While OGSPS has historically celebrated contributions to teaching, we recognize the need to highlight broader scholarly achievements.

To support this, graduate students are eligible for the Purdue University Books Initiative, and we encourage participation in this opportunity where appropriate. The Presidential Doctoral Excellence Awards were also recently launched to help recruit and retain outstanding PhD students. Looking ahead, OGSPS will collaborate with the Colleges in Spring 2025 to identify strategies that further elevate scholarly excellence. These discussions will shape the development of new

competitive awards, set to launch in Spring 2026, to recognize and support graduate student contributions.

Graduate students at Purdue Indianapolis note that 4 - 6 departments are currently housed in a single building. Are there plans to expand infrastructure, and if so, when can students expect the unveiling of the first building with research labs and classrooms?

- Purdue Trustees approved the construction of the **Academic Success Building** in June 2024. Construction on the 248,000 square foot facility is scheduled to begin in April 2025 and be completed by May 2027.

Purdue Indianapolis students have raised concerns about IU students gaining access to IU exclusive career fairs, while PIN students must travel to West Lafayette for events such as the Industrial Round Table. Could the university negotiate with IU to allow Purdue Indianapolis students access to IU career fairs? Additionally, what are the university's immediate plans for hosting career fairs tailored to Purdue Indianapolis students?

- Purdue University provides career services and career fairs in Indianapolis, along with opportunities in West Lafayette and virtual options. The 2024 Indianapolis Career Fair hosted 79 companies and over 500 students, with additional events such as the Co-Op Fair (Jan 27), the Construction Industry Fair (Feb 4), and the upcoming Indianapolis Career Fair (Feb 24). To support access to West Lafayette's Industrial Roundtable, additional buses were provided for Indianapolis students. Purdue remains committed to expanding career opportunities for all students.

Purdue Indianapolis graduate students receive an additional \$1,500 per semester in housing allowances to offset the cost of living in Indianapolis. However, apartment costs in Indianapolis are comparable to, or even less than, those in West Lafayette. Why is this allowance provided only to Indianapolis students and not extended to West Lafayette students?

- The process for determining the cost of attendance (including housing) is determined by the Department of Education and the Division of Financial Aid calculates Purdue's cost of attendance based on those guidelines. When the Division of Financial Aid calculated cost of attendance at Indianapolis, the rates were significantly higher than in West Lafayette because the housing estimates were based on two on-campus housing options (Lux and North Hall), both of which were higher price than some on-campus housing in West Lafayette.

For international students, the I-20 document previously listed the cost of living in West Lafayette as approximately \$17,000 per year. The current figure from Purdue ISS shows this cost has risen to around \$22,000. If Purdue recognizes a \$5,000 increase in the cost of living, why haven't graduate student stipends been adjusted accordingly to reflect this change?

- Over the past three years, the average graduate student salary has increased by 23% as a result of additional institutional investments. Purdue also raised the minimum graduate student stipend to \$26,000 on July 1, 2023, and it increased again to \$28,000 on July 1, 2024. Additionally, individual colleges and departments have the flexibility to establish higher minimum stipends to support competitive recruitment and retention efforts.

Returning one hour a day to faculty

Many of our colleagues still feel swamped. Can you please provide updates regarding the “returning one hour a day to faculty” initiative?

- Over the past several months, Sponsored Program and Business Office staff have worked diligently to enhance pre- and post-award management, launching key initiatives aimed at streamlining research administration. In October, we introduced the PERA (Purdue Excellence in Research Administration) system, a faculty-requested tool that centralizes research-related processes. Faculty feedback has been largely positive. Additionally, the Research Account Dashboard (RAD) was developed to provide researchers with real-time account insights. Its adoption has exceeded expectations, reflecting its value to faculty.

Our teams continue to reduce unnecessary approval steps by minimizing the number of signatures required whenever possible – our ongoing “One Signature Fewer” initiative. We welcome further improvement suggestions at finprocess@purdue.edu.

Purdue IT continues to **expand AI resources** to save faculty and staff time. For example, the recent launch of Proofig AI, an automated image proofing tool, helps ensure research integrity in scientific publications.

As we continue refining these systems, we recognize that both faculty and staff are managing significant demands. Ensuring an efficient research environment depends not only on process improvements but also on retaining skilled administrative staff. A culture of mutual appreciation and collaboration will be key to sustaining these efforts and driving future success.

Federal Executive Orders – impact on research funding.....

How will Purdue administration support faculty, especially pre-tenure faculty, whose research agendas in social justice, equity, and inclusion have been criminalized by the federal government? Will you give these faculty time to reform their research agendas or will you use their sudden inability to be funded under their previous agenda as a reason to deny them tenure?

- The university values academic freedom and is committed to supporting faculty as they navigate changes in the research landscape. Led by deans and department heads, we will continue to work with affected faculty to explore viable pathways for continued scholarly excellence in an evolving environment. A **research update** email was distributed to faculty and staff across the Purdue system on Thursday.

Also, will you support the students who had been funded under canceled grants to complete their degrees? PhD students should not be punished for the government's choice to end their funding streams.

- Our top priority is our duty of care to students. We are actively assessing the impact of federal funding changes and committed to identifying viable solutions to assist affected PhD students in continuing their academic progress.

State Chemists.....

The state legislature is considering moving the State Chemist from Purdue to IU: <https://legiscan.com/IN/bill/HB1184/2025>. This would be a bad decision on the merits: the responsibilities of the State Chemist include administering agricultural laws regarding fertilizers and such (<https://inplants.oisc.purdue.edu/USAPlantsIN/Index.aspx>), and this is well in line with Purdue’s land-

grant mission, not to mention the technical expertise of Purdue's STEM and Ag operations. It would also be an unfortunate precedent for this kind of micro-managing to go through unopposed.

How will Purdue respond to this legislative initiative?

- We are aware of the legislation and will continue to monitor its consideration.

COACHE survey.....

What efforts were implemented based on the results from the last COACHE survey? As Purdue is getting ready to launch another COACHE survey, it would be useful to know what initiatives were taken in response to the results from the survey from three years ago.

- Several improvements were implemented in response to the last COACHE survey, including updating promotion and tenure criteria in partnership with colleges and departments, enhancing the annual review process, and creating a promotion pathway for lecturers. C/P and lecturer advisory boards were established, and leadership programs were tailored to address COACHE feedback. As we prepare for the next survey, we continue assessing these initiatives to enhance faculty success and engagement.

DEI Executive Order - impact on Purdue.....

What is President Chiang's take on the Trump ban on DEI (also referred to as DEIA in the executive order referenced below) initiatives, which the executive order of January 21st intends to apply through "civil compliance investigations" to "institutions of higher education that have endowments over 1 billion dollars." Purdue falls into that category with a 3-billion-plus endowment. Going forward, will Purdue continue to support DEIA?

If not, doesn't our history of institutional support for DEIA run counter to the ban?

If so, how will Purdue address the legal issues if and when they arise?

- As a public university and State Education Institution (SEI), we are committed to our core mission and responsibilities while ensuring compliance with applicable laws. We are continuously monitoring a complex array of legal developments that are emerging at a rapid pace, including agency guidance and court proceedings related to this executive order and others.

Purdue Climate Action Plan.....

When can we expect Purdue to commit to a climate action plan, with targets for decarbonization? When will the administration officially respond to SD 22-22, calling on the university to commit to carbon neutrality?

- Purdue University was recently ranked by QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) World University as the No. 12 institution in the United States for sustainability and our climate action plan consists of two parts:
 - 2020 Sustainability Master Plan
 - 2022 SMR to Zero Plan