



Davidson School of Chemical Engineering
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

New Student Manual Fall 2025

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Introduction and Additional Resources

Welcome to the Davidson School of Chemical Engineering at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana! This manual was created to answer a lot of commonly asked questions from new students and to provide links to helpful additional resources.

The Professional MS program (PMP) in Chemical Engineering has a Program Guide specifically for the PMP and it can be found here:

<https://engineering.purdue.edu/ChE/academics/graduate/masters/current>

Transportation

- Car
 - Parking
 - Parking Passes are available through the Purdue Parking Facilities website (<https://www.purdue.edu/parking/>) to full-time students who live at least 1.5 miles away from campus.
 - The C-Pass is for designated parking lots and all students who live outside a 1.5 mile radius from campus are eligible to apply.
 - C-Garage parking passes can also be purchased by students, but are limited in number.
 - A and B parking passes are available to graduate students currently with a 0.75 FTE (full-time equivalent, working 30 hours/week) or greater appointment. Proof of appointment is needed from the Business Office.
 - Neighborhood parking is available near Hampton Hall. Refer to the map for permissible parking locations (http://www.westlafayette.in.gov/egov/docs/1248456373_455657.pdf). Many of the streets closest to campus are restricted to 2-hour parking. Failure to move your vehicle within this time frame would likely result in a parking ticket fee. Fines typically cost about \$40.
 - Getting an Indiana driver's license
 - You are encouraged to apply for an Indiana state driver's license as soon as possible (note: many companies require proof of a valid US for internship/employment offers). Depending on whether you have a current driver's license in another state/country or not, you may need to obtain a learner's permit first and complete 6 months of driving practice under the supervision of a licensed driver. If you already have a license, you may only need to take the written exam. If you do not have a driver's license, you would be required to take the driver's test as well.

Refer to the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles website (<https://www.in.gov/bmv/>) to view the requirements and to see what conditions apply to you.

- Driving Schools – if you would like practice learning to drive, consider enrolling at one of the following driving schools:
 - Midwest Driving School (<https://www.midwestdrivingschool.us/>)
 - American International Driving Academy (<http://idrivingacademy.com/>)
 - Indiana All-Star Driving (<http://www.inallstardrive.com/>)
 - Road star Driving School (<https://lafayette.roadstardriving.com/>)
- Zipcar (<http://www.zipcar.com/>) is a car rental service where you pay a monthly membership rate and you have immediate access to the Zipcars strategically parked around campus. You are typically allowed to use a Zipcar with the driver's license from your home country for the first 6 months – 1 year of your time in the US (depending on the country of citizenship/home country) before the license expires.
- Cars must yield to bikes and pedestrians and keep a minimum of 3 feet away from bikes.
- If you are planning on buying a car, consider all the costs. Lafayette is not a metropolitan area, so there are only a few dealerships with affordable used cars. It takes time to compare costs and determine what is best for your financial situation. Start early if possible.
- Costs to consider:
 - Insurance
 - Registration
 - Licensing
- Get with another student who has a car to practice driving prior to testing. (Mainly for international students)
- Walking
 - Campus map and building information (http://www.purdue.edu/campus_map/)
 - Pedestrians have the right-of-way in crosswalks.
- Bus
 - Citybus (www.gocitybus.com) is the local bus system for Greater Lafayette area, including the Purdue Campus loops. This site shows the maps and schedules for all of the routes. You can also use Google Maps/Google Transit to locate bus

stops near starting and ending points. All campus loops except the black loop run from Mon - Fri until 6 pm.

- The bus service is free to all students with use of your Purdue Identification Card (PUID).
- Many larger apartment complexes (particularly near Walmart in West Lafayette) have their own bus shuttle service to and from campus.
- Mobile Apps for locating bus stops and buses in real time:
 - Android/iOS: DoubleMap
 - Windows: Next Bus
 - The Purdue University App (www.purdue.edu/mobile/) gives approximate bus locations. It also has a campus map, calendar, news, safety, computer lab information, etc.
 - Rider alerts can be received by email/text
 - Sign up at www.gocitybus.com/Wheres-The-Bus#text
 - Text “RT4” followed by bus stop ID and route to 41411 to receive next 3 scheduled departures via text.
- Biking
 - Bicyclists are expected to follow vehicular traffic patterns. They are not to ride on sidewalks, particularly if there are designated bike lanes.
 - Bicycle signs and markings on campus: <https://www.purdue.edu/bikes/>

How do I get to Purdue University from the airport or vice versa?

- Indianapolis: Star of America, Reindeer Shuttle, and Lafayette Limo (go only to airport), Greyhound Bus
- Chicago Midway & O’Hare Airports: Lafayette Limo, Express Air Coach, and Reindeer Shuttle (to the airport), Greyhound and Amtrak (center of city)
- Facebook: Purdue University Rideshare Group (a cheap option for carpooling with other Purdue students)
- Carpooling/traveling together is a good option for students coming from same locations/countries.

How do I get to local stores in the area if I don’t have a car?

A great option now is using different delivery apps and services like Amazon (student plan available), Walmart etc.

- Bus: Citybus
- Carpool with other students
- Walking / Biking
- Chaney’s Magic Cab Ride 765-742-8400 or Fast Cabz 765-412-3597

- Uber or Lyft (tends to be cheaper than traditional taxi services)

Housing Options

What different types of housing options are available for students?

- Rent on-campus
- Rent off-campus
- Buy a home off-campus

Most students choose to rent, while some purchase homes due to the relatively low cost of living. On-campus apartments available to graduate students include: [PRF Residential Housing](#). More students tend to live off-campus in either West Lafayette or Lafayette. Refer to the Graduate Student Housing website <https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/student/housing.html> for more information.

How can I find a roommate?

- Facebook groups: using keywords like ‘Purdue’ and ‘Housing’ you can find a number of private Facebook groups to connect with other students looking for roommates.
- Contact current students in your specialty area.
- Refer to websites, such as craigslist.com, that contain ad listings.

Note: please use caution when contacting strangers.

How do I set up utilities?

The utilities you are expected to pay will depend on the lease agreement with your landlord. Your landlord may set these up and/or pay for them, or you may be expected to call the companies and set up the utilities upon move in. The following are common utilities that you may have to pay, as well as some typical local providers of these services.

- Cable/Internet (Comcast, Frontier, DISH, DirectTV, Metronet)
- Gas (Vectren)
- Electric (Duke)
- Water (usually covered by apartment, talk to landlord)
- Cell phones (Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, Sprint)

Where should I set up a local bank account?

The three most commonly used local banks by students are Purdue Federal Credit Union (<https://www.purduefed.com>), Chase Bank (<https://www.chase.com/>) and Huntington National Bank, HNB (<https://www.huntington.com/>).

Weather

What is the weather like and how can I prepare for it?

- The temperature in West Lafayette, IN varies from an average high of 84 degrees Fahrenheit (29C) in July to an average low of 17 degrees Fahrenheit (-8C) in January.
- For many international students, the winters in West Lafayette, IN can be quite a shock. However, it is manageable with proper attire. Insulated, waterproof boots and wool/fleece socks are strongly encouraged. Students should have a warm hat, scarf and gloves. Additionally, a good quality coat or parka is needed. See shopping section for suggestions of where to purchase these items.
- Other things to watch out for in winter:
 - Beware of pipes freezing – in very cold weather, it is possible that your plumbing could freeze if the pipes aren't properly insulated. Do not ever turn off your heat in winter (even if out of town for an extended period of time), as doing so increases the chances of freezing pipes. If you find that water isn't coming out of the faucets, notify your landlord immediately to prevent the pipes from bursting.
 - Black ice forms on roads and sidewalk, causing very slick and dangerous surfaces which are difficult to see. Walk and drive more slowly and carefully when there are slick conditions, particularly when taking turns.

What about tornadoes?

- While occurrences are infrequent, Purdue is located in an area susceptible to tornadoes. Tippecanoe County has hazard warning sirens that go off if there is a potential threat. These sirens are tested at 11:00 am on the first Saturday of every month; no action is required during these scheduled tests. Refer to this site for more information on Tornado safety (<https://www.purdue.edu/engineering/ABE/INPREPared/tornadoes/>)

Academic Resources

What student mentors are available to answer questions or concerns about student life on campus?

- The Purdue Graduate Student Government, P GSG (<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~pgsg/>) is composed of student senators, who are representatives from each school. Senators meet to voice ideas and concerns from the student body.
- The Office of Graduate Assistance consists of individuals that act as impartial and, in most cases, confidential resources for any graduate students with questions or concerns. You can schedule a meeting <https://www.purdue.edu/academics/ogsps/student/oga/index.html> to voice concerns such as: adjusting to grad school, the relationship with your advisor, funding difficulties, etc.

- ‘Senior’ students, who have been here longer than you are also likely be great resources.

What resources are available to help with my writing?

- The Purdue Online Writing Lab, OWL (owl.purdue.edu) provides free resources on writing tips, avoiding plagiarism, developing a resume, etc. Over 200 services are available, including: tutoring sessions, English as a Second Language(ESL) conversation groups, general writing workshops, etc.

What resources are available to help with my professional development?

- The Purdue Center for Career Opportunities, CCO (<https://www.cco.purdue.edu>) provides writing guidance on resumes, cover letters, and personal statements. The center assists students with developing a career plan, job search strategies, and mock interviews. Students can make appointments to meet with center employees on a 1-on-1 basis.

Where can I get additional help with my English?

- LARA, the Lafayette Adult Resource Academy (www.laralafayette.org) provides English as a Second Language classes free of charge.
- Purdue OWL has ESL tutors who can help with writing projects.

Student Organizations

How do I find information about student groups on campus?

- All student groups are listed on this website: <https://boilerlink.purdue.edu/>
- Intramural Sports - 40 different leagues offered through the CoRec for a small participant fee: <http://www.purdue.edu/recwell/programs/intramuralSports/index.php>
- International Center - creates cross-cultural connections between diverse people through education (language programs- ESL and foreign), arts, cultural events, etc. <http://www.intlctr.org/>
- International Programs - coordinates events, workshops and travel <https://www.ippu.purdue.edu/>

What are the Chemical Engineering specific student groups?

- GSO (Chemical Engineering Graduate Student Organization)
- Discipline-specific and Professional Groups
AICHE

- Undergraduate Groups (Typically undergrads but grad students welcome to join as well)

Social / Classroom Etiquette

What is proper classroom etiquette?

- Students are expected to arrive on time and be seated prior to the start of class.
- During the lecture, they should not engage in conversations with other students or other distractions such as using a cell phone or reading a newspaper.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions.
- Students are permitted to quietly leave the classroom to use the restroom or make an important phone call.
- Understand the professor's expectations:
 - Coursework deadlines are usually strictly enforced.
 - Teamwork on assignments is usually encouraged but copying is not.
 - You should attend class, and if you can't, email the professor.

What is proper meeting etiquette?

- Meetings follow similar etiquette to the classroom and timeliness is important.
- If you are asked to RSVP, you must indicate whether you intend to attend the event or not by the requested deadline. You are expected to attend meetings and events if you have affirmed your attendance in an RSVP. If your plans change and you are no longer able to make the meeting, be considerate and inform the host as soon as possible.

What is proper office etiquette?

- In your own office/lab, respect others by:
 - Being cordial
 - Maintaining area cleanliness
 - Keeping down noise (music/talking/loud eating) – many students use headphones for listening to music
 - Not bringing in/leaving smelly food
- When visiting someone else's office:
 - Knock on the door, even if ajar; Don't jiggle the doorknob
 - Wait to enter until invited
 - Don't sit unless invited
 - Remain on the far side of the desk
 - Silence your cell phone

What is proper email etiquette?

- Students are expected to respond promptly to messages and to check Purdue email daily. If the recipient does not respond immediately, be patient and do not continue to send additional messages.
- Use correct grammar, punctuation, abbreviations, capitalization and spelling.
 - Avoid contractions and emoticons
- Use the subject line to indicate the topic of the message. Do not leave it blank.
- Be certain that your name appears in English letters.
- Have a professional email address (if using address other than Purdue) and signature block.
- Avoid assuming genders and try to be as gender neutral and politically correct.
- Appropriate opening line
 - Dear Dr./Mr./Ms./Prof./Professor
 - Do not use “Esteemed”
- Appropriate closings
 - Sincerely,
 - Yours Truly,
 - Regards,
 - Cordially,
 - Best,

A great guide for proper email writing can be found in the link below

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/email_etiquette.html

If the email is quite important, ask someone to proof read it for you.

What is normal hygiene etiquette in the United States?

- Most people shower once every 1-2 days. Additionally, deodorant/antiperspirant is worn and people brush their teeth at least twice a day. It is also customary to only wear clothing items once or twice before washing them.

Shopping

Where do I go to buy groceries /food items?

- Groceries: Most students purchase food at either a grocery store (ex: Payless) or a Super Store (Ex: Walmart, Meijer, Target, etc.). There are also many specialty grocery (particularly useful for international students) stores located around West Lafayette and Lafayette, so we recommend asking other students in your program or doing a quick google search if you are looking for specific items.

- Signing up for a Kroger/Payless card can save you money on groceries and gas.
 - Aldi and other supermarkets that sell in bulk, like Sam's Club, can really help cut costs in the long run.
- Restaurants: Although there are restaurants scattered all around West Lafayette and Lafayette, there are three main areas that students frequently go to. The first is the “Chauncey Hill” area. Chauncey Hill is centered around State Street between Grant Street and River Road. The area has many restaurants, bars, and shops that are very popular with Purdue students. The second area is called the Levee. The Levee area is also centered around State Street, but runs from River Road to the Wabash River.
 - The last area students frequently go to for restaurants is Downtown Lafayette. This area is particularly popular with young professionals and graduate students.
 - Alcohol: Alcohol in the US is typically purchased at either a bar or a liquor store although it is also available for purchase at most places that also sell groceries. Bars are located primarily in the areas described in the “Restaurants” section. Liquor stores are available throughout town. We suggest a Google search to find one nearest to you. When purchasing alcohol at any point, you must have a valid, government issued, photo ID with your birth date listed (passport, driver’s license, etc.) and some places may ask you for two forms of ID. Only people above 21 years old may purchase alcohol in the US, and no alcohol can be sold in Indiana on Sundays except in restaurants and bars. (All persons present when buying alcohol must be 21+ with ID).

Where do I go to buy furniture or home items for my apartment?

- New Items: Furniture and home items can be purchased new from many locations. Most Superstores sell basic items like tables and futons. For mattresses, there are many discount mattress stores in the area, and places like Furniture Row have affordable options as well as other furniture. Be aware that most furniture stores will charge a delivery fee if you cannot transport the items yourself.
- Used Items: Since students are in graduate school only for few years, many often opt to buy used/ previously owned furniture. Second-hand stores like Goodwill sell both clothing and furniture, but you can also find furniture items for sale on websites like Craigslist and Facebook groups (ex: Buy/Sell/Trade Lafayette/West Lafayette) and from graduating students. If you decide to purchase items from private sellers (not stores), please meet the sellers in public locations and bring a friend with you. Another option is Purdue Surplus Store. At Purdue Surplus Store, you can buy bikes, furniture, and other items.

Where do I go to buy clothes and shoes?

- Tippecanoe Mall: A common place for students to purchase clothing is at the Tippecanoe Mall. There are many store options as well as a few restaurants. If you would like to see a complete list of stores available at the mall, please see <http://www.simon.com/mall/tippecanoe-mall/stores>.
- Superstores: In addition to groceries, Superstores typically also have large clothing sections. A benefit to shopping at Superstores is the items tend to be more affordable. However, these products also tend to show wear and tear faster.
- Second-hand Options: There are multiple stores within the community that sell second-hand/used clothing. These stores can also be called consignment shops. Because stores move periodically, we recommend a Google search to find second-hand stores.

What sort of services are typically tipped?

- It is common (but not required) to tip for services in the United States. There can be a lot of confusion surrounding tipping because there are no set “rules”. Below are some suggested guidelines for commonly tipped services:
 - Waitress at a restaurant: 15-20% of your total bill
 - For delivery, 10-15% of the bill
 - Bartender at a bar: \$1-2 per drink
 - Hairdresser/barber at a hair salon: 15-20% of your bill
 - Same percentages apply to manicurists & masseuses
 - Taxi driver: 15% of your fare
 - Doorman or shuttle driver that help to carry your luggage: \$1-4 per piece of luggage

Entertainment

- Local Festivals: Both Lafayette and West Lafayette host many festivals and events throughout the year. The city website for lists of the annual festivals (<https://www.homeofpurdue.com/events/annual-events-and-festivals/>).
- Sports: There are often multiple sporting events on campus per week. If you are interested in learning more about the many team sports played on campus you can check out the Purdue Sports website (<https://purduesports.venue.net/>). There are also many club sports (<http://www.purdue.edu/recsports/programs/clubSports/>) and intramural sports (<http://www.purdue.edu/recsports/programs/intramuralSports/>) available on campus. Also, Purdue is located closely to both Indianapolis and Chicago, so we recommend going to see a professional football, baseball, or basketball game.
- State Parks: Indiana has over 30 state parks and lakes including Prophetstown State Park located just north of campus. Many state parks offer hiking, camping, boating,

swimming, and more. For information on all the state parks, visit the DNR website (<http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/>)

- Student Groups: With over 1,000 student organizations at Purdue, this is usually at least one event occurring every week. For information about student organizations available on campus and upcoming events, check out the Boilerlink website. (<https://boilerlink.purdue.edu/>). If you are interested in participating in events geared towards ChE students, watch for emails from the ChE Grad Office and check the many bulletin boards in Forney Hall for postings.
- Safety Contacts
 - EMERGENCIES Call 911
 - PURDUE POLICE_ (www.purdue.edu/police/)
Phone: 765-494-8221 (non-emergency number)
 - PURDUE FIRE_
www.purdue.edu/fire/
Phone: 765-494-6919
 - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS_
www.purdue.edu/emergency_preparedness/
 - To report a safety hazard:
ehps@purdue.edu
Phone: 765-494-0446
 - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY
www.purdue.edu/ehps
- Sign up for emergency text alerts at <http://www.purdue.edu/securepurdue/>
- Emergency boxes
 - Emergency telephone call boxes are located throughout campus. They have a blue light on top, and are marked "Emergency."
 - In case of emergency, open the door and push the button to speak directly with Purdue Police

Health and Wellness Information

How can I get involved in intramural or club sports?

- Intramural Sports
 - Intramural Sports provides structured individual, dual, and/or team leagues, tournaments, and events in more than 40 sports.
(<http://www.purdue.edu/recsports/programs/intramuralSports/>)
- Club Sports
 - The Club Sports Program offers team and individual sports in intercollegiate leagues. It is usually highly competitive with tryouts and involves a much greater time commitment than intramural sports
(<http://www.purdue.edu/recsports/programs/clubSports/>).

Is there a place for students to exercise on campus?

- Yes, the France A. Córdova Recreational Sports Center (COREC) is accessible to all full-time Purdue students by swiping your Purdue ID. Purdue's COREC features two 1/10 mile indoor tracks on separate levels, as well as an expansive aquatic center, rock wall and sports areas (basketball, volleyball, badminton, hockey, ping pong, etc.). For an additional fee, students can sign up for the Group X pass to attend classes (Zumba, cycling, Body Sculpt, etc.). The TREC, adjacent to the COREC, has turf fields primarily used for playing pick-up or intramural soccer.

What resources are available for psychological counseling?

- Purdue University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers counseling and therapy services in the form of one-on-one appointments, group and couples therapy, emergency/crisis, alcohol and other drugs program, and psychological testing
(<https://www.purdue.edu/caps/index.php>).

What resources are available to promote healthy living?

- There is a Wellness Office in the CoRec which provides a number of different services including:
 - Nutrition Counseling
 - Demonstration Kitchen
 - Alcohol Education
 - Sexual Health
 - Stress Management & Well-being
 - Massage Therapy and Light Therapy

- Many of these services are free (or offered at very low cost) for students. Refer to the website for more details (<https://www.purdue.edu/recwell/fitness-wellness/wellness/index.php>)

Where do I go to find out information about student health insurance?

- The Purdue University Student Health Services (PUSH) is a facility that caters to the healthcare needs of Purdue students. It provides primary medical care, mental health therapy, and after hours care. (<https://www.purdue.edu/push/>)
- *Where on campus can I go to meet with a doctor?*
 - The Purdue University Student Health Services (PUSH) building has a number of doctors with different specialties.
 - Making appointments
 - Most PUSH services are by appointment, which can usually be done online or by phone. You will need to arrive at least 15 minutes early and bring your Purdue ID and insurance card. If you need urgent medical services, you may walk -in during regular and extended hours.
(<http://www.purdue.edu/push/Appointments/index.html>)
 - Vaccinations
 - PUSH provides allergy shots, immunizations, travel counseling, including vaccinations required for travel.
 - (765) 494-1818 and (<http://www.purdue.edu/push/Medical/index.html>)

If I get sick or hurt after normal business hours, what can I do?

- PUSH Urgent Care
 - This extended care service is available after PUSH closes to appointments in the afternoon and does not require an appointment. Refer to website for weekday and weekend hours (<https://www.purdue.edu/push/hours/index.html>)
- Off Campus Urgent Care
 - During those times when PUSH Extended Care is not open, local urgent care services are available at the following locations:
 - IU Health Urgent Care-253 Sagamore Parkway, W. Lafayette-(765) 448-8000
 - IU Health Urgent Care – 2600 Greenbush Street, Lafayette-(765) 448-8000
 - IU Health Arnett Urgent Care – 1 W 240 S (Old U.S. 231 South), Lafayette - (765) 448-8000

- Med Express Care, 102 Sagamore Pkwy S, Lafayette (765) 446-2871– open until 7:00 PM
- Unity Urgent Care 1321 Unity Pl. Suite B, Lafayette (765) 4461362 – open until 6:00 PM
- Area Hospitals
 - There are several local hospitals near West Lafayette/Lafayette. These include:
 - IU Health Arnett Hospital
5165 McCarty Ln. Lafayette, IN 47905 (765) 448-8000
Open 24 hours
 - Franciscan Health Lafayette East:
701 S. Creasy Ln, Lafayette, IN 47905
(765) 502-4000

If I need to get a prescription medication, what do I do?

- You will need a prescription from a doctor to order your medicine from a pharmacy. It is recommended that you bring prescriptions from home for the first few months to minimize delays receiving your medications. Also, carry your prescription/doctor's note with you through customs.
- Purdue Retail Pharmacy
 - <https://www.pharmacy.purdue.edu/retail-pharmacy>
 - (765) 494-1374
- Off Campus Pharmacies – there are a number of off campus pharmacies. Most people choose one close to their apartment or campus. Some of these pharmacies include:
 - CVS
 - Walgreens
- Some superstores and grocery stores also have pharmacies , examples are listed below:
 - Target
 - Payless
 - WalMart