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The institution began its work in 1874, and derives its name from John Purdue, a philanthropic and public-spirited citizen of Lafayette. Graduate and undergraduate instruction is offered through the Schools of Agriculture, Applied Science, Chemical, Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Home Economics and Pharmacy.

The University also maintains extensive Experiment Stations in Agriculture and Engineering and also carries on state-wide extension work in both of these fields.

The teaching and scientific staffs of the University number approximately five hundred. The University has forty principal buildings and controls over four thousand acres of land.

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