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Purdue University is one of the 68 land-grant colleges and universities that owe their origin to the Land-Grant Act of 1852, otherwise known as the Morrill Act. Three years after the act’s passage, the General Assembly of Indiana voted to begin preliminary plans for a school devoted primarily to the agricultural and mechanical arts.

In 1869, the Assembly voted to accept a gift of land and money from John Purdue and other generous Lafayette citizens, and, in appreciation, declared the name of the new institution to be Purdue University. The University is assisted by state appropriations, with support by federal grants and corporate and individual contributions.

Actual instruction began in 1874 with 39 students and a faculty of six. Today, Purdue University enrolls more than 65,000 students at the following locations:

- West Lafayette
- Calumet (Hammond)
- Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne
- Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
- North Central (Westville)
- plus 11 School of Technology statewide delivery system locations

Instruction is organized through the schools of Agriculture; Consumer and Family Sciences; Education; Engineering; Liberal Arts; Management; Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences; Science; Technology; and Veterinary Medicine; and through the Graduate School. Engineering Schools and Departments are as follows:

**Engineering Schools**
- Aeronautics and Astronautics
- Chemical
- Civil
- Electrical and Computer
- Industrial
- Materials
- Mechanical
- Nuclear Engineering

**Departments**
- Agricultural and Biological Engineering
- Construction Engineering and Management
- Freshman Engineering
- Division of Interdisciplinary Engineering Studies

Extensive research programs are maintained by nearly all academic areas of the University. The Cooperative Extensive Service, through the county agents, services the entire state. A variety of courses are offered through the conferences program and continuing education services sponsored by the University.