

Survival Guide

Graduate Student Board (GSB)

Computer Science, Purdue university

Last modified: 2018/01/31

1 Introduction

This guide provides information about the department, Purdue, the Lafayette area, Indiana, and surrounding states. The information in this guide is not complete and not guaranteed to be correct. If you are not sure about something, do not be afraid to ask a fellow student or to e-mail the CS Graduate Student Board (gsb@cs.purdue.edu). If you would like something added or changed in the Guide, please e-mail the GSB.

Disclaimer: This document is not intended to describe departmental and school policies and is not a publication of the Department of Computer Sciences nor the School of Science.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Housing	1
3	Utilities	2
4	Books	2
5	Parking	3
6	First Week on Campus	3
7	Acronyms	4
8	Acknowledgment	4

2 Housing

If you do not have any housing by the first week of the semester, run, do not walk, to the Dean of Students Office in Schleman Hall to obtain the Off Campus Housing listing and advice on obtaining a place to live. This information can also be accessed online via:

<https://www.purdue.edu/offcampushousing>

Also check the Exponent:

<https://www.purdueexponent.org/classifieds>

and Boiler apartments:

<https://www.boilerapartments.com/>

for housing ads and roommate classifieds.

Grad students often live in one of the Grad Houses or in Purdue Village. If you wish to live in Purdue Village (PV), you should apply ASAP. Purdue Village, which used to be only for married students, does allow single students. Spots in PV tend to fill up fast.

There are a numerous student apartment complexes all around campus and many old houses that have been divided into multiple living units. The apartments right around campus tend to be leased in January and February for the following fall semester, so start your search early in the spring for your fall housing. In addition, if you have a group of friends that you can live with, you can usually find an older house for rent if you check the classifieds. One other resource available to grad students is the Purdue Research Foundation (PRF), which has many old houses around campus for rent. Unfortunately for undergrads, PRF will only rent to faculty and grad students.

Apartments within walking distance of campus tend to be quite expensive but if you have transportation, there are numerous apartment complexes all over the Lafayette area that are quite reasonable. If you don't have a car, you can see if the bus line runs nearby. Of course, you always run a risk if you depend heavily on the buses. One more thing to consider when deciding on off-campus housing is related to restrictions on obtaining parking permits. The University will not sell you a parking permit if you live too close to campus. If you plan on driving to campus, make sure you live far enough away to get a university parking permit.

3 Utilities

If you are moving into an apartment or house, you will probably need to hook up some utilities. When you sign a lease, check with the landlord to see what utilities are not included in the rent. Then a few days before you move in to your new domicile, call the utility companies to hook up the necessary utilities. Many of the utility companies will demand a deposit for new service if you did not have an account with them previously. Examples of *some* carriers are shown in the table below:

Utility	Company	Phone
Cable	Insight Communications	765-447-6886
Electric	Cinergy/PSI	800-521-2232
Gas	Indiana Gas Company	800-666-3090
Telephone	Verizon	800-483-4600
Water	West Lafayette Water Company	765-463-5531
Water	Lafayette Municipal Water System	765-742-8404

The city of West Lafayette provides curb-side service for recycling and garbage pickup only for houses with four units or less. If you live in a complex or house with more than four units then a private contractor must be hired for garbage disposal. Labeled bins are provided for anyone wishing to drop-off recyclable materials at 705 S. River Road. There are also bins for recyclable materials around Purdue Village.

4 Books

There are a number of bookstores around campus that will be happy to take your life savings in exchange for a text book. University Book Store's main location is across the street from the Union at 360 W. State Street. University Bookstore is the original home of Purdue Pete. The Book Store used Purdue Pete for their logo, and the University later adopted him as the Purdue Mascot. University Book Store also has a smaller branch across from Mackey Arena at 720 Northwestern Avenue. Follett's Bookstore has two locations, 1400 W. State Street in Purdue West and 714 Northwestern Avenue across from Lambert Fieldhouse.

Name	Location	Phone
Follett's Bookstore	Purdue West	765-743-9642
Follett's Bookstore	Northwestern Ave	765-743-9696
University Book Store	State Street	765-743-9618
University Book Store	Northwestern Ave	765-743-9432

Text books are sometimes held on reserve in the Undergraduate Library or the Math Library. A few CS text books are also available in the Undergraduate Student Office and the Graduate Student Office in Lawson.

5 Parking

Note! Purdue is increasing its efforts towards a greener campus. If you don't already own a car, consider alternative means of transportation. **CityBus** offers **fare-free** access to the CityBus system with a valid Purdue ID. In 2018, state street has been renovated to be more **bike** friendly.

In addition consider these parking options:

- Low Emission Parking
- Charging stations for electric vehicles
- Use a Zipcar

Parking at Purdue can be a nightmare. Public parking near campus is in very short supply, and permit parking isn't much better. The largest public parking lot is behind the Stadium, quite a hike from the CS building. A, B, and C parking permits allow you to park on campus. A and B parking permits are for faculty and three-quarter time staff only, so students are normally limited to C parking permits.

<https://www.purdue.edu/parking/>

A C parking permit allows you to park in C parking places, which are marked by red signs. Unfortunately, the C parking places are generally not close to the CS building with most of the C parking in a lot off State Street by the dorms, and near CoRec. To obtain a C parking permit, you must prove that you live more than 1.5 miles from campus (what they call walking distance). C Garage permits are also available. These allow you to park at the top of a specific parking garage.

If you drive but don't buy a permit, there is public street parking near the building on some of the side streets. However, these spaces are generally all gone by 8:30 am daily and most have a 3 hour time limit, for two reasons:

Many folks forget about this time limit, and their vehicles become easy prey for West Lafayette police who roam about with ticket pads armed and ready. The pointless shuffling of vehicles from one parking spot to another amuses the neighborhood children. Note that cars are time-stamped with a swatch of chalk on one of the rear tires so that the time they've been parked in one spot is known, and, therefore, the time that they're eligible for ticketing is known. Parking at night is no problem. All A, B, and C spots are open after 5 pm and on weekends. Also, never park in a 24 hour reserved spot; you will be ticketed and towed.

Residence hall parking permits are available to people living in Grad Houses or the Dorms. Stop by the Grad House or Dorm main office to inquire about permits, and check early since the number of residence hall permits is limited. One final note for students living in Purdue Village, you should stop by the PV office on Nimitz Drive after obtaining your Purdue permit in order to get a PV permit. It's free and allows you to park your car near your apartment.

6 First Week on Campus

This section presents, roughly, an outline of some of what you should do in your first week on campus.

- Select courses (<http://www.cs.purdue.edu/academic-programs/courses/>) and register (<https://mypurdue.purdue.edu>). For late registration or for research credits, you need to ask your instructor/advisor to sign a Form-23 which you then need to take to the Registrar's Office (Hovde building).
- Get your student ID card: <http://www.purdue.edu/business/card/>
- Start a boiler express account (<https://dining.purdue.edu/>, look for eAccount) if you want, which you can use in dining courts cafes and other places on campus.
- Get a mailbox by asking someone in the mail room
- If you are an International Student, you should have gone through the orientation for International Students. If not, report to the ISS in Schleman Hall as soon as possible.
- Set up your profile in <https://www.cs.purdue.edu/people/graduate-students/index.html> which you can do via <https://my.cs.purdue.edu/>.
- Set up your personal webpage in your \$HOME/.www/ directory.
- Get a locker on Recreational Sports Center

Useful Links:

- <http://www.cs.purdue.edu/academic-programs/courses/> — List of CS courses
- <https://mypurdue.purdue.edu> — Register for the semester, pay fess, register for classes
- <https://mycourses.purdue.edu> — Blackboard, some instructors use this to upload course materials and for homework submissions
- <https://my.cs.purdue.edu/> — CS Profile, e.g., classes taken, requirements fulfilled, advisor on record etc

7 Acronyms

During your first few weeks here at Purdue, you'll encounter many new acronyms and buzzwords. Here is a list of those used most frequently.

- ACM — Association for Computing Machinery. An international organization for computer scientists. Locally, ACM refers to the student ACM chapter which performs numerous services for the students.
- BO — Business Office. This is the office that handles the money and some other matters related to the CS department. Located on the third floor.
- BOSO — Business Office for Student Organizations. This is the office that handles the money and some other matters related to official student organizations. Hopefully, you will not have to deal with them unless you are an officer in a student organization in campus.
- CoRec — Cordova Recreational Sports Center. This is one of Purdue's main sports facilities, where you can go practice a large number of sports and physical activities. In 1998 it was officially renamed the Recreational Sports Center, but many people still call it the Co-Rec.
- GSB — Graduate Student Board. Represents the interests of graduate students in the department of computer science.
- ITaP — Information Technology at Purdue. This is the university group that operates and maintains the main university computer system.
- PMU — Purdue Memorial Union. The building next to Stewart Center. See the section about it on page.
- PAL — Purdue Air Link. Purdue's wireless network.

8 Acknowledgment

Compiled by **Savvas Savvides**<savvas@purdue.edu> using information from similar guides at other schools and an older version of this guide. The list of people who have helped over the years is far too long to list in its entirety, but includes many students, professors, and department secretaries. Most notable contributions:

- Nate Andrysco
- Ethan Blanton
- Marina Blanton
- Abhinav Jain
- Chris Mayfield
- Paul Rosen
- Savvas Savvides
- Andy Scharlott
- Abhilasha Spantzel
- Lukasz Ziarek