Standard IUPUI Description

IUPUI is Indiana’s urban research and health sciences university. Founded in 1969 as a partnership between the state’s two major public higher education institutions, Indiana University and Purdue University, with IU as the managing partner, IUPUI combines the strengths of both universities. The campus is home to 21 schools and academic units and is the third largest campus in Indiana, with more than 30,000 students, 3,000 faculty members, and 4,300 staff (including health professions) distributed across 295 degree programs, including 40 accredited undergraduate and graduate professional programs.

The mission of IUPUI is “to advance the State of Indiana and the intellectual growth of its citizens to the highest levels nationally and internationally through research and creative activity, teaching and learning, and civic engagement.” Through its distinctive range of academic programs, the campus “promotes the educational, cultural, and economic development of central Indiana and beyond through innovative collaborations, external partnerships, and a strong commitment to diversity.” Set on 507 acres in downtown Indianapolis, a short walk from the state capitol, IUPUI offers abundant opportunities for research, teaching and learning, and civic engagement, and for multidisciplinary, collaborative initiatives that draw on the broad range of expertise on and off campus.

IUPUI’s strong commitments to innovation, collaboration, and diversity fuel a unique mix of interdisciplinary, practice-based education and research that attracted some $388 million in external grant and contract dollars in 2014-2015. In recent years, approximately 90 percent of external research funds have supported research in the health and life sciences, with a strong emphasis on translating and transforming research findings into real-world applications that improve the lives of people in the state of Indiana and beyond. IUPUI research has resulted in higher quality health care, new technologies, improved public policy, and successful businesses that contribute to the local economy.

The IUPUI campus ranks among the top 20 in the country in the number of first professional degrees it confers. In addition, among research universities IUPUI ranks in the top 20 in the number of health-related degrees it awards. It is home to the IU School of Medicine, now the largest medical school in the country, the IU School of Nursing, the largest nursing school in the country, and the IU School of Dentistry, the only dental school in the state. As such, the campus plays a key role in Indiana’s fast growing life sciences sector. IUPUI alumni account for 85 percent of Indiana’s dentists, half of the physicians, more than a third of the nurses, and a large percentage of the state’s health and rehabilitation sciences and social work professionals.

In addition to its highly regarded graduate and professional programs, IUPUI is widely recognized for innovative and effective undergraduate learning experiences. The campus strives to provide its undergraduates with real-world experiences, including internships, service learning, mentored research, and study abroad, that encourage them to persist and graduate and that benefit them beyond graduation. US News & World Report’s annual Best Colleges issue has cited IUPUI’s first-year experience programs, freshman learning communities, service learning opportunities, and undergraduate research as exemplary “programs that really work.” During the seven years that the issue listed top “Up-and-Coming” universities, IUPUI was included each year, appearing among the top ten “Up-and-Coming” institutions in six of those years.
The 2015 issue included IUPUI for the first time in the magazine’s Tier One top 200 national universities and recognized it as one of the nation’s “Best Colleges for Veterans”; both recognitions were reaffirmed in the 2016 issue. A new 2016 list of national universities with the “Best Undergraduate Teaching” cited IUPUI as sixteenth among national universities and seventh among public higher education institutions.

In the inaugural year (2006-2007) of the Presidential Award for Community Service for exceptional accomplishments in student community service, IUPUI was one of three institutions to receive the award. It has appeared on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll every year since then. In addition IUPUI’s inclusion in the Community Engagement Classification of U.S. universities, sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, was renewed in 2014 and 2015; the campus was one of the first campuses selected for the classification when it was launched in 2006 and has retained the classification ever since.

The campus has also been nationally recognized for its Principles of Undergraduate Learning, assessment of undergraduate learning, faculty development to enhance student retention and success, and infrastructure for institutional research and evaluation. IUPUI has been the winner of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation Award for Outstanding Institutional Practice in Student Learning Outcomes for “Implementing the Principles of Undergraduate Learning at IUPUI.” The National Consortium for Continuous Improvement in Higher Education (NCCI) designated IUPUI in the honorable mention category for “Building a Culture of Evidence to Improve Learning.”

Diversity has been a high priority at IUPUI and appears in the university’s mission statement. The campus’s diversity efforts have earned multiple awards, including the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award from Insight into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education; and recognition as one of the 30 best non-HBCU schools for minorities by Diverse Issues in Higher Education.

Another major focus of recent years has been internationalization of the campus and curriculum. IUPUI initiatives in this area have won the Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization, and the Andrew Heiskell Award for International Partnerships. Most recently, the campus was selected to participate in the American Council on Education’s Internationalization Laboratory, a collaboration that resulted in an IUPUI Internationalization Plan to be implemented in 2015-2020.