



My Drift

Title: Top Universities in Indiana

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My grandson Nicholas (Nick) Del Petersen recently graduated from Iolani High School and has been accepted to attend Purdue University in the fall. He plans to major in Aviation Management in the School of Aviation and Transportation Technology. He eventually wants to be a pilot.



Me, Nick and my son Mike

Well, I decided to learn a little bit about Purdue. All I knew was Purdue has a very good basketball team since they played for the national championship this past March. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that they ranked as the number one university in the state of Indiana and one of the top universities in the country. Purdue's aviation program is also one of the top programs in the United States. I think he picked a great university and I hope he does good.

Below are the top universities in Indiana:



Top Universities in Indiana 2024 Indiana University Ranking

Rank	University	Town
1	Purdue University	West Lafayette
2	Indiana University	Bloomington
3	University of Notre Dame	Notre Dame
4	Indiana University-Purdue Indianapolis	Indianapolis
5	Ball State University	Muncie
6	Earlham College	Richmond
7	Indiana State University	Terre Haute
8	Hanover College	Hanover
9	University of Evansville	Evansville
10	DePauw University	Greencastle
11	Butler University	Indianapolis
12	Valparaiso University	Valparaíso

Reference: <https://www.4icu.org/us/indiana/>

The city of West Lafayette is approximately 65 miles northwest of the state capital of Indianapolis and 113 miles southeast of Chicago. West Lafayette is directly across the Wabash River from its sister city, Lafayette. As of the 2020 census, its population was 44,595. Home to Purdue University, it is a college town and the most densely populated city in Indiana. Purdue provides “a world class education” with a name “that is known all over the world and not just the state of Indiana.” The university is especially “known for being a great engineering school,” but has a bevy of other amazing programs.





West Lafayette



Indiana has several well-known universities. Let's look at a few of these that I have heard of.

Indiana University

Indiana University Bloomington is a public research university in Bloomington, Indiana. It is the flagship campus of Indiana University and its largest campus with over 48,000 students. Established as the state's seminary in 1820, the name was changed to "Indiana College" in 1829 and to "Indiana University" in 1838.



Downtown Bloomington

Bloomington is the county seat of Monroe County located about 50 miles southwest of Indianapolis. With a population of about 80,000 it is the seventh-most populous city in Indiana.

Bloomington is a vibrant college town known for its rich cultural scene, diverse dining options and thriving arts community. With scenic outdoor spaces, top-notch schools and a welcoming atmosphere, residents enjoy a balanced blend of academic excellence and small-town charm. Bloomington was named one of the best college towns in America in 2023.

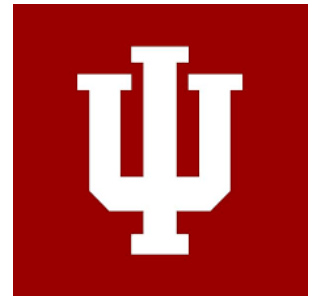
Indiana University-Bloomington is a public institution that was founded in 1820. Its setting is in the city and the campus size is 1,953 acres. It utilizes a semester-based academic calendar. Indiana University-Bloomington's ranks as one of the best colleges in the U.S.



Indiana University-Bloomington



The Indiana Hoosiers have won 24 NCAA national championships and one Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) national championship, in addition to 145 NCAA individual national championships. Titles won by teams include eight by the Hoosiers men's soccer team, a record-setting six straight in men's swimming and diving, three in men's cross country, one in men's track and field and one in wrestling. The Hoosiers' athletic program is best known for its basketball program, with its five NCAA Championships tying for fourth in history. Indiana's 1976 squad led by head coach Bobby Knight remains the last undefeated NCAA men's basketball champion.



University of Notre Dame

The University of Notre Dame du Lac, known simply as Notre Dame is a private Catholic research university in Notre Dame, Indiana. French priest Edward Sorin founded the school in 1842. The main campus of 1,261 acres has a suburban setting and contains landmarks such as the Golden Dome, the Word of Life mural, Notre Dame Stadium, and the basilica. Originally for men, the university started accepting undergraduate women in 1972. Notre Dame is one of the top universities in the United States.



University of Notre Dame

Is Notre Dame in South Bend or Notre Dame?

Notre Dame is a census-designated place and unincorporated community north of the city of South Bend in St. Joseph County, Indiana. It includes the campuses of three colleges: the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, and Holy Cross College.



The university's athletic teams are members of the NCAA Division I and are known collectively as the Fighting Irish. Notre Dame is noted for its football team, which contributed to its rise to prominence on the national stage in the early 20th century; the team has no conference affiliation and has accumulated 11 consensus national championships, 7 Heisman Trophy winners, 62 members of the College Football Hall of Fame, and 13 of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Notre Dame teams in other sports, chiefly in the Atlantic Coast Conference, have won 17 national championships.

Ball State University

Ball State University (Ball State, State or BSU) is a public research university in Muncie, Indiana. It has three off campus centers in Fishers, Indianapolis, and Fort Wayne.



Downtown Muncie, Indiana



In 1917, the Ball brothers, industrialists and founders of the Ball Corporation, acquired the foreclosed Indiana Normal Institute and gave the school and surrounding land to the State of Indiana. The Indiana General Assembly accepted the donation in the spring of 1918, with an initial 235 students enrolling at the Ball State Normal School – Eastern Division on June 17, 1918.

Ball State is classified among "R2: Doctoral Universities – High research activity". The university is composed of seven academic colleges. As of Fall 2020, total enrollment was 21,597 students, including 15,205 undergraduates and 5,817 postgraduates. The university offers about 120 undergraduate majors and 130 minor areas of study and more than 100 master's, doctoral, certificate, and specialist degrees.

Ball State athletic teams compete in Division I of the NCAA and are known as the Ball State Cardinals. The university is a member of the Mid-American Conference and the Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association. In fall 2020, the university formed a varsity esports team and joined the Esports Collegiate Conference.



Indiana State University

Indiana State University (ISU) is a public university in Terre Haute, Indiana. It was founded in 1865 and offers over 100 undergraduate majors and more than 75 graduate and professional programs. Indiana State is classified among "D/PU: Doctoral/Professional Universities".



Terre Haute, Indiana



Indiana State University was established by the Indiana General Assembly on December 20, 1865, as the Indiana State Normal School in Terre Haute. As the State Normal School, its core mission was to educate elementary and high school teachers.



In 1929, the Indiana State Normal School was renamed as the Indiana State Teachers College, and in 1961, it was renamed Indiana State College due to an expanding mission. In 1965, the Indiana General Assembly renamed the college as Indiana State University in recognition of increasing student population and expansion of degrees offered.

The Indiana State University main campus is located on the north side of Terre Haute's downtown business district and covers more than 200 acres in the heart of the city. The main campus comprises over 60 brick and limestone buildings, halls and laboratories. Efforts to beautify the campus continue: a section of Seventh Street that runs by the university has been converted into a boulevard with flower beds and antique light posts; the old power plant was razed in 2002 and replaced with a modern facility.

The school's athletic teams are known as the Sycamores. They participate in the Division I Missouri Valley Conference and NCAA FCS Missouri Valley Football Conference. Athletically, it is known as the alma mater of basketball player Larry Bird; World Champion gymnast Kurt Thomas; and Olympic, World, and Pan-American Champion freestyle wrestler Bruce Baumgartner. Basketball coach John Wooden coached the Sycamores before accepting the head coaching position at UCLA. The men's basketball team won the 1950 NAIB National Champions and were National Runner-Up in 1946 and 1948. They were also the NCAA College Division (Div II) National Runner-Up in 1968 and the Division I National Runner-Up in 1979.

University of Evansville

The City of Evansville, Indiana, was founded in 1812 on a scenic bend in the Ohio River. With a population of nearly 121,000 people in the city limits and more than 300,000 people in the metropolitan area, Evansville is the third-largest city in Indiana. Evansville is the social and economic hub for the region, which includes Southwest Indiana, Southeast Illinois and Northwest Kentucky.



Evansville, Indiana

The University of Evansville (UE) is a private university in Evansville, Indiana. It was founded in 1854 as Moores Hill College.



University of Evansville (UE)

The university operates a satellite center, Harlaxton College, in Grantham, England. UE offers more than 80 different majors and areas of study, each housed within three colleges and one school within the university: the Schroeder School of Business, the College of Education and Health Sciences, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, and the William L. Ridgway College of Arts and Sciences. Total enrollment (including full and part-time, undergraduate, adult, graduate, and UE students at Harlaxton) is 2,443 students. The school is affiliated with the United Methodist Church.

Notable alumni include prominent entertainers, writers, and sports stars such as actors Rami Malek and Kelli Giddish, producer/writer Matt Williams, and Utah Jazz basketball coach Jerry Sloan, as well as many scientists, business people, and others.



The University of Evansville athletic teams have the nickname the Purple Aces (originally the "Pioneers"). Both men's and women's varsity sports play at the NCAA Division I level and compete in the Missouri Valley Conference, except for the men's swimming and diving teams which compete in the Mid-American Conference.

Butler University

Indianapolis colloquially known as Indy, is the capital and most populous city of the U.S. state of Indiana and the seat of Marion County. Indianapolis is situated in the state's central till plain region along the west fork of the White River. The city's official slogan, "Crossroads of America", reflects its historic importance as a transportation hub and its relative proximity to other major North American markets.



Indianapolis

At the 2020 census, the population was 887,642. Indianapolis is the 17th-most populous city in the U.S., the third-most populous city in the Midwest after Chicago and Columbus, Ohio, and the fourth-most populous state capital in the nation after Phoenix, Austin, and Columbus. The Indianapolis metropolitan area is the 34th-most populous metropolitan statistical area in the U.S., home to 2.1 million residents.



Butler University is a private university in Indianapolis, Indiana. Founded in 1855 and named after founder Ovid Butler, the university has over 60 major academic fields of study in six colleges: the Lacy School of Business, College of Communication, College of Education, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and Jordan College of the Arts. Its 295-acre campus is approximately five miles from downtown Indianapolis.

Athletics

Butler's athletic teams, known as the Bulldogs, compete in Division I of the NCAA. Their conference home since 1979 is the Atlantic 10 Conference. Since the A-10 does not sponsor football, the Butler football team plays in the FCS's Pioneer League. The women's golf team at Butler joined the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, as the A-10 sponsors the sport only for men. Butler left the Atlantic 10 Conference and became a founding member of the reconfigured Big East Conference on July 1, 2013.



Men's basketball



Former Butler head coach Brad Stevens, seen here speaking with A.J. Graves, led his teams to two NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship games in his six seasons as head coach (2007–2013).

The Butler program was one of the most successful "mid-major" basketball programs from 2000 to 2011, having won at least 20 games and reached postseason play eight of the last ten seasons, including six NCAA tournament appearances. Butler also holds two national championships in men's basketball from the pre-tournament era: one from 1924 (earned via the AAU national tournament), and one from 1929 (selected by the Veteran Athletes of Philadelphia).

In 2010 and 2011, Butler qualified for consecutive national championship games. The 2010 Butler team, led by star player Gordon Hayward, advanced to the national championship game where they lost a close game to Duke. With a total enrollment of only 4,500 students, Butler is the smallest school to play for a national championship since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985. In 2011, the Bulldogs advanced to the championship game but finished as runners-up again, this time losing to Connecticut.

Valparaiso University

Valparaiso, colloquially Valpo, is a city and the county seat of Porter County, Indiana. The population was 34,151 at the 2020 census. It is part of the Chicago metropolitan area – Chicago is 55 miles away. Valparaiso is 10 minutes away from the Indiana Dunes State Park located on the shores of Lake Michigan.



Downtown Valparaiso

Located on the ancient Native American trail from Rock Island to Detroit, the town had its first log cabin in 1834. Established in 1836 as Portersville, county seat of Porter County, it was renamed to Valparaiso (meaning "Vale of Paradise" in Old Spanish). The city was once called the "City of Churches" due to the large number of churches located there at the end of the 19th century.



Lutheran Chapel on Campus

Valparaiso University (Valpo) is a private university in Valparaiso, Indiana. It is an independent Lutheran university with five colleges. It enrolls nearly 2,300 students and has a 350-acre campus. The university is known for its Lutheran Christian heritage and has one of the largest chapels on a U.S. college campus.



Valparaiso University (Valpo)

Athletics

Valpo's colors are brown and gold and athletic teams are known as the Beacons. Most athletic events are held in the Athletics-Recreation Center (ARC), which is the primary sporting facility on campus. Valparaiso's eighteen teams and

nearly 600 student-athletes mostly participate in NCAA Division I (I-FCS for football) in the Missouri Valley Conference. Valparaiso competes in four sports that the MVC does not sponsor. The Men's swimming and men's tennis compete in the Summit League, and bowling (a women-only sport at the NCAA level) competes in Conference USA.



SUMMARY

So, what did I learn while writing this article? I learned that there are many great universities in Indiana and my grandson is going to one of the best and also one of the best aviation management programs in the United States.

I also learned that they play great basketball in the state of Indiana.

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