A visionary university with humble beginnings

IUPUI can trace its roots back to 1891, when Indiana University offered classes in Indianapolis for the very first time.

In the decades that followed, both IU and Purdue proved themselves dedicated to providing higher education opportunities in Indianapolis, offering programs in the liberal arts, medicine, and more.

However, the two universities operated independently until then mayor Richard Lugar called for "a great state university in Indianapolis" in 1968.

As a result, Indiana University and Purdue University merged their many programs and schools to create Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis in 1969.

Since then, IUPUI has come into its own, becoming Indiana’s premier urban research university.

IUPUI timeline

First graduating class of nursing at Wishard Memorial Hospital in 1885

1891–1920
1891: Indiana University offers first classes in Indianapolis
1914: Long Hospital opens and the Indiana University Training School for Nurses is founded
1916: First extension office for Indiana University opens in Indianapolis
1917: First commencement is held for nursing. Five students receive a Graduate Nurse Diploma from Indiana University
1919: Indianapolis School of Medicine Building completed

The Ball Residence for Nurses

1921–1940

1924: James Whitcomb Riley Hospital, named after the Hoosier poet, is dedicated in October
1927: The 75-bed William Coleman Hospital for Women is dedicated on October 20
1928: The Ball Residence for Nurses, now known as Ball Residence Hall, opens its doors
1934: The School of Dentistry Building and Ball Sunken Gardens are completed
1938: The Clinical Building is completed
1941–1968

1941: The Normal College of the American Gymnastic Union becomes part of IU. It is renamed the School of Physical Education in 1973.
1953: The Student Union Building opens
1956: The School of Nursing is established
1959: The Division of Allied Health Sciences is established within the School of Medicine
1967: The Herron School of Art becomes affiliated with IU

In 1969 Indiana University and Purdue University merge to create IUPUI and Maynard K. Hine, D.D.S., becomes the first chancellor.
1970–1975

1970: IUPUI holds first commencement, granting 1,535 degrees
1971: Undergraduate campus, consisting of Cavanaugh Hall, Lecture Hall, and University Library opens
1972: IU School of Public & Environmental Affairs, IU School of Liberal Arts, Purdue School of Science, and Purdue School of Engineering and Technology are established
1973: Glenn W. Irwin, Jr., M.D. is named second chancellor of IUPUI
1975: The Engineering and Technology Building is completed and the School of Continuing Studies is established
1976–1985

1977: Riley Hospital Intensive Care Clinic, Parent Education and Preparation Center, and Parent Care Unit are completed
1980: Riley Hospital Pediatric Cardiac Catheterization Clinic and Laboratory is completed
1981: University Townhouses are completed
1982: Natatorium, Track and Field Stadium, Classroom/Office II Building are completed
1983: Elks Cancer Research Center opens
1986–1995

1986: Gerald L. Bepko, Ph.D., is named third chancellor of IUPUI
1987: Center on Philanthropy at IUPUI is established with $4 million grant from Lilly Endowment
1992: IU Hospital and Outpatient Center is completed
1993: Purdue programs complete move to main IUPUI campus
1994: University Library is dedicated
The IUPUI Campus Center

1996–present

1999: IU Cancer Center receives national cancer center research designation
2001: Lawrence W. Inlow Hall is dedicated
2003: Charles R. Bantz, Ph.D., is named fourth chancellor of IUPUI
2004: Informatics & Communications Technology Complex is dedicated
2005: Herron School of Art and Design moves to main IUPUI campus
2008: Campus Center is completed and dedicated in April
2010: The Office for Veterans and Military Personnel, Multicultural Success Center, and Honors College have their grand openings

The evolution of IUPUI from the air
IUPUI campus in 1937