Wide-Format Printing

**How do I print?**

- You will need to add money to your PaperCut account to print using the wide format printers. You cannot use your yearly allotted quota if you do not have supplemental funds already in your account, go to https://support.purdue.edu/goldanswers/610154 for further instructions before proceeding.
- Using a Windows PC connected to Purdue’s network (either using one of the ITaP lab computers or your own computer connected to PAL 3.0), click the Start button (in the bottom left corner), and type in `\printers.itap.purdue.edu\itap-walcwideprinting` if you're printing in WALC or `\printers.itap.purdue.edu\itap-hikswideprinting` if you're in HIKS.
- Wait until a box pops up that looks like this:

![Print queue](image)

**Figure 1. Print queue**

- It is recommended that you export the final version of your file as a PDF if the original document is in Word, PowerPoint, etc. If you do not, the following instructions may be different.
- Open the file and ensure everything is correct, then select Print.
- In the print dialogue box (Figure 2), select the wide format **printer** (1). Then, under “Page Sizing and Handling” select “Fit” (2). Under “Orientation,” select “Auto portrait/landscape” (3).

![Print dialogue box](image)

**Figure 2. Print dialogue box.**

- Click the “Properties” button (4). In this window (Figure 3), select your document size (or select “Custom...” and manually enter the dimensions) (5). Select a print quality depending on the content of your document (6). (Lines/Fast is fine for text or CAD drawings, Uniform areas is appropriate for text with some graphics, and high detail is good for largely image-based prints). Under “Paper Source” select either Roll 1 or Roll 2 depending on the paper type you want (7). (Paper types described in the box directly above). Click on the “Layout/Output” tab (8).

![Properties: Paper Quality](image)

**Figure 3. Properties: Paper Quality**
In this window (Figure 4), select Center for the alignment (9). For Rotation, select “Autorotate” (10). Click “OK” (11), which will return you to the print dialogue screen (Figure 5).

A preview image of your print will be available in the print preview box (12). Make sure this looks right (i.e. your print should take up most of the page) and come to the ITaP desk nearest the printer if it does not.

Finally, click Print (13).

Come up to the desk nearest to the printer and let us know you’re printing to the wide format printer. We’ll ask a few questions and release your job. You will only be able to print wide format when the desk is staffed.

**How do I design a good poster?**

- Templates are available online for a large variety of uses (research posters, informational signs, etc). Find one that you like and insert your information into the blanks provided.
- Microsoft Publisher, PowerPoint, Adobe InDesign, and Illustrator are popular options for poster making.
- Before you begin, make sure to set the paper size!
- Don’t use very small text. For reference, 30 pt text is approximately 1 cm and 72 pt is 1 inch. If you’re short on room, consider rephrasing things to be briefer.
- Pictures, figures, and tables make for a much more interesting and readable poster than just text.
- Make sure your text is readable on any colored backgrounds. Light text is better on dark/vibrant backgrounds and vice versa, whereas contrasting colors and colors that are too similar can be difficult to read.
- Before printing, examine the document to check for typos, formatting issues, grammar, and the accuracy of the information provided. It can be helpful to have a friend or colleague review it before printing!
- The printer does not print to the very edge of the page. Please allow a 3 mm (0.11 inch) margin if you’re printing on 36 in paper. If you are printing a 40-inch poster, there will be a 6 mm (0.22 inch) margin on the left and a 3 mm (0.11 inch) margin on the right. If you do not leave this margin in your design, the edges of your poster may be cropped out.
- When exporting your document as a PDF, be sure to export from the original document. Multiple format conversions cause significant print quality degradation.
- If you have questions, ask at the help desk nearest to the printer. We’re happy to help!