

# Career Plan for Beyond Graduation

- If you have not secured employment after you graduate, come in to the Career Development Center and meet with a counselor to discuss a job search strategy, edit your resume, and practice interviewing skills. Create or update your **Job Finder** account to search for full time opportunities in research or industry. Search regularly and often to identify new opportunities.
- Make a **budget** of all your expenses and stick to it.
- Research the **401K plan** of your employer and begin participating as early as your first pay check.
- Research the insurance plans of your company. Assess the number of times you go to the doctor in relation to the cost of the plans. Look into the Flexible Spending Accounts. Itemize medicine and doctor appointment expenses and set aside that amount of dollars since Flexible Spending Accounts are pre-tax dollars.
- Take out apartment/rental insurance if you are renting.
- Save and set aside enough money for 3-6 months safety in case of an emergency, you will still be able to pay your bills.
- Meet with a financial advisor to determine the best way to move forward with your loans and contemplate consolidation. Check your credit. Do not make it a habit to have large balances on your credit cards.
- Stay connected with WPI. Join your regional **WPI alumni chapter**, register with the online alumni directory, participate in the message boards, and stay connected with the Career Development Center (let us know where you got a job, if you are interested in being a mentor, if you are looking for internships or entry level candidates, or volunteering at one of our events).
- Join your local chapter of the **professional association** that best matches your career or industry occupation. Volunteer to assist with events, start meeting others, and strengthening your network.
- Find a mentor both within your organization and externally as well. Mentors are great resources in learning the corporate environment, discussing future opportunities, and providing additional resources and support.
- Keep in contact with your professors, old supervisors, and associates. If you decide to go to graduate school or change jobs, these are great resources and references to utilize.
- Keep in contact with your friends. Just because you are in different geographic areas, does not mean that your friendship will end.

- Additional resources:

<http://www.egrad.com/index.cfm>

<http://www.stretcher.com/stories/00/000424d.cfm>

<http://www.youcandealwithit.com/>

[www.homefair.com](http://www.homefair.com)

<http://www.quarterlifecrisis.com/>

[www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com)

[www.quintcareers.com](http://www.quintcareers.com)

[www.debthelp.com](http://www.debthelp.com)

## Things to Include in Your Budget

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### Necessities

- Rent
- Utilities
- Insurance Payments
- Car/Transportation Payments
- Food
- Clothing
- Cell Phone

### Debts

- Student Loan Payments
- Credit Card Bills

### Additional Items

- Laundry
- Dry Cleaning
- Hair Cut
- Cards (birthdays, holiday cards, etc.)

### Wants, Not Needs

- Cable
- Newspaper and Magazine Subscriptions
- Internet
- Gym Membership (look into if your employer has a gym you can use)

### Fun

- Movies
- Eating Out
- Coffee
- Cab Fares
- Entertainment
- Travel

### Taxes

- Your paycheck will have state and federal taxes, social security, and Medicare deducted. Estimate that you will lose approximately 30% of your paycheck.
- April 15 is the deadline to file your federal taxes using (1040, 1040a, or 1040EZ form) and you might need to file state taxes as well (for each state you have lived in that year). Make copies for your own records. Look into using an accountant or software to assist you.

**Think big. Plan big. Succeed.**

### Career Development Center

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