

Ten Things to Know About the WPI Plan

#1 We Have Seven-Week Terms

Instead of having semesters, a WPI academic year has seven-week terms: four in the traditional academic year and two during an optional summer term.

#2 We Advise—You Decide

Here, faculty and staff mentors will offer guidance but ultimately, you have the freedom—and the responsibility—to choose the courses and experiences that best suit your goals and interests while still meeting degree requirements.

#3 There Are No Failing Grades

We want your focus to be on learning, teamwork, and collaboration, not on competition. That's why at WPI you'll earn A, B, C, or NR (No Record) to encourage you to branch out, experiment, and cross disciplines.

#4 It's Theory and Practice, Not Theory Then Practice

Projects are the core of the WPI Plan—faculty advisors bring the experience, and students bring the imagination. You'll take what you learn and apply it to immersive project work in and out of the classroom.

#5 Jump-Starting Your Problem-Solving Skills

As we said before, WPI is all about project-based learning, and the Great Problems Seminar, an optional two-term course for first-year students gives you the chance to get a taste of project work at WPI.

#6 Changing the World Requires Understanding It

You won't just study STEM here; you'll also immerse yourself in humanities through the Humanities and Arts Requirement. You'll study history, music, art, language, or philosophy, and take a deep dive into one area of your choice for a culminating project.

#7 One Project in Particular Will Be Life-Changing

The Interactive Qualifying Project will give you the chance to travel to one of our 50+ project centers around the Worcester area, around the United States, and around the world to delve into a real problem that matters to real people.

#8 You Will Become a Globally Aware Citizen

Through WPI's Global Projects Program, thousands of students have been able to complete projects they call "life-changing." You'll learn how to learn, applying knowledge and skills from the classroom to real problems around the world.

#9 You Will Be an Expert in Your Field

A significant portion of your senior year will be devoted to the Major Qualifying Project. This capstone work in your major field gives you the chance to demonstrate real-world research, design, and problem-solving skills—all must-haves for top employers and graduate programs.

#10 These Nine Words Are Words to Follow

Go to class. Do the work. Ask for help. Faculty, staff, and your own peers are ready and waiting to help you during your time at WPI and beyond. It's not just practical advice; it's the key to success at WPI.