# Career Plan for First-year Students

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<th>When?</th>
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| As soon as Possible! | Visit the Career Development Center (CDC) at the Project Center (1st Floor) and explore our services. Review Tipsheets, and visit the CDC lobby library to view WPI major binders and other resources | • Familiarize yourself with CDC resources and staff  
• Gain a better understanding of your major and possible career paths |
| | Activate your Handshake account to explore internships, co-op, and part-time jobs posted exclusively for WPI students | • Gain access to jobs, co-ops, internships, resources, podcasts and tipsheets, as well as additional resources for self-assessment and researching careers. |
| Throughout the year but the sooner the better! | Start building your resume and begin writing cover letters with guidance from CDC workshops, Job Finder, Tipsheets, and/or assistance from CDC staff via scheduled and/or drop in appointments | • Prepare for Career Fairs  
• Apply to internships, work study and part-time jobs  
• Start thinking about your IQP application |
| | Attend company information sessions (keep an eye out for these events via the Job Finder “Events” tab and weekly emails) | • Learn about careers, full time and part time jobs, summer internships, co-ops and network with professionals |
| | Participate in informational interviews with upper class students, faculty, employers and alumni | • Explore your interests and learn about career paths for your major |
| | Access and utilize MyPlan (through Handshake) | • To take self-assessments (interest, personality, skills, values) and research careers and majors. |
| A TERM | ATTEND THE FALL CAREER FAIR!! | • Find a summer internship/job, or co-op for spring of Sophomore Year  
• Learn about jobs  
• Meet/network with WPI alumni and employers |
| A/B TERM | Register for Discovering Majors and Careers course in B or C Term if you are undecided about your major, trying to decide between 2-3 majors, or looking to learn more about your major  
For B term: (FY 1800-B01)  
For C term: (FY 1800-C01) | • Learn about WPI majors/careers  
• Take inventories and assessments to learn more about interests, skills, and values  
• Compare/contrast majors of interest  
• Speak with upperclassmen and alumni about majors of interest |
| C TERM | ATTEND THE SPRING CAREER FAIR!! | • Find a summer internship/job  
• Learn about jobs  
• Meet/network with WPI alumni |
| D TERM | Continue searching for internships, co-ops, and part-time jobs. | • Find a summer internship/job  
• Learn about jobs  
• Meet/network with WPI alumni and employers  
• Attend Project Presentation Day to see senior MQPs and learn more about majors of interest  
• Volunteer to gain additional skills |
| D TERM/ SUMMER | Visit the CDC to incorporate the past year’s projects and jobs/internship/activities onto your resume | • To hit the ground running in August and to begin searching for next year’s summer internship |