

# CAREER PLAN FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

When?	What?	Why?
As soon as Possible!	Visit the <b>Career Development Center (CDC)</b> at the Project Center (1st Floor) and explore our services. Review <b>Tipsheets</b> , and visit the CDC lobby library to view resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Familiarize yourself with CDC resources and staff</li> <li>Gain a better understanding of your major and possible career paths</li> </ul>
	Use your <b>Handshake</b> account to explore internships, co-op, and part-time jobs posted for WPI students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gain access to jobs, co-ops, internships, resources, podcasts and tip sheets, as well as additional resources for self-assessment and researching careers.</li> </ul>
Throughout the year but the sooner the better!	Start building your resume and begin writing cover letters with guidance from CDC workshops, Handshake, Tipsheets, and/or assistance from CDC staff via drop ins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare for Career Fairs</li> <li>Apply to internships, work study and part-time jobs</li> <li>Start thinking about your IQP application</li> </ul>
	Attend company information sessions (keep an eye out for these events via the Handshake "Events" tab and weekly emails)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn about careers, full time and part time jobs, summer internships, co-ops and network with professionals</li> </ul>
	Participate in informational interviews with upper class students, faculty, employers and alumni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore your interests and learn about career paths for your major</li> </ul>
A TERM	ATTEND THE FALL CAREER FAIR!!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find a summer internship/job, or co-op for spring of Sophomore Year</li> <li>Learn about jobs</li> <li>Meet/network with WPI alumni and employers</li> </ul>
A/B TERM	Register for FY 1800: Discovering Majors and Careers course in A or B Term if you are undecided about your major, trying to decide between 2-3 majors, or looking to learn more about your major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn about WPI majors/careers</li> <li>Take inventories and assessments to learn more about interests, skills, and values</li> <li>Compare/contrast majors of interest</li> <li>Speak with upperclassmen and alumni about majors of interest</li> </ul>
C TERM	ATTEND THE SPRING CAREER FAIR!!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find a summer internship/job</li> <li>Learn about jobs</li> <li>Meet/network with WPI alumni</li> </ul>
D TERM	Continue searching for internships, co-ops, and part-time jobs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find a summer internship/job</li> <li>Learn about jobs</li> <li>Meet/network with WPI alumni and employers</li> <li>Attend Project Presentation Day to see senior MQPs and learn more about majors of interest</li> <li>Volunteer to gain additional skills</li> </ul>
D TERM/ SUMMER	Visit the CDC to incorporate the past year's projects and jobs/internship/activities onto your resume	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To hit the ground running in August and to begin searching for next year's summer internship or co-op</li> </ul>

## Career Development Center

Project Center

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