

CAREER PLAN FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

| When? | What? | Why? |
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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 our online Tipsheets . | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, Handshake, Tipsheets, and/or assistance from CDC staff via Drop Ins | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Handshake "Events" tab and weekly emails) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore your interests and learn about career paths for your major |
| | Access and utilize Focus2 (through Handshake) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To take self-assessments (interest, personality, skills, values) and research careers and majors. |
| A TERM | ATTEND THE FALL CAREER FAIR!! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 A, 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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!! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find a summer internship/co-op/job Learn about jobs Meet/network with WPI alumni |
| D TERM | Continue searching for internships, co-ops, and part-time jobs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To hit the ground running in August and to begin searching for next year's summer internship |

Career Development Center
Project Center
508-831-5260 | cdc@wpi.edu
wpi.edu/+cdc



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