

GOMPEI'S GUIDE TO WPI



2023-24

FOR STUDENTS BY STUDENTS



All the things you need to know



WPI

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Welcome to WPI. We're Glad You're Here.



This guide is intended to help you find your way here at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and to provide you with tips and tricks to make the most of your WPI experience. If you have a question, odds are the answer is in here. If you can't find it, ask a friend, your advisor, your resident advisor, your coach, or your professor. We all want to help you succeed here on campus.



What is WPI about anyway?



WPI's Mission

WPI's mission speaks to the legacy of its history and also our aspirations for the future:

"WPI transforms lives, turns knowledge into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionizes STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research."

WPI's Values

The mission is formed by WPI's values: respect, community, inclusion, innovation, and achievement.

WPI's Student Code of Conduct

These values also inform the expectations as set forth in the WPI Student Code of Conduct. It's important to read the code and know what's expected of you as a student. Click or scan the QR code to the right to learn more.



WPI's Strategic Plan

Lead with Purpose will inform university priorities from 2021 to 2026. It includes three focuses.

- Student well-being, access, and affordability
- Inclusive community
- Purpose-driven education and research

Learn more about our goals and process by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



WPI Plan

Established in 1970, the WPI Plan set WPI on the path for innovation in STEM education that continues to serve us well. Through our distinct focus on project work and collaborative learning, we learn how to solve real-world problems. Here are things to know about the Plan:

- Instead of semesters, we have 7-week terms.
- There are no prerequisite courses; instead, there are recommendations for the background you should have before taking a particular class. For example, to take Calculus II, you do not need to take Calculus I, but it is recommended you have the background from Calculus I.
- There are no failing grades. Instead, students earn an A, B, C, or NR (No Record). WPI wants students to take risks, try new things, and experiment without fear of penalty.
- Our motto is *Lehr und Kunst*, meaning Theory and Practice. Hands-on doing is a pivotal part of the education at WPI.
- You'll get an interdisciplinary education here at WPI. You don't solve a problem through one perspective. Instead, you draw on multiple skills in different contexts and you work with people from diverse backgrounds.
- We prioritize collaboration over competition.
- These nine words are critical to your success at WPI: *Go to class. Do the work. Ask for help.* If you do those three things, you're bound to set yourself up for success.

We Love Acronyms at WPI

- Some students even joke that WPI = We Prefer Initials
- Here are a few that are especially useful:

PROJECTS	
GPS	Great Problems Seminar
HUA	Humanities & Arts
ISP	Independent Study Program
IQP	Interactive Qualifying Project
MQP	Major Qualifying Project
GQP	Graduate Qualifying Project

PEOPLE	
CA	Community Advisor
CK	Crimson Key Tour Guide
IA	Insight Advisor
PLA	Peer Learning Assistant
PA	Program Ambassador
RC	Recruitment Counselor
RA	Resident Advisor
SA	Student Assistant
TA	Teaching Assistant

“ Sometimes the answers are as easy to get as a Google search or asking a friend. I didn't know my way around campus until a full term into freshman year. If I didn't know where to go, I asked a random person and made a new friend on campus or threw my question on Google. ”

Vrandol Perez '23

PLACES	
ARC	Academic Resource Center
ATC	Academic Technology Center
CDC	Heebner Career Development Center
EPC	Exam Proctoring Center
GEO	Global Experience Office
ISL	International Student Life
OAA	Office of Academic Advising
OAS	Office of Accessibility Services
ODIME	Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education
RCC	Rubin Campus Center
SAO	Student Activities Office
SDCC	Student Development and Counseling Center
SVSC	South Village Student Center



Want to get the scoop on what you're hearing? Click or scan the QR code on the left to find more commonly used acronyms.

Reasons Why 7-Week Terms Are Great

- You get to break the year up into easy-to-manage sections. You get to focus on only 3 courses over 7 weeks instead of having your mind all over the place. Terms go fast, so be sure to stay on top of your time.
- You get to meet more often with your 3 professors—learn their names and introduce yourself.
- When you're taking a test, you're reviewing information from a week or two ago, not months ago, which is better for short-term recall.
- Taking 3 courses in a term compared to 5 or 6 during a traditional semester system means you have more time outside of class for extracurricular activities/hobbies.
- The term system also allows you to get into and be prepared for major-specific classes faster.
- Breaks between terms do not have work; at other schools you would likely have work to do during the breaks.

“ Don't be afraid to ask. I have gotten my MQP application, homework, projects, and more deadlines extended just by reaching out. Professors are people too and they are often willing to accommodate. ”

Mason Vega '22

A Year in the Life of a WPI Student



First-Year Student

As a first-year student, active participation in New Student Orientation (NSO) and in Insight is key in setting yourself up for success the rest of the school year. WPI has many opportunities in academics and co-curricular activities. The transition to college can be challenging and making new friends and exploring new opportunities can help with that transition. Here are a few things that you can expect with your WPI experience:

A-Term

Check out the Activities Fairs and Community Service Fair.

Enjoy the warm weather while it lasts.

Try to meet someone new every day if you can—it's a great way to build your network. Talk to a classmate, attend a club meeting, chat with someone while in line at the dining hall.

Go to the Career Fair, which is run twice a year by the Career Development Center (CDC), in September and February.

Explore clubs and try intramural sports.

Establish a routine, whether that be working out, setting times to eat with your friends, etc.

Attend Pep Rally, a Student Government Association (SGA) event.

Invite your family to come for Family Weekend in the Fall.

Participate in Homecoming Weekend, a large campus event.

B-Term

Declare your major by the end of B-Term. Before getting your major-specific advisor, meet with your Insight Advisor.

Many clubs hold elections for their executive positions in B-Term, a great opportunity to become more involved in any organization.

Try rushing a fraternity or participating in sorority recruitment. They often give out free food and you get to participate in fun events, such as lawn games, paintball, hiking, cooking, car smashes, and more.

Participate in Student Activities Office (SAO) trips. They typically go to Six Flags, corn mazes, apple picking, and many other trips for cheap.

Visit the greenhouse when free plants are given out; it can be a big boost for mental health.

Attend a diversity program hosted by the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education (ODIME) or one of WPI's multicultural affinity groups.

If you want to live off campus, begin your search for off-campus housing, whether that is fraternity/sorority housing or an apartment. Pro tip: don't sign a lease until after rush/recruitment ends if you are considering a fraternity or sorority. Additional tip: off-campus housing is available year-round, no pressure to sign a lease immediately.

“ Always prioritize yourself over your academic success. You should be happy at WPI – pushing yourself too hard to excel in your classes is not worth it if your mental or physical health falters. ”

RJ Franzen '24

C-Term

Meet with your major-specific advisor, especially on Academic Advising Day in February.

Participate in the second career fair in February.

It should be snowy outside by now, so go have a snowball fight or sled down the hill in Institute Park.

Go out to restaurants—there are tons of great eats in the city. C-Term can get monotonous with the cold weather and switching up a routine is an effective way to boost mental health.

If you want to live on campus, check your email for communication from Residential Services and form a group.

D-Term

Enjoy the spring weather on the Quad. Pickup games of spike ball, frisbee, and volleyball are popular around this time.

Register for classes for next year—you'll pick a whole year's worth of classes in D-Term.

Participate in Quadfest, a week-long event filled with prizes and games that culminates in the Big Show: a concert the Social Committee (SocComm) puts on each spring.

Greek Week is full of wacky competitions and events hosted by fraternities and sororities.

There are so many fun activities and events such as Relay for Life, the Pan Asian Festival, the Black Student Union (BSU) Fashion Show, the International Festival, and Pride Week.

Second Year

Here are some things you'll do your sophomore year:

- Apply for IQP in B-Term. Check your email for messages from the Global Experience Office (GEO).
- Attend programming offered by the Office of Academic Advising.
- Participate in leadership roles and opportunities.
- Spiff up your resume with support from the Career Development Center (CDC) and apply for internships.
- Think about moving off campus for junior year or joining a fraternity or sorority if you opted out your first year.

Third Year

Junior year is often when you'll shift to lots of major-specific programming. Here are a few milestones:

- Complete your IQP. As one of your peers says, "Helping out a community in another place really opens your eyes."
- Secure your MQP for senior year. Generally, each department will send out a list of projects that are being offered for the upcoming year during the D-Term of your junior year. Each list will be accompanied by a description of the project and information about the professors who are advising it. Some students will also come up with their own MQPs if they have an idea that they would like to pursue or would like to continue a project from another class.
- Do a co-op, which involves taking time off from classes (typically for a term or two) to work at a company. Co-ops are a way to get lots of experience quickly and also get paid for it.
- Apply for an internship.

Fourth Year

- Present your MQP at the Undergraduate Research Projects Showcase.
- Make sure to run through the fountain before you graduate.
- Senior Week: the time at the end of the year between the last day of classes and commencement. Lots of fun events are planned for seniors, like the food truck fests, WooSox games, and more.
- Search for a job or apply to graduate school.
- Graduate!



How to Make the Most of WPI



Academics

- Be early on the first day of class! It makes a good first impression on your professors, and you can claim a good seat.
- If you're having trouble affording books, the Gordon Library usually has textbooks on reserve or on the shelf, just ask at the front desk for help finding them.
- Talk to returning students, your advisors, and faculty when picking out your schedule. They know the classes and can offer some great advice.
- Seven weeks go by fast! If you don't understand the material, get help sooner rather than later to stay on schedule.
- You can take whatever classes you want at any time. This allows you to experiment and take classes that would've been otherwise out of reach without the prerequisites. That being said, be careful to ensure you have the "recommended background" of courses. Communicate with your academic/faculty advisors or the professors on what preparation is recommended.
- Challenging yourself is encouraged at WPI, but be wary of taking on too much. **There are three (3) NRs built into almost every major so you have a good fallback system.** If you're coming in with AP/IB/other credit, you can also challenge yourself more with your classes and branch out.

- No Records (NRs) are meant to encourage you to challenge yourself and serve as a safety net. Getting an NR is perfectly OK! Most students end up NR-ing at some point. It is not seen as a fail as it literally will not be on your record. NRs do not count toward your GPA. However, multiple NRs may delay graduation or cost more money over time—be careful not to rack up too many NRs too soon.
- Supports are available for students who struggle in their first year. Talk to staff in the Academic Advising Office to learn more or click or scan the QR code to the right.
- There are tons of free resources on campus ranging from the Makerspace in the Innovation Studio, tech suites in the Library, fitness classes in the Recreation Center, and more.



Housing and Dining

- Use Goatbucks instead of cash or credit to save 10% at many campus dining locations. You can add money to your Goatbucks using the GET app, or by adding cash at the machines in the Library (located near the printers on the main floor).
- If you find yourself not using all your meal swipes, you can swipe in a friend and eat together. They will be grateful.
- Be respectful of your roommates. You're living with each other all year, so better start off on a good note. Re-visit your roommate agreement a few weeks into the year to change what things look like in your space—guests, noise levels, use of each other's items, etc.
- Talk to your RAs if you're having a roommate issue. They are trained in conflict mediation, and if the problem can't be solved (which is rare), they can help you connect with your Community Director to discuss other options.

Staying Organized/Accessing Technology

- Use a calendar, planner, and/or Outlook to plan and to keep yourself organized. A lot happens here, so use at least one of these to keep on top of things. In addition, many people will use Outlook invites to schedule meetings and events, so using your Outlook calendar to keep your schedule all in one place can be helpful.
- Turn notifications on for your Outlook email so that you don't miss important messages. Check Outlook daily. Use your calendar so people can easily book meetings with you and see when you're free.
- Printers are in the Library, South Village Student Center, and Rubin Campus Center. You can pay per page using Goatbucks.

Creating a Welcoming Community

- One of the things we pride ourselves on at WPI is building a place where all people are valued. To do this, it's incredibly important for you to recognize and address any biases you may have. At the end of the day, everyone wants to feel welcome and included. If you keep being welcoming and being inclusive as your top priorities, that will go a long way.
- A lot of people share their pronouns in their email signatures, Zoom names, Canvas, Slack, etc. It helps people know how to refer to you and helps you know how to refer to others when you may not know their gender identity and/or pronouns.
- Coming to college means getting exposed to people from all walks of life, cultures, heritages, and faith traditions. If you don't know something about someone else's identity, culture, traditions, or values, think carefully about how you inquire about it. Google can be a useful tool so you don't ask an offensive question.

- Check in on your friends and classmates. WPI can be challenging and lonely for a lot of students who might be homesick or who might not have a lot of people who look like them around. It is important to make sure people feel seen and valued in this community.

Social Life on Campus

- Clubs/organizations, club sports, and campus jobs are a great way to meet people on campus and gain opportunities. It is also simultaneously OK to not be involved in tons of stuff on campus. Try to get involved in one or two things, not fifty.
- To figure out what you like, you can join the mailing lists for a bunch of clubs at the beginning of the year and find what fits best into your schedule and your preferences. You are not bound to any club, sport, or group if you join their mailing list.
- Networking is a great way to open doors for yourself after graduation. Meeting people in classes, clubs, fraternity and sorority life, and other areas of campus are great opportunities to set yourself up for the future.
- The Sports and Recreation Center offers state-of-the art athletic facilities, fitness classes, intramurals, and more for students to embrace a healthy lifestyle.
- Going to the events on campus is worth it. They are often fun, less expensive, unique opportunities you wouldn't have elsewhere and they let you meet new people.
- Use MyWπ and Instagram and look at emails for the events to make the most of your WPI experience.

- There are tons of clubs with recurring events weekly. For example, the Video Game Association does a weekly Smash Bros. Tournament, the Science Fiction Society does Friday night gaming in the Campus Center, and there are free movie nights from SocComm every weekend with popcorn.
- There is a piano on the bottom floor of Fuller Labs and in every music room on the lower floor of Alden Hall. No need to reserve, just knock first to see if someone is using the room. They are free for everyone to use.
- Cinema.wpi.edu is an awesome website to watch free movies (must be on WPI Wi-Fi to access). Have movie recommendations? Reach out to Residential Services to see if they can be added!

Seek Resources.

Remember ... faculty and staff want to help you.

- Developing relationships with faculty and staff can take time; don't be afraid to reach out first. Professors become professors because they want to help students like you.
- Your professors and advisors really do care about you and your well-being. Don't be afraid to ask for an extension if you need one. Most understand the rigorous and tight curriculum and are very flexible.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help. This means attending tutoring and office hours or asking friends to study with you.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions! Professors love it when students ask questions or go to see them during office hours. Often you will be able to get help understanding the material, and sometimes just asking for help will earn you points back on assignments.

- Discussion sections are useful. Talk to the Teaching Assistants or Student Assistants—they were students in the class at some point, too.
- Reach out to the Office of Accessibility Services (see QR code to the right) if you need classroom, testing, or housing accommodations. These can be accommodations based on disability or temporary accommodations based on injury or long-term illness.



Prioritizing Mental Health Over Grades

- Finishing with a 99 in a class is the same as finishing with a 91—they're both an A. Sometimes it is worth putting in less effort and not getting a perfect grade so that you can go to that event you want to attend, get a good night's sleep, or take a minute to focus on your wellness.
- Don't judge your success based on others. Remember, only you can define your success. A lot of students come to WPI being highly motivated and excelling in high school, and it's a very different feeling when everyone else is as smart and academically motivated as you.
- You will probably fail homework, quizzes, exams, and even classes during your time at WPI, which is OK. Nobody will remember years from now what your score was on your physics midterm your first year. You can almost always bounce back from one or two poor grades and still finish well in a class.
- There are summer classes available. Classes are usually online, and some professors let you "make-up" any NRs or underloading. It's a great way to manage how many classes you have to take over the traditional academic year.

- Depending on what your major is, many companies do not ask what your GPA is or whether you're graduating with honors. Prioritize taking care of yourself instead of stressing yourself out over a final/homework which, in the grand scheme of things, likely means very little.
- When stressed, try to put things into perspective. Always look back and ask yourself if it will matter in five years or even one year; most often that will help put things in perspective with specific assignments and tests. It's OK to make the conscious choice to take a lower grade, drop, or NR a class for your own health.

“ Enjoy every second—both the bad and good. One day you will not be living next to your best friends. They could be across the country or even across the globe. Enjoy the late night studying for finals, playing frisbee on the Quad, and the many meals with friends before everyone is on their own path elsewhere. ”

Michaela Cluett '25

“ There is always time to make a change—this applies to your major, your social life, your sport, anything. ”

Brynne MacWilliams '25

Getting Around Campus



Campus Map

The WPI Campus Map is a great resource to locate campus buildings and residence halls, as well as gender inclusive (look under restrooms) and accessible restrooms (look under accessibility).



Click or scan the QR code on the left to view WPI's Interactive Map.

The hours for most buildings are posted on the WPI website. In general, for academic buildings on campus that have 24/7 computer labs (for example: Atwater Kent, Salisbury Labs), once inside the building, anyone can stay as late as they want. Some buildings at later hours will require key card access, so make sure to bring your ID.

Spots to Check Out on Campus

Here are some tips from fellow students about cool spaces to hang out:

- Have a game night with friends in the Rubin Campus Center.
- Grab food and book a tech suite in the South Village Student Center to watch a movie with friends or check out the Gaming Lounge.
- There is a reflection space on the first floor of the Library that has the sole purpose of allowing those in the WPI community to take time to quiet the mind.
- Higgins House has a nice outdoor space that is very picturesque and quiet. There are swings at Higgins House and a reflection garden.

- Grab coffee with a friend at Starbucks in the Goat's Head in Founders Hall.
- Meet a friend to study in the Wedge (area between Morgan and Daniels Halls).
- Hang out on the Quad (if it's a nice day).
- Visit the OASIS Multicultural Center (OASIS House), the Collegiate Religious Center (CRC), and the International House to attend a diversity program, learn about different cultures, grab some free snacks, cook some food, do your homework, study with your friends, play video games, or watch TV.
- Set up a hammock or slackline at the Fountain.
- Meet a friend at the red couches overlooking the fields in the Rec Center.
- Use the Student-Athlete study area in the Rec Center.
- Meet a friend in the Rubin Campus Center for some Dunkin'.
- Play billiards at the pool tables on the bottom floor of the Rubin Campus Center.
- Study at one of the corner spaces in Unity Hall at sunset.
- Grab a smoothie in the Innovation Studio and innovate in the Makerspace.
- There are tons of student lounges across campus. Some examples are the Atwater Kent Student Lounge (First Floor), the Physics Lounge in Olin Hall (First Floor), the Kaven Hall Student Lounge (First Floor), and Salisbury Labs (First Floor).

Campus Transportation Options

There are tons of ways to get around campus.

- **Gompei's Gears Bike Share**

Come be part of the free bike share program for the WPI community. You can rent a bike for up to eight hours at a time using the Bloom app. For a map of bike racks and to join the program, click or scan the QR code to the right.



- **Valet Park Shuttles**

Valet Park operates a safety transportation program to help people get safely to and from campus. To access the program, you must download the TransLoc app to order the shuttle. Click or scan QR code to the right.



Valet Park Provides Two Shuttle Services

A night-time shuttle, commonly known as SNAP, and a "winter use" daytime shuttle.



SNAP (Student Night Assistance Patrol)

SNAP shuttles will operate seven nights a week 6:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. beginning on Sunday, August 20 and ending Saturday, December 16 and resuming Sunday, January 7 and ending Saturday, May 4.

Winter Use Daytime Shuttle

8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday only, beginning Monday, November 27 and ending Friday, December 15 and resuming Monday January 8 and ending Friday March 29

No Service

- Thursday, November 23 (Thanksgiving)
- Winter Break (December 17 until January 7)
- Monday, January 15 (no service for daytime shuttle)

General Guidelines for Using SNAP:

- Not available for transportation to/from restaurants, bars, commercial properties, etc.
- Available within a one mile radius of 100 Institute Road for use to/from:
 - campus to/from off-campus housing.
 - campus to/from campus locations.
 - Price Chopper (221-222 Park Ave.) during business hours.
 - CVS (44 West Boylston St.) during business hours.
 - Union Station during business hours.
- Either, or both, of your “pick-up” or “drop off” location(s) must be an “On Demand Shuttle Stop.” A listing is at the QR code to the right or on the Campus Police website.
- Valet Park will not provide transportation from a residential address to a residential address, a residential address to a commercial address, or a commercial address to a commercial address.



Parking

To park on campus, you need to have a parking pass. To learn more about who qualifies for a pass and how to get one, click or scan the QR code on the right.



Street parking is available on a limited basis, but pay close attention to signage, as you may get a ticket from the City of Worcester if there’s a ban for snow or street sweeping or if parked illegally. Click or scan the QR code on the right to see the specific winter parking ban routes where you can search by street.



Academic Success



You're here to get an education after all, so here's everything you need to know to succeed academically.

Degree Requirements

Every major at WPI follows a Program Tracking Sheet. The Program Tracking Sheets contain curriculum options available to WPI students for use in planning and tracking progress toward their degree. Download the tracking sheet for your major and year to help you plan your schedule.

Click or scan the QR code on the right to find your Program Tracking Sheet.



As you map out your academic plan, if you are strategic, sometimes courses can double count, for example, as both a minor course and an elective course. See what you can double count if you are doing the following:

- a major/minor
- double major
- BS/MS degree

Double counting courses can save space in your schedule for a class that you are interested in taking, if you are planning to pursue a minor, or perhaps take a few graduate courses while completing your undergraduate degree. With that said, do not feel the need to do "more in four [years]." While it is great to have this option, it is not necessary, and the benefit should really be considered with the effort needed.

Every student completes 135 credits for graduation. These include:

Interactive Qualifying Project	9 credits
Major Qualifying Project	9 credits
Humanities & Arts courses	18 credits
Social Science courses (ID2050 can count if you plan to do your IQP away from campus)	6 credits
Physical Education courses	3 credits
Major-specific requirements	45 credits
Other required courses (varies by major)	45 credits

Academic Resources You Should Know

- **Academic Advising (Unity Hall)**

The Academic Advising offices help students plan their academic time while at WPI. This includes helping you to understand degree requirements as you make your academic plans. The Office of Academic Advising oversees the Academic Resources Center, which is home to the Math and Science Help (MASH) and tutoring programs. The Insight Program, a distinct first-year program focused on assisting students with the transition to college, Pre-Health programs, and Fellowship Advising are also coordinated through the Office of Academic Advising. The Office of Academic Advising can also help students to plan to complete a BS/MS in their desired field.

- **Academic Resource Center ARC (Unity Hall)**

The ARC offers several academic resources for students. This includes tutoring for various subjects and “MASH” (Math and Science Help), which are open group tutoring sessions that help students in their classes. The student-based, collaborative learning environment of the ARC offers individualized assistance in a variety of subjects as well as a comprehensive peer-tutoring program

Math and Science Help Center

In MASH sessions, you will meet with other students who are taking the same course. You can discuss any difficulties you are having understanding the material or a specific problem, talk about the class, compare notes, discuss assignments and lectures, as well as ask questions and improve your study skills. Click or scan the QR code to the right for more information about session times and courses offered.



Appointment Tutoring Program

Tutoring sessions, unlike MASH sessions, allow students to work one-on-one or in a small group with a tutor rather than in a larger group. Tutoring is offered Mondays through Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Fridays from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and Sundays from 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 pm.

“ It is OK to challenge yourself and fall short. Failing is not a mistake as it is a learning experience to allow you to grow and develop. Professors are always willing to lend a hand to help if you are struggling, so just reach out or simply show up to their office hours. ”

Zachary Rioux '25

Other Places to Get Academic Help

- **Math Tutoring Center (MTC) (Gordon Library, Room 302)**

Teaching Assistants (TAs) for all math classes hold office hours to help students with homework and general studying and math help. They assist students with homework/concepts/general questions in areas such as calculus, differential equations, linear algebra, and many others. Drop-in tutoring, no appointment needed!

- **Physics Lounge (Olin Hall)**

Filled with comfy couches and chairs, physics Teaching Assistants (TAs) hold office hours to help students.

- **The Writing Center (Salisbury 233)**

The Writing Center helps students improve their written, oral, and visual communication. Trained writing tutors provide peer tutoring for individuals and teams on any type of communication project, including course papers, presentations, dissertations, and job-related documents. Tutors can help you at any stage of your composing process: when you're still in early stages of brainstorming and finding direction; when you're in the middle stages of drafting ideas and organizing paragraphs; or when you're in the late stages of your writing, polishing your prose for maximum clarity.

“ The world is a wide, amazing, and beautiful place. The resources at WPI—professors, friends, organizations, projects, and beyond—will help you explore this world if you let it. Jump in, don't be afraid. Stay curious. Stay teachable. ”

Sam Levitan '24

Academic Advisors

Every student is assigned at least three different academic advisors during their time at WPI. Each of these advisors is listed in Workday with their contact information. To maximize your experience with your advisor, reach out to them and introduce yourself. Schedule a meeting and spend some time getting to know them and sharing a bit about yourself and your goals. They can be a great resource for you and, if they know you well enough, can possibly provide you a letter of recommendation.

- **Insight Advisor:** This is your advisor for the first two terms you're at WPI. They are a faculty or staff member who can guide you through your first semester at WPI and will help you choose your C & D Term courses. Once you declare your major, which generally happens in November of your first year, your Insight Advisor will be replaced with a faculty advisor in your major.
- **Faculty Advisor:** Once you declare your major, you will be assigned a faculty advisor in your major. This person is a great resource to assist you in choosing major-specific courses, can help advise you on selecting an MQP, and can help guide you as you consider your career post college.
- **Academic Advisor:** You also have an academic advisor in the Office of Academic Advising for your full four years at WPI. They can assist you with meeting degree requirements outside your major as well as support in implementing academic success strategies.

You can change your advisors if you want. Contact the Office of Academic Advising for more guidance if you have an interest in pursuing this option.

Other Academic Resources to Know

- **Registrar's Office (Unity Hall)**

The Registrar's Office ensures adherence to WPI's academic policy as well as preserves academic integrity and protects the security of academic records. The Registrar's Office helps students register for courses and keep track of their credits. The website has lots of forms that can be quite useful.

- **Academic Technology Center (ATC)(Fuller Labs)**

The ATC offers instructional design services and technology consultations as well as technology rentals and large-format poster printing.





- **Global Experience Office (GEO) (Project Center)**

The GEO assists students in their journey traveling off campus for their Humanities Requirement and Interactive and Major Qualifying Projects.

Academic Advising Day

- Academic Advising Day is a specific day for you to meet with your faculty advisor and talk to them about your classes, four-year plan, career plan, etc. It's also a good day to meet with the head of your department and get to know them. If you create a good relationship with your faculty advisor, they could help you adjust your classes (if necessary) or help count classes to make sure you meet all requirements.
- Remember, you don't have to wait until Academic Advising Day to meet with your advisors. You can do this anytime—simply send them an email or propose an Outlook calendar meeting.

Registering for Classes

- Check out course listings on this easy-to search site (courselistings.wpi.edu). You can see what's open and what has waitlist spots available. 
- Course registration is done using Workday (myworkday.com). As you plan your schedule, you will want to work with your faculty advisor or your academic advisor, as well as consult your Program Tracking Sheet. 
- As you plan your schedule you can use oscar.wpi.edu when picking courses. This shows actual course evaluations by class and by professor. It's a great way to find the best classes for you and to learn about different professors. 
- The [WPI Planner](#) can help you to see the terms that courses are offered, along with the professor and times available. It's a great way to help you build your schedule and see the many combinations that work for your schedule. 
- When it's time to schedule your courses, make sure to have a saved schedule before registration begins to help you add your courses efficiently. You also want to be prepared with a few back-up courses in case your first-choice options are full.
- If you don't get the classes you wanted, don't despair. Reach out to your academic advisor and they can help you.
- Many students try to make sure they have a balanced schedule so they can have a healthy schedule. For example, one student suggests: "two core classes, and one humanities/free elective" as an ideal schedule.

Academic Accessibility Accommodations

Office of Accessibility Services (Unity Hall)

The Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) coordinates accommodation services. It also advocates and supports students with documented physical, learning, sensory, psychological, developmental, and temporary disabilities. Click or scan the QR code to the right to fill out the intake form to get started. If you are approved for test taking accommodations, you may take your tests in the Exam Proctoring Center (EPC) in Unity Hall.



How to Talk with a Professor If You Need Flexibility or Additional Support

Whether you're sick, have a personal conflict, have a religious event, or need some flexibility on an assignment, consider speaking to your professor in person ahead of time, to the extent possible. You can often use the professor's published office hours to have these conversations. You can also reach out to them via email. Often those requests go best when you can map out an alternative suggested plan to get the work completed.

How to Change Your Major

You can change your major easily. Click or scan the QR code to the right for instructions.



Overloading

Overloading happens when students take more than 18 credits (7 or more classes a semester not including PE/Wellness courses). This can result in an additional fee if you exceed 21 credits. Speak with your academic advisor before you decide to overload.

Math Related Resources

Utilize this QR code to link to the Math Placement Canvas Page to find more information about math related AP credit, retroactive credit, the Calculus sequence at WPI, and your math placement recommendation.



Transfer Classes

WPI may accept credits from other accredited colleges and universities that meet the quality and rigor of a WPI course. To learn more about the process for earning transfer credit, click or scan the QR code to the right. The Transfer Credit website provides excellent guidance.



Consortium Classes

WPI is part of a consortium of other colleges that allows you to register for classes at other area colleges. To learn more, consult the Registrar's website by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



Using the Library

The Gordon Library offers many resources to support you academically, ranging from accessing books and journals for research projects to great places to study. To learn more, explore the Gordon Library website by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right. Here are few helpful resources you'll find:



- Search for books and journals using the Gordon Library's research tools.
- Connect with a Research Librarian, who can help you find source material for your GPS course, IQP/MQP, HUA project, and more.

- Book a tech suite for yourself or a group. You can do this by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right. You can book it online at any time (even in the middle of the night!). About 5 minutes before your reservation time begins, go to the Library desk to scan your ID and get a key for the door.
- InterLibrary loans are a cool way of accessing books that our Library does not already have. Click or scan the QR code to the right to learn more.
- Find a place to study. There are lots of study spaces in the Library that are great for focusing. You can view the current Library occupancy by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



Undergraduate Majors and Their Acronyms

MAC	Actuarial Mathematics
AE	Aerospace Engineering
	Applied Physics
AREN	Architectural Engineering
CBC	Chemistry & Biochemistry
BCB	Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
BBT	Bio/Biotechnology
BME	Biomedical Engineering
BUS	Business
CHE	Chemical Engineering
CH	Chemistry
CE	Civil Engineering
CS	Computer Science
DS	Data Science
ECON	Economics
ECE	Electrical Computer Engineering

ENV	Environmental and Sustainability Studies
EVE	Environmental Engineering
HUA	Humanities & Arts
IE	Industrial Engineering
IMGD	Interactive Media and Game Development
	International & Global Studies
LAE	Liberal Arts & Engineering
MGE	Management Engineering
MIS	Management Information Systems
MA	Mathematical Sciences
ME/MechE	Mechanical Engineering
PH	Physics
PW	Professional Writing
Psych	Psychology
RBE	Robotics Engineering
STP	Society, Technology & Policy

“ WPI students love to create schedules, but unscheduled time is also where you'll make lasting memories. Don't be afraid to be spontaneous and leave some free time to do something fun with your friends or roommates, and always commit to one less thing than you think you can commit to. You'll thank yourself later. ”

Isabelle Mellor '22

Places to Study

Want a different place to study besides your room? Here are some suggestions:

- **George C. Gordon Library**

When you think of studying, this is probably the first place that comes to mind. The Library is a great place to study alone, work on a group project, or find information. There are four floors in the Library. The floor you enter is the second floor. There are computers and tables on this floor—great for group projects. The next floor down is the quiet floor. If you like studying alone and in silence, this is a great place for you. Study nooks are located by the windows and there are nice, secluded spots between the bookshelves. The bottom floor of the Library is good if you like a more relaxed study environment. There are plenty of big tables to spread out your work in addition to more computers. The top floor of the Library is another relaxed study environment. It has a mix of tables, whiteboards, and individual study nooks, in addition to sofas and chairs.

- **Library Tech Suites**

A tech suite makes an excellent place to get work done either in a group or alone. You can book a tech suite by:

- Going to the Tech Suite Reservation Station at the end of the Information Desk on the main floor of the Gordon Library to reserve a time or to get an express tech suite.
- Calling the Tech Suite Hotline at 508-831-5094 to request a reservation.
- Going on the Gordon Library website:
 - Choose “Reserve a Tech Suite”
 - Select the desired time(s) and tech suite(s)

- Click "Select Time"
- An email confirmation will be sent to you
- Tech suites can be booked up to two weeks in advance. Visit the Library website for more information.
- **Rubin Campus Center**

This is also a great place to study. On the main and bottom floors there are plenty of tables to sit at with friends to work on homework. The top floor of the Campus Center has clusters of sofas and chairs, making a nice quiet place to get some reading done.
- **An Empty Classroom**

Empty classrooms make great places to sit down alone and get your work done. You can also turn on the projector and use it to play some white noise or study music to help you focus. Check 25Live (easiest to locate on the Library website) to see which classrooms are available at a certain time.
- **Higgins House Garden**

This is a relaxing place to study in A- and D-Terms when the weather is nice. Set up a blanket and enjoy the nice weather while getting work done. There are also places to sit by the reflecting pool or you could choose to read on the swings.
- **Atwater Kent**

The "Pumpkin Lounge" on the first floor is a great place to study with others, and everyone there is willing to help you if you need it. The second floor of this building has tables and chairs set up by the windows that overlook Institute Park. Enjoy the view while you work.
- **Boynton Hill**

With a slight view of the Worcester skyline in the distance, there are a few benches overlooking the hill where you can sit as you absorb your surroundings.

- **WPI Innovation Studio**

WPI Innovation Studio is a great location for collaborative group studying due to its open floor plan. Don't be afraid to take advantage of its vast number of whiteboards when solving difficult problems. You can book an Innovation Studio tech suite by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right. You can book 2 slots per week (2 hours).



- **Major-Specific Lounges**

Not all majors have these, but many do—check the main floor of the building where your department is located. These are great for getting work done and often there will be TAs or upperclass students nearby who you can ask for help.

- **South Village Student Center**

The SVSC is a place with tables for studying and tech suites for collaboration. Book one on the SVSC website.



- **Unity Hall**

In WPI's newest building on campus, there are many tables, collaborative spaces, and seating is available on its five floors to study, do homework, and work on projects.

- **OASIS Multicultural Center (OASIS House)**

Located at 20 Schussler Road, the OASIS House has a lounge on the main floor with couches, chairs, and a conference table where students can study during operating hours. There is also a conference room on the second floor with a whiteboard, display monitor, and conference table that seats up to 10 people to accommodate study groups.

- **Collegiate Religious Center (CRC)**

The CRC, located at 19 Schussler Road, has a lounge on the main level when you walk into the building; there are couches, chairs, and a conference table where students can study during operating hours. The CRC is typically quieter than most places on campus due to the sacred nature of the house. There is also a conference room on the second floor with a white board, display monitor, and conference table that seats up to 10 people.

- **International House**

The International House, located at 28 Trowbridge Road, has lounge space on the lower level where students can study or gather during operating hours.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity speaks directly to student honesty, responsibility, and respect for scholarship. Academic assignments and tests help students learn course content, while grades show how fully this goal is achieved. Coursework and associated grades should be the result of the student's own understanding of academic content, as well as demonstrated effort and achievement. To ensure your actions align with these expectations, review the WPI Academic Honesty Policy by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



Taking a Leave of Absence

Sometimes a student decides it's wise to take a break from WPI, whether that be for a medical, personal, or financial reason. It is ok to take a leave if you need it. You can learn more about the process by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right, or talk to your academic advisor or the Dean of Students Office.



Project-Based Learning



Project-based learning is what we're all about at WPI. Learning to work in teams to solve challenging global problems is one of the hallmarks of the WPI education. You'll do group projects in labs, in classes, and as part of your IQP and MQP.

At WPI, we know that the best way for students to understand and appreciate societal issues is to experience them firsthand. One of the ways this happens is through the Global Projects Program.

eProjects

You can learn everything about almost all projects at eprojects.wpi.edu or by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



Interactive Qualifying Project (IQP)

The IQP is an interdisciplinary project that every student completes in order to graduate. Some students do an IQP on campus by reaching out to a faculty member and working with them to design a project of interest. Other students do their IQPs at one of more than 50 project centers around the globe.

Remember the IQP is a RESEARCH project. If you're doing implementation, you might be doing it wrong and will have nothing to write a compelling research paper with at the end.

Let yourself LEARN from the EXPERIENCE! It is supposed to be interdisciplinary and out of your major.

Make an effort to work with other people who don't have the same background as you and you will learn so much.

Tips for selecting and preparing IQP

- You will apply for your IQP in your sophomore year and complete IQP generally in the junior year.
- When you apply, you'll be asked to list any project center that you're open to considering.
- What if you have your heart set on a specific location? Try not to limit your options. The more options you list on your application, the higher your chance of getting a placement.
- Talk to the Global Experience Office staff (located in The Leshin Project Center) to accommodate specific needs for project placement (food allergies, medical concerns, etc.). They are happy to help.
- Placements are generally shared the winter of your sophomore year.

ID 2050: Every student who completes an IQP off campus will take ID 2050 the term before they go away to prepare for their time on IQP. Students will also often be taking PQP (pre-qualifying project, 1.5 credits) the same term. This can be a heavy workload term, so you'll want to plan ahead. To really do well in ID2050, here are some tips from fellow students:

- Designate a project manager and start using a tool like [Notion.so](https://www.notion.so) (click or scan QR code to right) or a similar platform to keep everything in the same place and on time.
- Set up weekly meetings with your ID2050 team, where you all can get closer and really get to know each other before IQP. This helps get everyone on the same page for the project you'll be researching for a whole semester.



Major Qualifying Project (MQP)

- **Completing Your Project Globally:** There are also some opportunities to complete your MQP at a global project site. You can click or scan the QR code to the right to see the different sites. If you're interested, email the project advisors (professors) to learn more. They are very passionate about the projects at the project centers.
- **If you're interested in an MQP on campus,** the process may vary by department. The best thing to do is to ask your faculty advisor for more information on the process in your department. If you're having trouble finding a project, your faculty advisor is your best contact.



Humanities and Arts (HUA)

You can also complete your Humanities and Arts (HUA) experience abroad in places like England, Germany, and Morocco. Often, you'll complete a few HUA courses here on campus and then finish your project, including your HUA capstone on location at an HUA global project site. Learn more by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



SWEET Center

Teamwork is a critical part of the WPI experience and we're invested in making sure you have a great team experience at WPI. The SWEET Center stands for Supporting WPI through Effective and Equitable Teamwork. The goal of the Center is to ensure every WPI student has at least one highly effective and equitable team experience before they graduate, and that they leave with skills and tools to increase their own ability to collaborate effectively in teams throughout their careers. The Center provides support and consultation for teamwork happening on campus. Faculty can refer student teams for a consultation, or teams and individuals can seek assistance on their own either through appointments or weekly drop-in hours.

A Few Tips for Effective Teaming

- Set clear expectations with teammates right from the outset. This includes when it's OK to contact each other and setting expectations for the amount of effort that will be put into the project by each member of the team.
- Consider creating an asset map to figure out good group roles for each team member.
- Remember, not everyone has to have the same skills or expectations to be a good teammate. Make sure to value your teammates for the kind of skills they can bring to the team.
- Not every team will always be functioning at 100%. That's OK. The key is to talk about it with your teammates and then course correct with the team.
- If things aren't going well, it is critical you communicate. Make sure to debrief with your team afterwards and talk things out. If there is conflict, address it early on as a group; the SWEET Center is a great resource for mediation.
- Remember the acronym: DWYSYWD. Do what you say you will do. Make sure to do what you agree to do and set the same expectations for team members.

“ Go to office hours. Actually put it in your schedule. It is an amazing way to connect with your professors. Even if you aren't struggling immensely go talk to your professor and I'm sure you'll learn something! ”

Tori Cormier '25

Meeting People, Getting Involved, and Having Fun



College isn't just about hitting the books. Research suggests that students who are involved on campus are less stressed, have more fun, feel more connected to campus, and do better academically. What better reasons to get involved?

Meeting New People

We know making friends can sometimes be scary—remember every other student is in the same boat as you. They are all trying to meet friends and make connections and want you to like them, just like you want them to like you. To meet new people, here are some suggestions:

- Introduce yourself to the people sitting around you in class, meetings, in the dining hall, and at events.
- Join a pick-up basketball game or exercise class and talk with fellow attendees.
- Not sure what to say? Everyone loves to talk about themselves. Try to ask open-ended questions, which are questions that require more than a *yes* or *no* answer. Brainstorm some questions you could ask someone in advance. Ideas might be *What did you do this summer? What's your favorite class? What are you majoring in? How did you choose your major?* Ask a floor mate or two to go to dinner with you—everyone eats.
- Keep your room door open for others to stop by and say hi or pop your head into a room with the door open and say hello yourself.

- Set up a board game or video game console in the lounge and ask if folks want to play with you. You can do the same with a frisbee or other games for the Quad as well (you can rent lawn games from the Rubin Campus Center Info Desk).
- Grab a pizza or some cookies and walk around your floor asking folks if they want some. Food can be a great way to break the ice.
- Attend club events/meetings and talk to the folks sitting next to you.
- Volunteer to join a committee in a club or help with planning. A great way to form connections is to work on something with a group.
- If you're struggling to get connected, seek out your RA or CA; they can be a big help.

MyWπ Is Where It's At

To get involved, check out the portal for all things clubs and organizations. It's called [MyWπ](#). Find a few clubs and email their club leaders. Go to their meetings, sign up for their emails, attend events, and have fun! Click or scan the QR code on the right to learn more.



Activities Fairs

WPI hosts Activities Fairs where you can learn about different organizations. There is usually tons of free stuff and you'll have a chance to learn more about all the clubs on campus.

Things to Do

Check out the 100+ things to do on and around campus by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right. Here are 10 suggestions for on-campus fun:



1. Look for campus events on the events calendar on MyWPI —there's always a ton happening.
2. Cheer on one of WPI's athletic teams.
3. Attend Tuesday night trivia, offered every week.
4. Check out a SocComm film on Saturday or Sunday nights.
5. Play tabletop games with the Science Fiction Society on Fridays.
6. Every Saturday, the Video Game Association puts on a Smash Bros. tournament. Fun fact, you can also check out a gaming console at the Info Desks at the Rubin Campus Center and South Village Student Center to play with friends.
7. Play cornhole or ladder ball on the Quad. You can check out a set at the RCC Info Desk.
8. Explore Higgins House Gardens.
9. Reserve the grill behind the Rubin Campus Center and make s'mores with friends.
10. Set up a slack line or hammock and enjoy the weather.

Be In the Know About Campus Happenings

There's a ton happening on campus almost every day. So how do you keep up with what's going on? Here are a few tips:

1. Check MyWπ by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.
2. Look on 25 Live: If you're curious what's happening in a space on campus click or scan the QR code to the right.
3. Look on the WPI Athletics website by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.
4. Check your email, where you'll see weekly updates about major campus events.
5. Stop by the tables in the Rubin Campus Center to see what other clubs are up to.
6. Follow clubs that interest you on social media for their events. You don't have to be a member of the club to go to their events. Also, follow the Student Activities Office and Student Government Association on social media, too—they repost many events.
7. Check your Slack/group chats to see what folks are talking about.
8. The WPI Reddit tends to have a lot of information about current events.



Top 10 Instagram pages to follow:

1	@WPI
2	@WPI_SAO
3	@WPI_SGA
4	@Soccomm
5	@WPIAcademicAdvising

6	@WPIResServices
7	@WPI_ODIME
8	@TechEatsWPI
9	@WPIGlobal
10	@SASWPI

SAO Trips

Student Activities offers trips almost every weekend of the academic year to places like escape rooms, Six Flags, corn mazes, apple picking, and more. Check out MyWπ, and the SAO social media channels for more information. Tickets for the trips can be purchased by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



SAO Late Night Programming Series

There are fun and free activities for students on campus every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday night. The SAO Late Night Programming Series is a great way to have fun with friends and relax. Programs may include food trucks, crafts, games, novelties, and so much more. Keep an eye out for advertisements and information on MyWπ.

Clubs and Organizations

- Clubs can become a great support system during your time as a student at WPI as they are a great way to make friends and have fun. There are over 235 clubs and organizations at WPI, meaning it's highly likely there is something that interests you.

- Remember, most clubs allow members to join throughout the whole year. It's never too late to get involved. No club is going to turn away new members and, while it may be a little awkward in the beginning, most clubs will welcome you with open arms and get to know you.
- Almost every club event is free or has a low cost to attend, so it's a great way to meet more people and experience new things.
- You don't have to be involved in 10+ clubs. You can choose some that you like and find important to you.
- If you are interested in a club WPI does not have, you can start your own.
- Check out table sitting in the Rubin Campus Center. A lot of clubs will sell things to fundraise (mostly food, but also stickers, plants, etc.). This is another great way to make connections with other people and learn about what is happening on campus.
- If you don't love a club, it's OK to spend your time in another way. Get involved in intramurals, community service, tutoring, or mentoring. Involvement can look different for everyone.

Varsity Athletic Events

Odds are you know a varsity athlete or two. Make sure to cheer on your classmates and friends at their sporting events. Check the board in the Rec Center or the Athletics website by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right for the weekly schedule. Show your WPI pride, grab some friends and go watch the game.



Leadership Programs

Want to grow your leadership skills? There are a number of ways to do this, both formally and informally. Student Activities offers a number of leadership training courses and Leadership Lectures for emerging, advanced, and transformational leaders. You can also run for a leadership role in a club or consider joining the Student Government Association.

Community Service

WPI students do thousands of hours of community service annually. You can help serve the Worcester community while also gaining valuable skills. To learn more, join the community service Slack channel by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



Here are a few suggestions from your peers about how to get involved in service work:

- Clubs like Green Team, Engineers Without Borders, and Habitat for Humanity give you opportunities to volunteer and make the community a better place.
- Service fraternities, like Alpha Phi Omega, are a great resource to learn about opportunities, even if you do not wish to join.

“ There is definitely a club or activity out there for you! Sometimes you can feel pretty homesick if you’re really far away from home and having a little bit of home here helps. ”

Vrandol Perez '23

- Promotion of Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) volunteers at animal shelters.
- Work on Worcester is a service event hosted in the fall and is open to students who want to help out.
- Soup kitchens/food pantries around Worcester are always looking for volunteers.

Open Recreation, Intramurals & Club Sports

WPI's Sports and Recreation Center (SPARC), which is supported by the Department of Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics offers a myriad of recreational activities, club sports, and intramural events.

- You can find out all about club sports on MyWπ.
- Info on intramurals, which are fun team-based sports for all students, is usually emailed to students and changes from term to term—keep your eyes open for the email as the slots fill up fast. They are low stress and a lot less competitive so you can just have fun with friends.
- The SPARC has exercise classes, workout equipment, a running track, basketball courts, a pool, and more. Here are some tips from your fellow students about what they love:
 - The gym on the third and fourth floors of the Rec Center is open daily during the week. Hours are posted on the SPARC website and can be found at the QR code to the right.
 - The pool is open for lap swimming at various times throughout the day.
 - Using the indoor track at the gym is very nice if it's cold out and you dislike treadmills.



- Squash courts are a fun form of exercise with friends.
- There are often student-led Zumba or strength classes that anyone can join with no time commitment.
- You can ask at the front desk for balls/nets/courts, and they will help you get set up as long as the area you need isn't already being used.
- Are you a newbie to working out? There are some really fun physical education/wellness classes, and some that can teach you how to use the equipment.

Looking for other recreational activities?

- There are tennis courts in Institute Park.
- Students often play with frisbees/other lawn games on the Quad.
- Central Rock Gym is just a short drive from campus; memberships are affordable. The Outing Club makes weekly trips there.
- There are tons of rail trails and hiking options just a short drive from campus. Check out the Holden Rail Trails, the Blackstone Valley Trails, or the Cascades.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

WPI's Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center supports the culture of entrepreneurial and innovative thinking through skill-based workshops, seed funding, mentorship, innovation challenges, networking opportunities, hands-on projects, and more. Whether it's a student IQP, MQP, ISP, graduate research, a hobby project, a venture, or nonprofit idea, the Center is here to help support the development of your idea and turn it into reality for the greater good of our local and global communities.

So You've Got an Invention? WPI can help you patent and think about the commercialization of your idea or invention, even without faculty or outside funding. To learn more, click or scan the QR code to the right.



Check out all the events and workshops offered by I&E by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



- WPI has two innovation and entrepreneurship themed clubs: Enactus and Launch Pad.
- There is some great study space in I&E Center.
- You can use machines like the laser cutters, 3D printers, and general hand tools in the Makerspace. Look on the Makerspace page to find training and workshops by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right. It's super easy to get certified to use the tools and cool to have free access to expensive equipment you probably don't have at home.
- Reserve a table in the I&E Center in the Innovation Studio for group projects on their website or by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



Campus Traditions

WPI has a ton of campus traditions. From Homecoming to rivalry events like the Rope Pull to expectations that you never step on the Quad seal, WPI has a rich history. You can learn all about it by reading the Tech Bible you received at Bridge Crossing during New Student Orientation.

Living On and Around Campus



Whether you live on or off campus during your time at WPI, it's important you have a safe, comfortable place to live and learn.

Living on Campus

We want you to feel right at home in one of WPI's many residential communities. You'll be close to campus facilities, activities, and services, where you'll hopefully learn, grow, make lifelong friends, and prepare for your future. Your Resident Advisor (RA), a returning student who lives on your floor, will be there to answer any questions you have about WPI and help with your room or roommate issues. Make sure to keep your door open as much as possible and attend hall programs and events—it's a great way to get to know others in your building.

- **Community Director (Residential Services Office, East Hall, 508-831-5645):** If you live on campus, your Community Director (CD) is the professional staff person who supervises your RA. They can help you with roommate conflicts, questions about getting connected on campus, or questions about housing.
- **Dealing with Roommates:** For many WPI students, this is the first time they are living in a room with someone else and that can be an adjustment. One of the things your RA will encourage you to do is to create a roommate agreement, where you'll set some expectations for the room. Think about things like when you study, how clean or messy things are, what to do when you want to have a guest, and how you'll communicate if something isn't going well. Revisit this agreement often and make changes as needed; your room is a space for all who live there, so respect one another.

- **Something Broken in Your Room?** Your RA can help you with a work order.
- **Locked Out?** If it's Monday through Friday during 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., go to East Hall and a staff member can assist you. If it's outside these hours, call Campus Police at 508-831-5555. Each after-hours lockout is \$15 for residential students.
- **Become an RA:** The Resident Advisor role is a great way to give back to the WPI community and earn important career skills. Applications come out mid year, so keep your eyes open.
- **Break and Summer Housing:** Residence halls are open during term breaks, except for the break in December (except for specific circumstances), and summer with separate overnight fees. Some off-campus apartments allow subletting as well. Check your networks, Facebook, Reddit, and other social media locations to find out who might be looking for a subletter.
- **Housing Selection** takes place between January and March each year for the following academic year.
- **Gender-Inclusive Housing.** There are a number of gender-inclusive housing options. Click or scan the QR code to the right to learn more or email res-services@wpi.edu.
- **Accessibility Related Housing Accommodations.** Housing-based accommodations are available to students with a documented need. The Office of Accessibility Services can assist you. Click or scan the QR code to the right.



Dining on Campus

There are many places to dine across the campus, ranging from Morgan Dining to the new Halal Shack, to the Goat's Head, to the South Village Student Center, and more. Whether you want something hot off the grill, fresh vegetables at the salad bars, a smoothie, or sushi, there is something to suit everyone's needs. To keep things fresh and interesting, try to dine at different locations across the campus regularly and, as always, if you need anything, ask a dining associate.

- **Using Your Meal Plan**

There are a number of meal plan options to choose from. Click or scan the QR code on the right to learn more about them. Each meal plan works a little differently depending on where you live. In general, you can use one swipe of your ID per meal. Talk to your RA or look on the Dine on Campus website to get the scoop. You can change your meal plan up to two weeks into A-Term and C-Term, so if you decide you need more or fewer meals, make sure not to miss this timeframe.



- **Bonus Points and Goatbucks**

Bonus points are associated with each meal plan which have a one point to one dollar conversion. You can upload funds into Goatbucks using the GET app. This saves money on campus dining purchases because you receive 10% off. This is very convenient for the Campus Center Food Court, Dunkin' Donuts, the Bookstore, and more. You can use your Goatbucks and Bonus Points at some area restaurants, too. Check out the off-campus section of this guide for more details.

- **Voluntary Meal Plans**

If you're an upper level student who lives in a place that doesn't require a meal plan or lives off campus, consider opting for the Gompei 190 meal plan. This plan rolls over from year-to-year and you can use it anywhere on campus.

- **Eating Healthy**

WPI offers a range of healthy options, allergen-free options, vegan, and vegetarian options. Shavaun Cloran is a registered dietitian on campus who you can work with if you have any food allergies, restrictions, or dietary needs. Contact her at scloran@wpi.edu.

Fraternity and Sorority Housing

Living in fraternity or sorority housing can be a great transition from residence hall life to fully off-campus. If you are thinking about joining a fraternity or sorority, you may want to wait until after rush/recruitment to find housing, as almost all fraternities and sororities have houses. Most fraternities and sororities also have meal plans and/or a chef who cooks for the house.

“ SELF ADVOCACY IS KEY! Reach out to your resources and build a support team and network. Building meaningful connections with friends, school offices, professors, and employers leads to opportunity, success, guidance, collaboration, ideas, and belonging! ”

Trevor Bush '25

Off-Campus Apartments

If living off campus is your desire, many students start searching for their next year's housing in October/November. There are houses ranging in price and number of bedrooms. While it may at times be affordable to live off campus, you'll also need to plan to provide furnishings for your apartment and budget for expenses like cable, internet, electric, gas, and water. Make sure you're ready to take on the responsibility of paying those bills and working with a landlord or property manager. Older students can be a great resource for finding off-campus housing. They may be moving out or looking for another roommate, which makes things easier. Also, many leases are passed down through friends, so talk to upperclass students in your clubs or your classes to get some feedback about different housing opportunities off campus. While WPI does not endorse any specific housing search tool, many students indicate they use these:

- Homeless WPI Students Facebook Group (no, they aren't really homeless) to help with roommate searches. Click or scan the QR code to the right to learn more.
- Students also report using JumpOffCampus as a resource to find available housing around campus. Click or scan the QR code to the right to learn more.



“ Reach out to “scary” people. The administrators, professors, and employees want to help you succeed—and may even need your help to reach their goals! They might not know they need you until you reach out. ”

Sam Levitan '24

Tips from Students on Leases and Landlords/ Property Managers

- Be prepared for apartments to get taken very quickly. You often need to commit within a day or so, or someone else will take it. Be prepared to sign on the spot or have the money to put down a deposit.
- While many apartments do get taken early, there are still options available in the spring semester so you will not be left without housing.
- You can ask around for advice on various landlords and property managers in the area.
- Some leases require a co-signer, some do not.
- Some leases include various utilities such as heat/hot water, gas, etc., or you might need to pay separately.
- Make sure you really know your roommates before you jump into a lease. If you aren't sure about them, on-campus housing selection starts much later, and it gives you more time to get to know people before you commit to living with them.
- Don't be afraid to not renew leases/change up roommates; many people get comfortable in the place they are staying and settle, even if it is not what they want. People can also be afraid of leaving their roommates even when they're not happy, but don't be afraid to do what's best for you.

Be Well Together: Wellness Resources on Campus



WPI is a community of caring students, faculty, and staff who are here to support each other. There are many resources to help you be balanced and well here on campus.

Student Health Services (Daniels Hall)

Student Health Services (SHS) provides free, accessible, comprehensive, quality healthcare (including referral services) for all undergraduate WPI students and graduate students who have paid the health fee. They offer evaluation and treatment of acute illnesses and injuries, management of chronic health conditions, sexual health services and sports medicine as well as organizing annual immunization clinics. You can make an appointment by calling 508-831-5520. If you need urgent after-hours health care, you can call 508-334-8830 and identify yourself as a WPI student; the provider on call will return your call as soon as possible.

Center for Well-Being (Morgan Hall Wedge)

The Center for Well-Being applies evidence-based practices to promote well-being for students and the broader WPI campus community, recognizing the importance of faculty and staff in creating, maintaining, and modeling a healthier environment for all. They offer loads of wellness programming—check out the website by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right for more information.



Student Development and Counseling Center (SDCC)

The SDCC offers free and confidential individual counseling sessions and group counseling sessions. They also offer programming in areas like mindfulness, stress management, sleep, and more in partnership with the Center for Well-Being. The first appointment is generally 25 minutes, and after that, future appointment frequency and length are determined based on your ongoing needs and counselor availability. There are three ways to make an appointment:

- Online by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right
- By phone (508-831-5540)
- Or stop by the SDCC (16 Einhorn Road)



The SDCC staff can also connect you with local organizations and other local counselors if you have more specialized needs or would prefer to work with an outside provider.

If you need after-hours mental health support, call 508-831-5540. You will be able to speak with a crisis counselor through choices available in the answering message menu. As always, if you are experiencing a mental health emergency, call 911 or WPI Police at 508-831-5555.

Support Groups

More than a dozen support groups are offered by the SDCC to help students learn new skills or knowledge in a particular area related to their mental health and well-being. A list of groups can be found on the SDCC website.

Student Support Network (SSN)

The SSN program helps you become a better listener or helper for your peers, with knowledge, skills, destigmatizing perspectives, and connection capabilities. SSN runs in B, C, and D terms for students with a six-week training commitment (one hour per week).

Active Minds

Active Minds is a student-run organization designed to help destigmatize mental health issues and provide support to students through programs, events, and discussions.

Recognizing and Responding to Students in Distress (RRSD)

This 60- to 90-minute seminar offered to students, staff, and faculty throughout the year provides tools to recognize warning signs that a student may be struggling and identify appropriate steps for reaching out and connecting the student with the support they may need.

“ Friends are your biggest asset when it comes to WPI. They make your experience a lot more enjoyable and are also really helpful academically if you are taking the same class. It’s really helpful to study together and usually easier to ask your classmates for help rather than the professor. Don’t go through WPI alone! ”

RJ Franzen '24

Wellness Days

WPI has added Wellness Days into the academic calendar. These are an opportunity to rest, recharge, and practice self-care. Use them to take the time you need to feel whole and balanced.

WellTrack App

The WellTrack app provides some great wellness-related activities, mood tracking, and more. Download it from your app store and check out some of the courses offered.

WPI Care Team

The WPI Care Team was established to receive, discuss, and—when appropriate—act upon information or behaviors of concern exhibited by a student or group of students. If you are worried about your friend or a fellow peer, fill out the I'm Concerned About A Student form and a member of the CARE Team will get in contact with you and your friend. Click or scan the QR code to the right.



Tips on Wellness from Students

Everyone's path to wellness looks a little different and that's OK. The key is to do things to help support your overall well-being. You aren't just a student, and no one expects you to spend 100% of your time on academics. It's important to be attuned to all your other needs as well. Here are some tips from fellow students:

- Take time to explore and participate in activities you enjoy.
- Find a healthy stress reliever: it could be drawing, working out, playing a game, listening to music, or just taking a reflective walk.

- Do not be afraid to ask for help when you need it. Those who are most successful at WPI know to ask for help.
- It can be hard at first, but try to find a balance between academics, extracurriculars, and social life.
- Get some exercise. Whether that's working out at the SPARC, joining a fitness class, or just taking a walk, movement is an important part of wellness.
- Make sure you're stopping to eat, drink water, shower, and take care of basic needs (i.e., brushing your teeth). You truly aren't too busy to take care of yourself. If you feel like you are, perhaps it's a chance to take a step back and reflect.
- Breaks are a necessity; when you feel burnt out it's more beneficial to take a step back than to keep pushing through.
- Get sleep. There is solid research that shows you don't learn well if you aren't sleeping consistently.
- You don't need to get an A in everything. You will get a job after WPI whether you get As, Bs, or Cs. Sometimes it's better to take care of yourself than sacrifice your wellness for the A.

“ Don't be shy to ask for help.
We're all in this together. ”

Shivaani Gopal '24

WPI's Diversity Is Our Strength



Office of Accessibility Services (Unity Hall)

The Office of Accessibility Services coordinates accommodation services. It also advocates and supports students with documented physical, learning, sensory, psychological, developmental, and temporary disabilities.

OASIS House

Located at 20 Schussler Road, the OASIS (Offering Acceptance, Support, and Inclusion to Students) House is a place where students can relax, socialize, study, or host gatherings. Here, students can use the conference room or lounge to study, hold a club meeting, host a game night, or use the indoor and outdoor spaces to host cultural and diversity events. There is also a full kitchen for students and student groups to prepare cultural meals or simply grab a bite to eat.

Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education (ODIME), 20 Schussler Road

Found in the OASIS Multicultural Center (OASIS House), you will find space for events, relaxation, studying, as well as the ODIME staff offices. This is a location where students can get help navigating their university experience. The ODIME staff provides support, resources, tools, and direction to all WPI students navigating identity, diversity, multicultural education, and social justice.

Collegiate Religious Center (CRC), 19 Schussler Road

The CRC provides services and resources for students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members, and guests for the purpose of religion, faith, devotions, worship, prayer, and more. The CRC features a

prayer room, multifaith workshop space, a conference room, Campus Chaplain workspaces, and an outdoor event space. WPI members from all faiths or no faith are welcome to use the CRC, engage with the Campus Chaplains, or talk to an ODIME staff member. There is also a full religiously sensitive kitchen for students and student groups to prepare meals or simply grab a bite to eat.

Office of International Student Life (ISL), 28 Trowbridge Road

Located in International House, ISL provides international students with support, education, and assistance with I-20 forms, OPT applications, tax preparation, and help with adjusting to United States culture. The ISL works closely with the International Student Council to support international students on campus.

Check Out the Student Success Handbook

This resource focuses on the unique challenges diverse students encounter during their first and second years at WPI. It provides a wealth of valuable resources to assist you in effectively adapting to the university environment. The handbook places a strong emphasis on strategies that promote overall student success for the diverse population of students on campus. Click the QR code to access it.



Cultural, Multicultural, Religious, and Identity Supportive Clubs

There are 24+ affinity student organizations who help support and create community for BIPOC, ALANA, LGBTQIAP+, first-generation, international students, and other diverse students on campus and 8+ affinity student organizations who support students with diverse religious backgrounds. A full listing of the clubs/organizations is available on MyWPI.

Center for Black Excellence, Rubin Campus Center

The Center for Black Excellence provides a space which redefines Black excellence, to honor, celebrate, and engage across the diverse intersections of the Black diaspora. In this space individuals experience empowerment, unity, and community while fostering the collective need to cultivate, inspire, affirm, and advance the needs of Black students at WPI.

Lavender Lounge, Rubin Campus Center

The Lavender Lounge provides a space and sense of community, empowerment, affirmation, and inclusion where diverse queer and trans people can thrive as their whole authentic selves. In this space individuals will experience a vibrant group, programs, services, and community connecting them with resources which support their success.

Cultural Events

Here are just a few of the many events you may see on campus throughout the year.

- International Dinner, sponsored by the International Student Council (ISC)
- BSU Fashion Show, sponsored by the Black Student Union (BSU)
- NSBE National Convention, sponsored by the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
- Touch of Africa, sponsored by African Students Association (ASA)
- Melanin Gala, sponsored by BSU, NSBE, and ASA
- Diwali, sponsored by the South Asian Student Association (SASA)
- Eid Dinner, sponsored by the Muslim Student Association (MSA)

- Catholic Sunday Mass, sponsored by the Catholic Newman Club
- Pan Asian Festival, sponsored by several of the Asian heritage cultural clubs on campus
- Latino Fiesta, sponsored by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)
- Pride Week, sponsored by The Alliance
- Drag Show, sponsored by The Alliance
- Chinese Spring Festival, sponsored by the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA)
- Taste of Latin American, Caribbean, and Hispanic Student Association (CHSA)
- Carnaval, sponsored by the Brazilian Student Association (BRASA)
- Bagel Brunch, sponsored by Hillel
- Shabbat dinners at Hillel House

Club Highlight: The Alliance



The Alliance is a student-run organization that hosts fun events and aims to create a community for LGBTQIAP+ students. The Alliance is also an oSTEM (Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) affiliated chapter, which is a professional society specifically for LGBTQIAP+ individuals. The organization plans several welcoming and educational activities throughout the year to build community among LGBTQIAP+ community members. Learn more about The Alliance, name change processes, as well as other LGBTQIAP+ supports by clicking or scanning the QR code here.

Exploring Worcester

Worcester is the second largest city in New England and boasts a ton of offerings for the 30,000 college students who live and study in the city. Definitely get out and explore the community—there's a ton to see and do.



Getting Around the City

- **Worcester Regional Transit Authority**

This is the bus system in Worcester. You can check schedules, track buses, and learn more by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



- **Ride Shares**

Students also use resources like Uber and Lyft to get around the city.

- **Gompei's Gears Bike Share**

WPI's bikeshare program for students to rent a bike for up to 8 hours at a time using the Bloom app. For a map of bike racks and to join the program, click or scan the QR code to the right.



- **Zipcar**

WPI has Zipcars on campus. Zipcars make it easy to get around without breaking the bank. With many fuel-efficient and hybrid vehicles, these cars help students reduce their footprint on campus and get around town easily. Sign up here by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



- **Traveling Beyond Worcester**

SNAP, within SNAP's hours, goes to Union Station if you're taking a train or bus to the airport. You also can take a shared van transport to the airport from Knight's Service Boston Limo Service. Click or scan the QR code to the right for more information.



Things to Do

Worcester has so much to do. Here are a few places to explore:

- **WooSox**—Go to Polar Park and watch the WooSox baseball team hit it out of the park.
- **Railers Game**—Go to the DCU Center and see the Worcester Railers, our local ECHL professional hockey team. You can purchase home game tickets in the Student Activities Office.
- **Worcester Art Museum**—Take a short walk to the Worcester Art Museum (WAM) and see all the creative pieces they have on display. Show your WPI ID to get free admission.
- **Ecotarium**—This science museum features animals such as the red fox, barred owl, bald eagle, and porcupine. If you volunteer with them, you can explore the museum for free!
- **New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill**—Explore its 18 distinct gardens, preserved woodlands, and miles of walking trails.
- **Worcester Public Market/Green Street**—Visit the local shops and restaurants in the area.
- **Shrewsbury Street**—Sometimes called “Restaurant Row,” there are tons of restaurants on this street.
- **Palladium**—Visit the Palladium and see a concert or performance.

- **Worcester Historical Museum**—Worcester is filled with rich history. Get a glimpse of it at this museum on Elm Street.
- **Lincoln Plaza**—Shopping center with stores like Target, Old Navy Outlet, Michael's, TJ Maxx, Stop & Shop, Lowe's, and Planet Fitness.
- **Bancroft Tower**—This park has a castle-type structure built to honor former Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft.
- **Union Station**—This is where you go to catch a train to Boston, the Amtrak, or a bus to destinations outside of Worcester.
- **Elm Park**—A great park just a few blocks from campus that has ponds, two very neat bridges, a walking path, and lots of cool public art.
- **Institute Park**—A historic park adjacent to WPI's main campus with a lake, a multipurpose field, tennis courts, two monuments, and a concert stage.
- **Thrifting**—There's a great Goodwill walking distance from campus and Savers is a short drive away.
- **Blackstone Valley Shopping Mall**—Here you'll find lots of restaurants, shops like LL Bean, Target, Best Buy, Marshalls, and Dick's Sporting Goods, just to name a few, and a movie theatre.

“ Don't be scared to talk/meet new people. You'll be shocked to find out how approachable WPI students can be. ”

Mason Vega '22

Places to Eat Around Town

Want a snack? Or maybe you want to go out for dinner? Or want something delivered? Here's a list of some restaurants that might tickle your fancy that are walking distance from campus.

Aladdin (Halal)	Hot Table (Paninis)
Altea's Eatery (French, brunch)	Island Fin Poke* (Poke)
Antonio's Pizza (Pizza)	Jamaica Thymes (Jamaican)
Baba Sushi (Sushi)	Loft 266 (Pub Fare)
Bagel Time (Bagels and Sandwiches)	Lucy's Cake (Desserts)
Bean Counter (Coffee and Desserts)	New England Roast Beef (Sandwiches)
Blue Jeans (Pizza)	Nu Kitchen (Healthier Sandwiches, Bowls)
Boomers (Sandwiches, Pasta)	Oak Barrel Tavern* (Pub Food)
BT's Fried Chicken (BBQ)	Salgabom Snacks (Brazilian)
Chipotle (Mexican)	Sole Proprietor (Seafood)
Chuan Shabu (Hotpot)	Taqueria Del Pueblo (Mexican)
Dragon Dynasty (Chinese)	Tech Pizza (Pizza)
El Basha (Mediterranean)	Thai Time (Thai)
Fuel America (Coffee)	The Boynton* (Pub Fare)
Havana Nights (Cuban)	The Fix (Burger Bar)
Helfand's Deli (Deli Sandwiches)	The Shack (Indian)

* accepts Goatbucks

Safety On and Off Campus



Now that you're here on campus, it's important to make sure you're making smart decisions around safety.

WPI Police

WPI Police is located in the lower level of Founders Hall and is available 24/7 to help you. In addition to providing immediate assistance, WPI Police provides many student-support resources and can liaison with most departments during off-hours. Please never hesitate to reach out to ask for help—they will be there quickly to help you. The phone number is on the back of your ID card and on the website.

Save the emergency and non-emergency numbers in your phone: **emergency** is 508-831-5555; **non-emergency** is 508-831-5433.

Tips for Safety on Campus

- Lock your door when you leave your room.
- Never leave valuables unattended.
- When walking on campus at night, choose a well-lit route and try not to walk alone.
- Across the campus you'll see blue light (emergency) phones. Press the button at the blue light if you see something suspicious or feel unsafe.
- Most campus buildings lock and require an ID to tap in after business hours. Never let anyone in who doesn't also tap their ID.

Being Safe in Worcester

Worcester overall is generally a pretty safe place to be, but like any other city it's important to employ your safety smarts. Here are some tips:

- Always pay attention to your surroundings and stay alert.
- Report any suspicious activity to the police immediately.
- Be aware of where you travel and bring a friend with you if you walk around at night.
- Lock your car and do not leave belongings visible in vehicles.
- If you live in an apartment off campus, make sure to secure your windows and lock your doors. If someone says they are a repairman, exterminator, etc. sent by your landlord, be sure to take the extra step and verify this. You can never be too careful.

“ You are never going to have it all together. And that's OK. Because even though other people look like they're balancing everything perfectly, they're in the same boat as you. Prioritize whatever is most important to you, even if that's not always your homework. Go to the event or party or stay in and take that nap. Everything will turn out OK, even if you're not stressing out over it 24/7. ”

Yashvi Gosalia '25

Alcohol and Drugs

- Under-21 drinking and drug use (including marijuana) on campus, including residence halls, is not allowed. However, safety is the top concern so if you need help or are worried about a friend, do not hesitate to ask for assistance from your RA and/or WPI Police.
- Never feel pressured to do anything that you don't want to do—including drinking or drugs. If you see anyone being pressured or if you feel pressured, be sure to speak out.
- If you do choose to drink, set a plan with friends about how many drinks you'll consume and don't exceed that plan.
- Never leave your drink unattended and never take open drinks or drugs from people you do not know or fully trust.
- Alternate drinks—for each alcoholic beverage you consume, have a non-alcoholic beverage.
- Go to events with a friend and don't leave each other at the event. Whomever you come with, go home with.
- Plan your transportation in advance. Do not drink and drive.
- If you are at a fraternity/sorority event and are not doing well, please approach a sober brother/sister. They are there to help you and you will not get in trouble—they will make sure you are safe and give you the assistance you need.

Alcohol and Drug Intervention Services at WPI

Staff members at the Student Development and Counseling Center (SDCC) are always willing to speak with you in a professional, non-judgmental—and of course, confidential—way at no cost to you.

Services at WPI include:

- Get Inclusive, a personal prevention program that helps students practice safer decision-making about alcohol
- Individual counseling, an honest conversation about alcohol use with a counselor at the SDCC, followed by goal setting to develop healthy lifestyle skills
- BASICS, a two-part self-assessment encouraging students to reflect honestly on their use of alcohol and explore the possibility of change
- Consultation for concerned friends and staff, a confidential discussion about others' use of alcohol and what you can do to support someone
- Call 508-831-5540 or stop by the SDCC to make an appointment. Together with a counselor, you can assess how much alcohol or drugs are too much and collaborate on specific steps that can help you reduce or stop your drinking/taking drugs

“ WPI can be an amazing community if you put in the effort to form connections and make the most of your experience here. Try to stay positive and know that so many people are willing to help you if you just ask! ”

Micah Wilde '23

Sexual Misconduct Prevention, Support, and Reporting

Anyone who has experienced sexual misconduct, relationship violence, stalking, harassment, or discrimination—or is aware of these things—is strongly encouraged to report such misconduct to WPI and to access the resources available on campus and in the community. If you are experiencing misconduct of any kind, you can find lots of great information on the website by scanning or clicking the QR code below.

Ways to Report

1. Contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@wpi.edu
2. Anonymous Reporting Form (click or scan QR code to the right)
3. Contact WPI Police or Worcester Police
4. Report to any WPI employee (they must report the incident to the Title IX Office)
5. Report confidentially to a Confidential Resource Advisor



By reporting you can get support to:

- learn about supportive measures, including but not limited to mutual no-contact orders and academic support.
- understand reporting options and the grievance process.
- access counseling/medical services.
- file a formal complaint with the Title IX Coordinator or law enforcement (if requested).

Other Confidential Resources

- **WPI Student Development & Counseling Center**
(for WPI students only)
Phone 508-831-5540, sdcc@wpi.edu
- **WPI Student Health Services** (for WPI students only)
Phone 508-831-5520, shs@wpi.edu
- **WPI Collegiate Religious Center's Campus Chaplains**
Phone 508-831-4174, diversity@wpi.edu
(request an appointment with a Campus Chaplain)
- **WPI Ombudspersons**
ombuds@wpi.edu
- **Pathways for Change Rape Crisis Center**
Phone 800-870-5905 (24/7 hotline)
- **YWCA Daybreak**
Phone 508-755-9030 (24/7 hotline)



Bias Incident Reporting

WPI is committed to creating an equitable, inclusive, and anti-oppressive community where all are valued and respected as intrinsic members of the community. As part of our work to develop a campus culture that rejects bias, prejudice, discrimination, and hateful acts, WPI has established the Bias Response Program (BRP) in order to provide support for individuals looking to better understand their reporting options, serve as a resource and measure of accountability to formal reporting channels, and advocate for individuals who may not be comfortable pursuing formal reporting channels. You can learn more about bias incidents and report a bias incident using the Online Reporting Form by scanning or clicking the QR code to the right. Bias incidents can also be reported to WPI Police.



Technology You Should Know and Use



We love all the tech tools to keep ourselves organized, connected, and succeeding in and out of the classroom.

IT Helpdesk

The Helpdesk team is available by phone, in person, on the web (click or scan QR code to the right) and can help with anything related to your personal computer or phone. Call 508-831-5888 or go to the Helpdesk in Gordon Library.



Tools to Know

Here are a few must-know and must-use tools.

Workday

- Workday is WPI's primary information system on campus. Workday Student is used for course registration and it's where you can find information on transcripts/schedules/academics, and your bill each semester. If you want to grant access to your parents/families to see information like grades and financial documents on Workday, you can do so by granting them third party proxy access by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right. Workday also a great resource for student employees and is where you'll do your timesheets.



Outlook

- WPI uses email to communicate (and your future workplace probably will, too) so it's important to use this tool. Read emails from WPI—they have a lot of important information.
- Outlook's calendar is a great way to stay organized and scheduled. Put in class times so you don't miss them, schedule time to work on homework, put in club meetings, and assignment due dates, too.
- Many organizations send you information for meetings/events with Outlook invites that go on your calendar.
- It's also very convenient for scheduling meetings with others. You can view other people's calendars by adding a new calendar through the address book and selecting a person.
- At the same time, it's important to set limits for yourself. You don't have to respond right away to every email—especially the ones that are sent at 2:00 a.m.
- No matter how you plan, make sure to schedule breaks or time for yourself on your calendar.

OneDrive

- Here you'll find cloud drive storage connected to your @wpi.edu email. Clubs can also utilize the One Drive and SharePoint attached to a group email alias to hold documents for executive board and general body meeting (GBM) members.

The WPI Mobile App

- Here you'll find everything WPI. This includes updates from WPI, information about events, and quick links to many resources. Scan the QR code to the right to download the app.



Canvas

- This is where a lot of your homework assignments, quizzes, readings, and class lecture handouts will live. You'll also get important announcements from professors and turn in assignments using Canvas.
- Assignments will show up on the Canvas calendar, which is helpful in keeping track of deadlines.
- The Canvas phone app can be really helpful with reminding yourself about close deadlines.
- If your class is using lecture capture through Lecture 360, you will find recordings linked here.
- Many departments and programs also have Canvas pages (under "open courses") such as the Makerspace, Academic Advising, Academic Resources Center, etc.

MyWπ

- Provides information about clubs and other activities happening on campus.
- You can find contact information for club officers if you're interested in joining.
- While not every single event is on MyWπ, many are. You can even filter events by whether they offer free food/stuff.



The Hub—IT Site

- Has a how-to guide on everything you would ever need in terms of tech.
- Offers a lot of free software to download.
- Easy access tech help and online articles about many issues.



Slack

- While not an official WPI resource, Slack is heavily used by the WPI community. It can be the easiest way to contact certain people like your RA or CA in a time of need and lots of student organizations have Slack workspaces.

Discord

- Lots of WPI students are on Discord. This community, created and run by students, features members chatting about everything including sports, food, plants, classes, living on-campus, clubs, and more. Click or scan the QR code to the right to learn more.



GET Mobile Dining Plan

- The GET App allows students to check the number of meal swipes remaining, bonus points, and Goatbucks balances. You can also reload Goatbucks via credit card or Apple Pay. This is also where you can place mobile orders for some on-campus dining options. Click or scan QR code to the right to download the app.



Starship

- Use this app to order food for delivery from WPI's robots.



DineOnCampus

- Click or scan the QR code to the right to find menus and dining location hours.



Zoom

- WPI's web conferencing software. This is a great tool to have meetings with team members and to meet with faculty and staff.



LaundryConnect

- This app and website is attached to all washers and dryers on campus. Using the app, you can see if washers and dryers are free, see time remaining on your machine, and pay to start your washer. Click or scan the QR code to the right for more details.



NetReg

- This is the tool you use to get your devices connected to the WPI network. Your first step is to register them by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



Machines and Tools for Your Projects

- The Machine Shop in Goddard Hall has lots of cool equipment that can be used for projects.
- The Makerspace in the Innovation Studio also has lots of cool tools and machines. For example, did you know there is a printed circuit board machine, laser cutters, and a 3D printer?
- There is a resin printer in the IMGD lounge in Fuller.
- The CollabLab in Higgins Labs has a lot of free tools as well.

Finances



Your Tuition and Financial Aid

Students can find their specific tuition and fee information through their Workday account. Overall tuition and fee information can be found on the Bursar's website. The Office of Financial Aid provides detailed Cost of Attendance Budgets for undergraduate and graduate students. Find out more by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



Student Aid and Financial Literacy

WPI's Student Aid and Financial Literacy staff are here to help you navigate the financial aid application process and to answer any questions you may have about paying for your college education. The Office of Financial Aid is located in the Bartlett Center. Appointments are available for meetings in person, virtually, or by telephone.

Retaining Institutional Financial Aid

If you have aid, it's important to know that you are required to earn 24 credits in an academic year (A-D Term) as well as meet several federal requirements if you have federal/state financial aid. Learn more by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



Loans, Scholarships, and Grant Opportunities

Loans are funds that you'll pay back after you graduate. Grants and scholarships provide money that does not need to be paid back, which lowers the cost of paying for college. They are provided by WPI, the federal government, individual states, and private organizations. WPI has a number of resources for both scholarships and loans and financing options. If you need help, set up an appointment with the Office of Financial Aid. Don't forget, you'll need to fill out a FAFSA annually if you are interested in need-based aid.

How to Get a Job on Campus

There are many options for jobs on campus. Some jobs will require a federal work study. Many department offices have job opportunities. By clicking or scanning the QR code to the right you can view most of these opportunities that are listed on the WPI website. After reviewing the posting, reach out to the department contact to inquire about the position. If you have a resume, consider submitting it as well. Don't get discouraged if you don't have work study and see a lot of jobs posted as work study only. Do reach out, as sometimes offices/departments hire student hourly employees if not filled by a student with work study. Once hired, students get paid through direct deposit into their bank account upon completing timesheets in Workday.



Paying Your Bill

Bills are due on a semesterly basis. If you or your family need assistance with a payment plan, making a payment, or have other bill-related questions, contact the Bursar's Office at bursar@wpi.edu.

Financial Literacy

The Office of Financial Aid offers a number of different resources to help increase student financial literacy through the Financial Wellness Program. This program includes resources on student loans, budgeting, managing credit, and banking basics.

Resources If You're Facing Difficulties

Sometimes an unforeseen situation arises, and you need some emergency help. WPI has a few resources that can assist you in times of need.

- **Hull Loan Fund**

Immediate short-term loan for emergencies and unforeseen situations. The loans are generally \$25-\$300, 0% interest, and expected to be repaid in 30 days.

- **Emergency Assistance Fund & Student Elevation Fund**

These grant funds can help provide support for unforeseen medical bills, expenses, or other hardships. The application is available on the Dean of Students website.

- **Food Insecurity**

If you are experiencing hunger issues or food insecurity, reach out to the Dean of Students Office for help. They can offer you both short-term and long-term solutions, such as the Thrive Food Pantry, located within walking distance from campus on Grove Street.

Contact the Dean of Students Office staff at dean_of_students@wpi.edu for additional information.

Getting an Internship or a Job



Choosing a Major

- You don't have to know your major or future career right at the onset of arriving at WPI. As a first-year student, allow yourself to explore before thinking about a career. Your interests might change once you learn more about the world.
- The Career Development Center (Unity Hall) can help you explore—whether that be through taking their Discovering Majors and Careers course, meeting with a peer advisor during drop-in hours Monday through Friday from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., or through an appointment with a Career Advisor.
- You can also change your major after you declare. The record for the most major changes at WPI is 72 times! Many classes are interdisciplinary—take broad classes to start and you will find something that interests you.
- Want to polish your resume or cover letter? Unsure about a job offer? Need help finding jobs? Come into the CDC Monday through Friday between 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. for a 15-minute drop-in or make an appointment with a Career Advisor.
- Check out the CDC's website for interview tips, help negotiating a salary offer, tips on finding an internship, and more.

“ Make that LinkedIn! It's actually worth the time and effort. ”

Emmanuel Ola '23, who got a co-op via LinkedIn

“ Always remember that you are more than your grades or your achievements, you are not just a statistic. You are important and your mental and physical health should come before anything else. It is important to keep perspective because students can often get caught up in the fast-paced nature of WPI. ”

Micah Wilde '23

Finding a Career Path

- WPI's Career Development Center (CDC) offers extensive career services to help undergraduate students, graduate students, and alumni.
- Voted #5 for “Best Career Services” by The Princeton Review (2019), the CDC offers personalized services to help students and alumni explore their interests and assess their skills and values to make smart decisions related to their majors and careers.
- The CDC also brings over 400 employers and corporate partners to campus each year to help them find WPI students for full-time, part-time, summer internship, or co-op positions.
- Each year, the CDC hosts a wide variety of events—including career fairs, workshops, meetings with potential employers, and mock interviews—to give students and alumni the edge they need to succeed upon graduation. You can find more about the CDC's workshops by clicking or scanning the QR code to the right.



Career Outcomes by Major

Did you know that WPI tracks first job placement rates, salaries, and graduate school attendance by major? Click or scan the QR code to the right to learn what they are.



Employment Opportunities

There are a couple of different types of employment you might experience while at WPI.

- **Platforms to Search:** Handshake (wpi.joinhandshake.com, login with your WPI credentials), LinkedIn, and Indeed are 3 awesome job search platforms. Make an account and set those job alerts. Also, don't confine yourself to what you find online. Tap into the hidden job market by reaching out to people and seeing what positions you can get just by speaking to them. They might not know they need a college student until you reach out.
- **Co-Ops:** The Co-op (Co-operative Education) Program is a non-credit, paid work experience that complements and reinforces classroom learning while allowing undergraduate students to maintain active student status. It differs from an internship since students work full time at a company for 4-8 months, including part of the academic year. Find co-op experiences on Handshake.
- **Internships:** Employment, generally over the summer months, with a company. You can find opportunities at the several career fairs offered each year or on Handshake.
- **Off-Campus Employment:** Some students earn money by working during the academic year at either a company doing work associated with their major or at a local Worcester business.

- **On-Campus Employment:** Many students work on campus helping support faculty in their research labs, helping run programs and events, or supporting one of WPI's many buildings. Many jobs can be found at wpi.edu/+HR or keep an eye on your email for research opportunities. Some students have even landed jobs by talking directly with professors doing work in an area of interest.



Career Fairs

Offered several times throughout the year, in person and virtually, this is your chance to meet with one or more of over 400 employers who interact with WPI students through career fairs. Dress in business attire, print out resumes, bring a folder for business cards, and most important, always be kind (the person you just held the Rec Center door for may be an employer at the first booth you visit). Pro tip: Don't go to your favorite company first, go to a few as practice first.

“ Employers NEED your skills. I know it's sometimes a drag to put a resume together and can seem to be a lot of work, but deep down don't you want to talk about yourself? I put off building my resume for weeks because I didn't think I would be good enough. I made my resume and applied to over 30 internships in a day and eventually got one! You got this too!! ”

Vrandol Perez '23

Who to Contact



Who Do You Talk To If You or a Friend Needs Help?

There are so many people here on campus who want to help you. While the list of supporters is extensive, here are a few folks to start with.

Community Advisor (CA)

CAs provide new students with an introduction to campus and its resources, assisting them with implementing assessment instruments, preparing them for academic advising with their faculty advisor, and representing WPI from a fellow student's perspective. Your CA can help you get more involved on campus, get connected with support resources, or questions about courses.

Resident Advisor (RA)

RAs are responsible for the community development and support of residents in a particular section or floor of a residence hall. You can go to your RA if you are having roommate conflicts, questions about courses, or are looking for advice.

“ You get out of it what you put in! Put yourself out there, attend events, say hi to your neighbors, and ALWAYS put yourself first. ”

Michaela Cluett '23

Program Ambassadors (PA)

PAs provide leadership and peer support for students who participate in the Connections Pre-Orientation Program. They are a helpful resource for acclimating students to campus life and navigating the WPI experience for those who are underrepresented in STEM.

Community Director (Residential Services Office, East Hall, 508-831-5645)

If you live on campus, your Community Director is the professional staff member who supervises your RA and manages your residence hall. They can help you with roommate conflicts, facilities issues, questions about getting connected on campus, checking in with a student who needs support, or questions about housing.

Academic Advisors: Advisor in Academic Advising/ Faculty Advisor

Your academic advisor and/or faculty advisor can provide supplemental support to you to help you create academic plans, explore career options, choose classes, and make a plan to reach your academic goals. Contact information for your specific support people can be found in Workday.

Dean of Students Office (Rubin Campus Center, 508-831-5201)

The Dean of Students Office can help support students who are experiencing any difficulties on campus—they often serve as a bridge to other resources when a student is not sure where to go. They manage emergency grants and loan funds to help students experiencing emergency situations, as well as support the student conduct process.

Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education (20 Schussler Road, 508-831-5796)

The ODIME provides student resources for multicultural education, support, community, and advocacy for all WPI students. It assists underrepresented students in STEM (i.e., BIPOC/ALANA, LGBTQIAP+, women, first-generation, low-income, religious students, etc.) with navigating their WPI experience and provides both space and community for these populations to be themselves with people who share similar identities and backgrounds through their various identity centers.

Student Development and Counseling Center (16 Einhorn Road, 508-831-5540)

The SDCC offers free and confidential individual counseling sessions and group counseling sessions. If you have concerns for a friend, the SDCC can provide advice about how to proceed.

“ Success looks very different to everyone. My expectations for myself and academics have changed to better meet my wellness and my academic success. Do not compare yourself to others. Instead, talk to others. Chances are people are having difficulty with the same things you do. ”

Hailey Anderson '23

CARE Form

Fill out an “I’m Concerned About a Student” form, also called a CARE Form. This form will go to the CARE Team, which is a team of staff who meet weekly during the academic year. A member of the team will then reach out to you and, as appropriate, your friend. Scan or click the QR code to the right to fill out this form.





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