



# Worcester Polytechnic Institute



## Parents & Friends Newsletter

C-Term 2023-24

### Preparing Students for Successful Careers

**By Amanda Laungani, Director,  
Heebner Career Development Center  
(HCDC)**

“There are no opportunities for me”—it’s a common phrase heard in the HCDC and one that we help students to overcome, one appointment, career fair, and employer workshop at a time.



Students start their HCDC journey in their first year with advising and workshops or the Discovering Majors and Careers course before expanding their horizons by attending one of the HCDC career fairs or talent tabling events or working with staff to identify alumni or employers to reach out to. Through [Handshake](#) (an online recruiting platform for higher education students and alumni), students also have access to hundreds of thousands of jobs, 10,000 employers, and over a dozen resources to aid them in their job search.

In addition to the [First Destination Survey Dashboard](#), which offers salary information and data on companies who have hired WPI alumni in the past, there are myriad other tools and resources at students’ disposal—encourage your student to make an appointment at the HCDC to explore them further.

## Class of 2024 Commencement News

It's almost Commencement time! The university community is excited to celebrate a major milestone of your student's WPI journey. Over the course of the next several months, we'll be sharing information about all things Commencement, from parking to arrival times and locations. These messages will be emailed to your student and posted on the [Commencement website](#). Please be sure to visit the website and check in with your student regularly for the latest updates.



## Project Awards: President's IQP Awards and Great Problems Seminar

Just as important as the project work students complete on campus is the opportunity to celebrate them and their achievements. From projects on climate change and sustainability as part of the [Great Problems Seminar](#) to projects that focus on the relationships between science, technology, and societal needs that were honored during the [President's IQP Awards](#), there's no doubt that WPI students have what it takes not only to succeed but to change the world while doing so. Check out the articles for more information on the winners and runners-up.

## Upcoming Senior Portrait Sessions

If your student is graduating this year, encourage them to sign up for a free senior portrait session. Photos will be available in packages for purchase a few weeks after your student's session. Upcoming dates will open for the weeks of March 18–22 and March 25–29; remind your student to check their email regularly or [visit the website](#) to register.



## Registration for Summer Courses Is Now Open!

One of the reasons your student first decided to enroll at WPI probably had something to do with the immersive, reputable academics—which is something they can also expect from summer courses. Whatever their goals and summer plans, students may take advantage of discounted classes and project work to help them create an enhanced WPI experience. Registration for Summer 2024 courses is now open—encourage your student to [check out the website](#) to browse course offerings and to reserve their spot.

## Meet the New Assistant Director of the Center for Well-Being

The Center for Well-Being is happy to welcome Gina Heinsohn as assistant director. In their new role, Gina will oversee the Center's various programming as well as Wellness Days, Peer Coaching, ProjectConnect, drop-in wellness activities, and educational events and workshops. [Check out the Q&A](#) to learn more about Gina and what they hope to accomplish at WPI and the Center for Well-Being.



## Freshly Baked News from Dining Services

From menu updates and upcoming meal plan restructuring to new delivery programs in partnership with the Starship Delivery Robots, there's a lot going on in Dining Services. [Check out the flyer](#) and the [website](#) for daily menus, hours, and other updates.

## The Latest from the Office of Financial Aid

There have been [major changes and improvements](#) (check out the [YouTube playlist](#) for bite-size video answers to related FAQs) to the 2024–25 FAFSA form, which is now open and ready to file. The FAFSA is required for all students who receive federal, state, or need-based institutional financial aid (including federal loans), but it is not required for WPI merit scholarships. **The 2024–25 FAFSA is due by May 1, 2024 for returning students**, which is later than previous years to account for the aforementioned changes. The Office of Financial Aid will be hosting two information sessions to help students and families understand the FAFSA changes:

- **Wednesday, March 13, 4–5pm:** [In-person presentation for students](#)

- **Wednesday, March 20, 6–7pm ET:** [Zoom presentation for families and/or student](#)

The office will also host two financial literacy presentations for students in the spring (registration is now open on [MyWPI](#)):

- **Wednesday, February 21, 4pm:** [Paying for Your Global Project](#)
- **Monday, April 8, 5pm:** [Student Loan Repayment](#)

Have an idea for a financial literacy topic? Email [finaid@wpi.edu](mailto:finaid@wpi.edu).

## News and Updates from the Collegiate Religious Center

WPI's [Collegiate Religious Center](#) acts as a haven for students. There, a team of Campus Chaplains serve as spiritual advisors for students while supporting their needs irrespective of their primary religious traditions. Recently, they've offered the WPI community guidance and resources on [C-Term high holy days](#), [supporting each other through loss](#), [navigating antisemitism and Islamophobia](#), and [more information on prayer and reflection spaces on campus](#).

## Announcements from the Global Projects Program

Students interested in more information about Global Projects Program costs, the Global Scholarship, and more are encouraged to attend the [Paying for Your Global Project session](#) on February 21. Students who receive Federal Pell Grants and plan to participate in the 2024–25 Global Projects Program can work with the Global Experience Office to apply for additional funding through the [Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program](#); advise them to email [global@wpi.edu](mailto:global@wpi.edu) to get started.

If your student is traveling this year or next, be sure that their passport is signed, valid for six months past the program end date, and has at least six empty pages. The Global Experience Office will confirm and post program arrival and departure dates in [eProjects](#), and students will receive detailed site-specific information in their Going Global Handbooks in Canvas approximately two terms prior to travel. More information is available on the [Preparing to Go Off Campus webpage](#).

## Winter 2024 *WPI Journal* Now Available

Looking for a good read to curl up with during the winter months? You're in luck—the [Winter 2024 issue of the \*WPI Journal\*](#) is now live and ready for you to enjoy. From gaming empires and the blending of sports and technology with FIFA to adaptive golfing superstars and plot twists where an electrical engineer shifts gears to write a bestselling mystery, this issue has it all. Check out the issue and see what WPI alumni, current students, and faculty have been up to.



## Peer Coaching at the Center for Well-Being

The Center for Well-Being is now offering one-on-one peer coaching. Students can make an appointment with a trained Peer Well-Being Ambassador to focus on topics like time management, note taking and study strategies, goal setting, identifying wellness priorities, communicating with professors and staff on campus, accessing campus resources, and more. Interested students may [fill out the interest form](#) to request a session that works for their schedule.

## The 2024–25 Housing Selection Process Has Begun!

Students interested in living on campus next year must complete the housing application found in [StarRez](#). To make the selection process as equitable as possible, all classes will have priority to certain areas of campus. The Housing & Residential Experience Center is also excited to announce that students of any class may now request [Advanced Placement](#). Students may also email [housing@wpi.edu](mailto:housing@wpi.edu) with any questions or concerns. Important dates and deadlines:

- **Friday, March 1:** Application deadline and Advanced Placement requests due
- **Monday, March 4–Friday, March 8:** Advanced Placement offers sent
- **Monday, March 11–Friday, March 15:** Selection times sent to group leaders
- **Monday, March 18–Friday, March 22:** General housing selection process

## Fraternity and Sorority Life at WPI

WPI's Greek Life community welcomed 400+ new members into their chapters during formal recruitment last term, but there's still time for your student to join one of the chapters recruiting this spring. Interested students may reach out to the Student Activities Office at [gr-sao@wpi.edu](mailto:gr-sao@wpi.edu) to get in contact with the chapters.

## Beyond These Towers: A Presidential Event Series

President Grace Wang has been making stops across the country for [a series of special WPI events](#) that, while also providing alumni, parents, and friends with an opportunity to meet her and learn about her vision for WPI's future, will shine a light on WPI's expertise in various research areas and industries. President Wang will be visiting the West Coast this winter and spring—if you'll be in the neighborhood for one of our upcoming destinations, we'd love to have you join us!

## Community Service and Leadership Day

Spring is a great time to get out in the community, and students are encouraged to check [myWPI](#) for upcoming community service events, many of which also fulfill Federal Work Study service requirements. In addition to community service opportunities, the Student Activities Office, Housing & Residential Experience Center, and the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Multicultural Education hosted a leadership day for resident advisors and student organization leaders. 200+ attendees attended a keynote speech by James T. Robilotta and completed three workshops to better support them in their leadership roles.

## Getting Involved on Campus

Is your student looking for ways to get involved on campus? The Student Activities Office has them covered—from craft nights and socials to fun events and workshops, here are a few programs they can check out, as well as ways for them to stay up-to-date on the latest campus happenings.



- **MyWPI:** A great resource for students to connect with their peers and clubs on campus, [MyWPI](#) lists clubs, events, and activities for students to explore and participate in.
- **Social Media:** The Student Activities Office is on [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), and [Facebook](#), all of which are great places to see the latest updates of what's happening around campus.

- **Bulletin Boards & Digital Displays:** The Student Activities Office regularly updates the bulletin boards and digital displays across campus with upcoming events, activities, and club meetings.
- **Late-Night Programming:** Every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday night each term, students may participate in activities like making airbrushed tote bags and spin-art frisbees, LEGO building competitions, rock painting, karaoke, craft workshops, and more.
- **Weekend Trips Program:** From skiing and snowboarding to trips to the New England Aquarium and Faneuil Hall, students get the chance to have some fun each week exploring the Worcester area.

## Upcoming Important Dates at WPI

- **Saturday, February 17:** [WPI's 3rd Annual Go\(a\)t Talent Show](#), 4:30–7:30pm, Alden Memorial
- **Sunday, February 18:** WPI Concert Band performance, 12pm, Alden Memorial
- **Wednesday, February 21:** [Paying for Your Global Project](#), 4pm
- **Thursday, February 22:** Academic Advising Day (no classes)
- **Sunday, February 25:** Jazz Symposium, 2–8pm, Alden Memorial
- **Friday, March 1:** Last day of C-Term
- **Friday, March 1:** Last day to withdraw from 10-week courses (graduate students only)
- **Friday, March 1:** Housing application deadline and Advanced Placement requests due
- **Monday, March 4–Friday, March 8:** Housing Advanced Placement offers sent
- **Wednesday, March 6:** C-Term grades due by 5pm
- **Monday, March 11:** First day of D-Term
- **Monday, March 11–Friday, March 15:** Housing selection times sent to group leaders
- **Wednesday, March 13:** [FAFSA information session](#), 4pm
- **Friday, March 15:** Last day of Add/Drop for D-Term (no fee to add)
- **Monday, March 18–Friday, March 22:** [Senior portrait sessions](#)

- **Monday, March 18–Friday, March 22:** Housing general section process
- **Wednesday, March 20:** [FAFSA information session](#), 6pm ET
- **Friday, March 22:** Last day of Add/Drop for D-Term (with fee to add)
- **Friday, March 22:** [Completion of degree requirements/thesis or dissertation](#) deadline for C-Term/fall semester projects
- **Monday, March 25–Friday, March 29:** [Senior portrait sessions](#)
- **Tuesday, March 26:** Wellness Day (no classes)
- **Wednesday, March 27:** [Workshop Wednesday: Job Offer and Salary Negotiation](#), 5–6 pm, Unity Hall 5th floor
- **Monday, April 1:** Last day to withdraw from spring semester courses
- **Wednesday, April 3:** [Workshop Wednesday: It's Not too Late to Job Search](#), 5–6 pm, Unity Hall 5th floor
- **Saturday, April 6:** [A Year with Mendelssohn: ELIJAH](#), 7pm, Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul (Providence, RI)
- **Sunday, April 7:** [A Year with Mendelssohn: ELIJAH](#), 3pm, Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul (Providence, RI)
- **Monday, April 8:** [Student Loan Repayment](#) presentation, 5pm
- **Thursday, April 11:** New Voices 41, 12pm and 7pm, Little Theatre
- **Saturday, April 13:** New Voices 41, 2pm, Little Theatre
- **Monday, April 15:** Patriots Day (no classes)
- **Monday, April 22:** Deadline to request Commencement tickets
- **Tuesday, May 7:** Convocation
- **Wednesday, May 8:** ROTC Commissioning Ceremony, 3pm
- **Thursday, May 9:** Graduate Commencement Ceremony, 5pm
- **Friday, May 10:** Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony, 2pm

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