

A Parent Guide to Career Services

Welcome to the Olin Business School Weston Career Center (WCC). The WCC offers services and programs throughout a student's academic career and is prepared to work with them from the first day of college through their years as an alumni.

One goal of the WCC is to provide a successful link between education and the "real world" of work. The WCC helps mitigate the stress and pressure of the job search with timely information and advice about careers in business. There is no "right" or "wrong" career path and every student is treated as an individual regardless of their chosen course of academic study.

Timetable

New students usually have vague ideas about the future and are generally considering a number of alternatives. First-year students will generally look to the Weston Career Center to help answer these questions. Our aim is not to create pressure, but to alleviate confusion by providing information. In dealing with first-year students, we are aware that they need time to adjust to their new surroundings; we take a low-key, instructional approach. The major objective of any first-year program is to introduce them to the process and our office so that they know where to find help when they want it.

After the freshmen year, students may pursue many types of opportunities to gain relevant experience that can be transferred to future work experiences. These opportunities can include but not limited to a shadowing experience, an internship, a summer study abroad, any work experience including returning to a past employer, such as a summer camp or simply taking additional coursework near their home.

Sophomores and juniors differ from first-year students in that they have begun to realize career decisions are important, and are more motivated to explore choices. We work with these students to tie the career planning process to their immediate concerns such as summer employment and internship experiences.

During the sophomore year, the WCC teaches a required course in career planning (MGT260) where students will be exposed to self-assessment, career preparedness techniques and research methods. Each student will be encouraged to use the WCC as a resource in seeking internships. In addition, students will have opportunities to network with alumni about career options.

As internships continue to grow as an important part of the college experience, students will have the opportunity to participate in several unique Olin career events called "Meet-the-Firms" that focus primarily on connecting students with employers.

Ideally, seniors will be aware of the career decisions that must be made. Tools they have gained from MGT260, coupled with the exposure to corporate presentations during the on-campus recruiting process, will provide them with valuable information that can be applied to their career questions.

The WCC provides the services and information needed for seniors to realize their career plans and offers personalized career advising sessions.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: When should my student begin to utilize the Weston Career Center?
- A: The WCC welcomes students admitted to the Olin Business School from their first days on campus. Our *Career Guide* includes a 4-year overview of career building activities for students throughout their time at Olin. We encourage all students to review the latest edition of the *Career Guide* to understand the career planning process and new resources added to [OlinCareers](#) – the WCC website.
- Q: What issues should my student address during the first two years at Olin?
- A: The most successful students engage in the following activities:
- Assessing skills, interests and values
 - Researching various career fields
 - Experimenting with career fields through internships, summer jobs, campus positions, and volunteer work
 - Understanding the career implications of academic concentrations
 - Networking

Q: How will the WCC help with these issues?

A: The WCC offers a wide array of services and networking opportunities including:

- Career advising
- Career fairs
- Alumni networking resources
- Career workshops
- Corporate presentations
 - Job postings
 - Job offer negotiation
 - Mock interviews
 - Resume reviews
 - Cover Letter Preparation
 - Business etiquette resources
 - Professional image consultation
 - Virtual and Skype interviewing
 - Interview Lab
 - Road Shows

Q: What should seniors do in order to enhance their chances of finding a good job?

A: Seniors need to remain engaged in the following activities:

- Review OlinCareers and respond to online job postings and interview opportunities published in our CAREERlink system.
- Attend corporate information sessions.
- Meet with a career advisor

Q: If my student still can't find a job, what help do you provide?

A: Individual career advising sessions are available that can offer additional search strategies along with mock-interview practice to detect any interview behaviors that may be hindering the student from receiving job offers.

Q: How can my student arrange a career advisor appointment?

A: Students are encouraged to contact the WCC by email wcc@olin.wustl.edu, by phone (314-935-5950) or in person by visiting the WCC in Knight Hall 210.

Q: How likely is it that my student will get an internship?

A: In the past few years, more than 90% of the junior class seeking an internship reported an internship acceptance. In addition, many students consider the [study-abroad option](#) during the summer months to gain valuable experience in today's global marketplace.

Many students seek job shadowing and internships after

their freshman and sophomore years as well.

Q: What can I do as a parent to help my student?

A: The most helpful thing parents can do for **first-year students** regarding their future is to give them the time and space to get used to being at college. Allow their career indecision. Encourage them to discover new interests and abilities by trying new subjects and activities. Suggest taking advantage of the career advising services if they show an interest or are openly concerned about career decisions.

The most important areas for **sophomores and juniors** to spend time on are self-assessment and career exploration. We advise students to try out their tentative choices by actually doing a particular job, whether it is during the summer or as part of an internship.

Encourage your student to seek out involvement with a student club or organization to gain leadership experience

As your student begins the self-assessment phase of the career planning process, offer to listen and be available for comment. Your perspective on his or her growth and development can be very useful to their self-understanding.

Most importantly, you can offer encouragement as your student really begins to tackle career decisions.

Ideally, **seniors** will be aware that career decisions must be made. Hopefully, seniors will be able to cope with the stresses that challenge them, but often they can be as undecided and as externally oriented as any first-year student.

Seniors need all the encouragement they can get. While all of the previously mentioned ways parents can be helpful still hold true, your ability to communicate your support is the single most important way to assist.

Career decisions fit into the overall transition period away from college life. The Weston Career Center is here to assist your daughter/son with programs, information, and advice, but your part in the process is vitally important to your child's career development as well.

(Materials adapted from: National Association of Colleges and Employers)