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Career Center, Illinois Wesleyan University

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CAREER PROFILE

a look at life outside Illinois Wesleyan University

Both of these IWU students agreed: the Career Center is a fantastic resource that helped them find out where to go next!



Beatrice Koka
Class of 2016

Major: Pre-Engineering & Mathematics

When did you first start going to the Career Center and why?

I started going to the Career Center the week after orientation! Orientation week was extremely overwhelming and I began feeling confused about which direction to go in. I chose to go because I began having doubts about my major and my overall career path, so I figured I would make an appointment just to see what it was like.

What have been your favorite things about the Career Center?

I love the resources and tools the Center is able to offer students. I have used the Center for resume editing (which helped me land a part-time job and internship) and learned how to get involved within the community through networking. People working at the Career Center are extremely kind and focus on helping students utilize their knowledge and skills. In particular, Robyn Walter does an excellent job of advising students that are undecided and works toward focusing on their

strengths that will work to their advantage in regards to professional skills.

What is one thing you think incoming first-year students should know about the Career Center?

I would want first year students to know that they should take the initiative and visit the Center as early as possible. I visited out of curiosity and as a result, I have developed numerous connections and professional skills. First year students should not feel intimidated or nervous about using the Career Center as a resource. This past year, visiting the Career Center was my most influential decision, and I would strongly advise new students to do the same.

Do you plan on using the Career Center in the future?

Is that even a question? I definitely plan on using the Career Center in the future! It is an amazing resource and I am greatly thankful that I have a place to go for career advising.



Khurram Ghayur
Class of 2016
Major: Accounting
Minor: Economics

When did you first start going to the Career Center and why?

The first time I went was around the first or second week of school. My Accounting I professor, Michael Roper, recommended all of us to go there, especially the accounting majors. He explained to us that the Career Center had many opportunities for us and would help answer any of our questions related to our majors and career paths.

What have been your favorite things about the Career Center?

I really like the people that work there. They are always excited to meet with me and do what ever they can to help with any of my concerns. The Career Center has shown me all the opportunities there are for students to get involved on campus. They've also helped me gain a better insight on important professional skills such as interviewing and building a strong resume or cover letter.

What is one thing you think incoming first-year students should know about the Career Center?

Go there as early as possible. The Career Center can help you find opportunities that give you practical experience or get you involved in activities related to your major. These opportunities can lead you to attain bigger and better opportunities as you become an upperclassmen. The earlier you start going there, the more benefits you get out of it.

Do you plan on using the Career Center in the future?

Absolutely! The older I get the more career opportunities and internships I will be eligible for. I believe the Career Center's professional staff will help me prepare to obtain those opportunities.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

a newsletter from the hart career center

August 2013

Welcome to IWU, Class of 2017!

Dear Class of 2017,

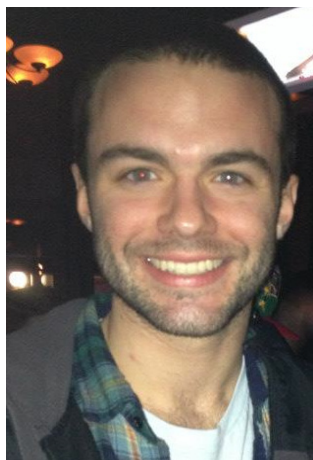
It's hard to believe it's been four years since I arrived to campus for the first time. Wesleyan was the right place for me because it was a place where I felt at home... a home away from home. Here I am with my diploma for a Bachelor of Arts and your class is just arriving to campus. Welcome to Illinois Wesleyan University, your home for the next four years.

If there is one thing that is quite noticeable when you become a senior, it's that you have grown (mentally and emotionally) so much from year to year. Personal development was something I prided myself on and as you go through your classes, I hope you do too. Meet new friends. Develop relationships with professors. Prepare for your life after Wesleyan. However, before your journey begins, I do want to give you some important tips about what being a Titan is, and how the Career Center is a great resource for students to use regardless of their stage in college.

Halfway through my sophomore year I started working at Sodexo as a student caterer where I developed some of the best relationships with co-workers and upper management. The importance of working on a team became quite clear to me. A year and a half later I started as the Communica-

tions Specialist for the Career Center. After these very short nine months of working here, everything I knew before became further reinforced... the importance of getting internships, doing your schoolwork, staying active in extra curricular activities and the community.

Last year I was in a very tough place because I had no real understanding of how tough the job market was; "that's for next year to worry about," was what I would say to myself. With the help of upperclassmen, whom I developed friendships with through different or-



ganizations and friends of friends, I decided to visit the Career Center. If I didn't come to the Career Center for the resume edits, practice interviews, cover letter

advice, and job search tips, there's no doubt I'd be the lost puppy in the park after graduation! It became apparent after some time what employers wanted to see in potential candidates and how one can market themselves in a way to get their attention.

In addition to my time with Sodexo and the Career Center, I was a co-host for a radio show on WESN 88.1 located in the basement of Kemp Hall. My first month of college, my floor mate in Gulick Hall came into my room asking: "Hey Mike, would you be interested in doing a radio show?" I was highly skeptical at first, because I'd never done

anything with radio before! With some simple encouragement, we signed up for our show and stuck together through the next couple of semesters talking and sharing the love of music on the radio. We operated everything from the content in our shows to the simple volume changers and inputs over the air. This gave me something on my resume that not every college student had in his or her "toolbox." Consider opportunities like these by going to the Registered Student Organizations Fair held in the fall semester. This is a great opportunity to get involved early on and develop some quality "out of class" experience.

I've learned a lot in these four short years. You may wonder, how did all of this knowledge come to be? The Career Center's professional staff is a wonderful group of individuals that are really up-to-date on career development and job market trends. Your questions about life after IWU can pretty much be answered 99.9% of the time by them. Whether you know you want to become a brain surgeon or if you have no idea what you want to do with the rest of your life; the staff here is always willing to guide and assist you in any way that they can! Make sure to look at the two students profiled from the class of 2016. They started coming to the Career Center the first semester they arrived. Those visits further reinforced them to keep visiting and take advantage of the resources provided. The Career Center and its professional staff look forward to meeting you! Give us a call at 309-556-3071 or stop by the second floor of the Minor Myers Jr. Welcome Center to set up an appointment.

Best Wishes with your four years at Wesleyan,
Michael J. Kocourek
Class of 2013

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Top 10 Career Strategies for first and second year students

I didn't just go to class every day and then receive my diploma expecting a job to be handed to me after graduation. There was a realization that my future depended on everything else I did outside of the classroom. My destiny was controlled in large part by my actions.

Here is a list from the National Association of Colleges and Employers about the things you can do during your time at IWU to make yourself as marketable as possible when the job search comes.

1) Keep the grades up.

You'll hear this over and over again: employers, recruiters, and graduate schools want academically sound students. This means putting in the time and effort to get those good grades. It'll show your work ethic and commitment to academic studies. Sure, you'll think some classes are boring... but then again, you are here to learn!

2) Find your skills, interests, values, and personal interests.

Usually a self-assessment is a great way to discover these things. We have a variety of assessments at the Career Center! This is a good step in realizing your career goals and the destination you would like to head towards.

3) Explore career options actively.

Talk to professionals in industries or occupations that interest you. If you can, schedule a job shadow day to get a first-hand look at what someone from that industry or occupation does every day. This is your way of finding the right fit for you, rather than having a false image and then realizing, "well, I guess this isn't for me." By attending career fairs, panels, informational seminars, and the Career Center, it'll be easier to realize what options you favor over others.

4) Engage in extracurricular activities/clubs.

Like I said before, it's what you do outside of the classroom that gets the attention of an employer or graduate school. You can start with

clubs/organizations that interest you. However, the most effective piece here is becoming an active member or leader by holding an office, coordinating events, or partnering with other organizations. This involvement shows leadership and teamwork.

5) Get involved in the community.

There's a larger community than just your college or hometown. During my high school career, I volunteered at my grammar school's after-care program as part of a community service project. Find an opportunity to volunteer and give back; you might be surprised by how rewarding it ends up being.

6) Develop your computer skills.

Utilize your university's computer-related courses and workshops. You can use your free time to work with software packages or online tutorials. They can help you learn a lot! Consider making a personal website, blog site, or portfolio. If you are unsure of how to get started, talk to computer science professors, students, or the IT department; they're all here to help you.

7) Start working on your writing skills.

One thing several professors would say in numerous classes of mine was that our writing skills could be better; there was a lack of connection we had to the reader. Even after college, recruiters from companies and graduate programs will often say, there's a lack of writing abilities amongst candidates. Make sure to take advantage of the Writing Center on campus. Don't turn your paper in as a shot in the dark without having anyone read over it! Although you may think you're a fantastic award-winning writer, the things you write may not make sense! The more practice and revisions you allow with your writing, the better off you'll be when it comes to cover letters and personal statements.

8) Do an internship in your field of study.

How are you supposed to get a job after college without any previous work experience? How can you know if what you're studying is something you want

to make a career out of? It's actually very common today to see companies only hire their interns for full-time entry-level positions. Internships are also great for exploring other paths that you may not have thought of before.

9) Take a semester to go abroad or enroll in foreign language courses.

Globalization is a huge factor in the work force today. How are you going to stand out from another candidate? Become diversified; learn about experiences of other cultures. Studying abroad is a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore the world and get a different point-of-view about life. Think of it this way: it won't be as easy to travel around the world once you begin your professional life.

10) USE THE CAREER CENTER RIGHT AWAY!

The Hart Career Center is here to help you for whatever you may need: major selection, career advice, identifying skills and interests, getting an internship, how to write resumes and cover letters (as well as revisions), graduate school plans, and connecting with alums and employers.

Make the best of your time here and take advantage of personal development. Senior year will be here in the blink of an eye. It was for me.

Mark your calendars for the
IWU Internship Fair!

Tuesday: October 1st, 2013

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
In the Memorial Center's
Young Main Lounge

Career Center... What's that? All questions answered here!

On the second floor of the Minor Myers Jr. Welcome Center, located at 1211 Park Street (upstairs from the Admissions office), is your destination for career guidance, internships, graduate school preparation, job searching assistance, or just finding out what you like to do! I'm here to help prevent you from saying "I didn't go to the Career Center until senior year" or "I never even knew we had one." Here's a general idea of the services the Career Center has to offer to you:

Career Guidance

The CC provides individual career consulting for students.

Our counselors can assist you with the following questions:

- What's the best major for me?
- Can/Should I double major or minor?
- What opportunities do I have with my major?
- Can I find someone to talk to with my field of interest?
- Is graduate school a possible consideration?
- *The CC also sponsors a Majors and Minors fair each year to help students explore academic areas.

Internships

Internships provide an excellent way to explore career fields. The Career Center helps coordinate local and national opportunities for students so they may gain hands-on experience in a possible field of interest.

Every fall there is an Internship Fair held on campus, as well as fall and spring fairs held at Illinois State University. These give students the chance to seek out opportunities with employers that have available internships. The Hart Career Center can help with your internship applications whether it is during the school year, May Term or summer!

Graduate School Preparation

There are a large variety of publications available to students so they may have the necessary information about graduate schools, entrance exams, or just further information about graduate studies. Keep in mind there are also more



than 9,000 college catalogs available to you through a web program called CollegeSearch.

Job Search Assistance

Tools to help you include:

Titan CareerLink Database

Every IWU student has an account through Titan CareerLink. You can access this website by going to iwu.edu/ccenter and clicking on the Titan CareerLink tab near the top of the page or just typing in titancareerlink.experience.com into your browser. To register, complete an online student profile, which highlights general information about you, academic information, and career preferences. You can upload your resume through this site, along with reference lists, cover letters, and work samples. Titan CareerLink is your place to search for internships and jobs, sign up for on-campus interviews, and Career Center sponsored events.

Online Resources

In addition to Titan CareerLink, the Career Center is a hub for numerous resources. It purchases a variety of online resources for you to use! These can be found by going to www.iwu.edu/ccenter/student. Select "Resources" and enter the username: **iwustudent** and password: **titan**.

Job and Internship Fairs

Be on the lookout for these special fairs that happen throughout the year. Remember what I said, it's what you do outside of the classroom that really

counts. Meeting professionals in your field of study is a great networking tool to develop contacts and create possibilities for yourself. Whether it's the:

- Fall and Spring Internship and Job Fairs
- Career Fest
- Education Job Fair
- Nursing Career Fair

Make sure to take advantage of these opportunities!

Practice Interviews

Throughout the fall and spring semesters, individuals from various fields and companies come to the Career Center and offer students the chance to go through a practice interview. This is such a valuable tool because it gives you an idea of the general questions you will be expected to answer in a real interview. As the saying goes, "practice makes perfect," and this is the perfect opportunity to receive quality feedback and tips to hit that homerun interview next time! You can sign up for these through Titan CareerLink.

Additional Services

Seminars and Special Programs

Starting from the very first weeks of school up until finals week, the Career Center will host seminars and programs that highlight topics like:

- Exploring Career Paths
- Internships
- Resume and Job Search Correspondence
- Grad School Admission
- How to Capitalize at Job Fairs
- Social Media and Your Job Search

It's never too early to start exploring your passions! You have the control to create the best career road map ever. Don't wait too long; otherwise you'll regret not starting earlier. Use your resources: professors, friends, campus events, and the Career Center! The sooner you begin networking, the easier it'll be by the time you're a senior considering you'll have so many contacts. Your journey begins now!