

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU, JUNIORS.



We realize this is an extremely difficult time for all of our students, juniors included – as you navigate your summer plans, prepare for thesis and/or capstone, and contemplate your senior year. We know that COVID-19 may have interrupted a precious semester abroad or a spring athletic season. We want to acknowledge all of those experiences and offer our support in all the ways that we can.

As the COVID-19 situation unfolds, we will share relevant Purposeful Work updates, provide guidance and encouragement, and offer strategies for moving forward. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us individually and to the general Purposeful Work email address (purposefulwork@bates.edu) with your needs and questions.

As you try to make the most of this time, consider the following:

- 1) **Update your resume:** Did you complete a big project in one of your classes? Did you organize a campus event with one of your organizations? Did you make a significant contribution to your on-campus job? Make sure your resume reflects your most recent academic and professional accomplishments. If you haven't updated your documents in a while, this is a great time to do it.
- 2) **Make a Bates Bridge profile:** Ever wonder how Bates grads leverage their liberal arts education and succeed in the "real world"? Bates Bridge is our BRAND NEW platform (launched at the beginning of 2020) for YOU to connect with alumni. It's opt-in only, so all the alums who've signed up really *want* to connect with students just like you. You can filter by an alum's major, the things they did at Bates (clubs, sports teams, affinity groups), their current location, and more! Just click [here](#) and log in with your Bates single sign-on credentials. Spring is a great time to start making connections. More than 500 alumni are waiting for you!
- 3) **Make a LinkedIn profile:** If your resume is updated, you can do a simple transfer of information to this key platform where your contacts, potential employers, and others may be able to access your information.

- 4) **Update your Handshake profile:** Handshake is another recruiting platform for potential employers to find YOU! If you update your profile, the platform will highlight relevant events, summer jobs and internships based on your interests.
- 5) **Explore industries of interest through Handshake and the internet:** Vault guides are available to research what many industries are about and what opportunities are available within those industries. Students have free access to these guides via Handshake. Go to the Career Center and click on “Resources” – then search for or scroll down to “Vault Campus.” Once you click through the links, you’ll find a number of Vault guides to review. Explore several other Handshake Resources while you are at it, including interview guides, Skill Scan Express, and Going Global – a great tool for international job searches. Additional internet research will provide a broad perspective on different fields and applicable skills for success in those fields.
- 6) **Seek out additional learning opportunities:** One of the best ways to expand your foundation of knowledge and build additional skills is to consider the wide array of learning opportunities available through on-line learning platforms, including [Coursera](#) and [EdX](#). Not only are their courses free, but they give you the chance to check out areas of interest without the commitment of a course for credit. From advancing your Excel skills to learning new programming languages to expanding your understanding of project management, these platforms allow you to actively engage in your own professional development at no cost.
- 7) **Connect with the team at Purposeful Work through drop-in hours and individual virtual appointments -- we have made it easy to access us virtually:**
 - a) **Drop-in Hours**
 - There will be two PW staff members on call M-F 1-3 pm EST to review resumes, cover letters, and answer questions via email. If you send an email with your request to purposefulwork@bates.edu by 3 pm, we will respond by 4:30 pm EST that same day.
 - b) **Individual Appointments**
 - We are now offering virtual appointments by phone, Zoom, Google Hangout, and email. You can make an appointment for M-F 8 am-4 pm EST through Handshake (log in, go to the upper tab “Career Center” and then click “Appointments”).
 - If you have any trouble, please email purposefulwork@bates.edu. Our staff check this email inbox frequently.
 - You will receive email confirmation of your scheduled appointment. A staff member will follow up should we need additional information in advance.
- 8) **Stay apprised of upcoming events:** Update your Handshake profile, check out the Events tab on Handshake and watch for Purposeful Work communications. As we set up events, information sessions, workshops, and other engagement opportunities, we will list them on Handshake (click “Events” → “Events Search” and under the “Host” Filter,

check “Bates College”, and you can see the status of events), and communicate with you via email.

- 9) **Stay apprised of Purposeful Work updates:** To ensure that students have the latest information on Purposeful Work activities during this time, we have set up a page specifically for [Updates Due to COVID-19](#). Please check this page regularly for up-to-date information on our efforts to support you.

Many of you have specifically inquired about the status of Purposeful Work Core Internships as well as Purposeful Work Internship Funding. At this point in time, all funding coming out of Bates -- from the Dean of the Faculty’s Office, the Harvard Center for Community Partnerships, and Purposeful Work -- is being put on hold pending what happens with COVID-19. You can find details on the rationale and impact of this joint decision [here](#).

We realize that this is difficult news given the current state of affairs. We’re working closely with campus colleagues and external employers to navigate the situation and explore options. As we have more information, we’ll make decisions accordingly and share updates with you. We all hope things change for the better soon, especially given the significant impact on students.

If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions for services you’d like to see us provide in the coming days and weeks, please email us at purposefulwork@bates.edu.

As always, we’re here for you.

The Team at the Center for Purposeful Work