

Bates Center for PURPOSEFUL | WORK

Hello!

Now that you've wrapped up your first year at Bates, we at the [Bates Center for Purposeful Work](#) want to send you good wishes for a restful and restorative summer.

We hope that you've had a positive start to your time here, and we know that you'll have a lot to reflect on over the next few months – what you've accomplished, what you've gained, and how you'd like to grow and develop further. What would you like to explore? What would be meaningful work to engage in? What are your strengths that you'd like to exercise?

This reflection is particularly important as you think ahead to the summer and what you might like to do with your time. For those of you actively seeking internships and jobs, employers are still posting opportunities on [Handshake](#). In addition to internships and jobs, you may also want to check out experiential learning and volunteer roles that align with your areas of exploration. To make the platform really work for you, invest time into checking out the various sections and functionalities. Fill out your profile (and make it public for recruiters), update your career interests (especially the "Bates College career clusters" section), bookmark internships/jobs, follow employers, and explore events that may be great learning opportunities.

We acknowledge that many opportunities are catered to sophomores and juniors, but many employers are open to engaging with and hiring first-years, provided that you can show what you can bring to the work environment. It'll also help to check out descriptions for opportunities that you may want in the summers to come – figure out early what knowledge, skills, and experiences you might need to become the ideal candidate for those roles in the future. In case it's helpful, here's a set of [8 career competencies](#) and [15 candidate qualities](#) that most employers are seeking – How do you stack up? What do you want to work on? Consider the areas of development where you'd like to focus attention – and how your summer activities will help you improve in those areas. As you're considering your AI competencies and skills, check out [our recommendations](#) for how to best represent them to potential employers.

Regardless of what they are, we'd love to hear your summer plans – [click here to share!](#)

Whether you're looking for career-related experience this summer or researching for future summers, we think it's important to keep in mind that, from the future employer

perspective, you aren't required to do something in any specific career path after your first year of college. If you're interested in testing out a career path, that's great! If you're not, that's completely OK too.

Consider whether you can build additional knowledge and skills by checking out [Coursera](#), [EdX](#), and other platforms where you can take free or low-cost online courses and get exposure to key concepts and technical skills. If you want to connect with alumni working in areas of interest, take advantage of our [various networking guides, templates, and checklists](#) to create a LinkedIn account, set up your LinkedIn profile, and expand your network.

NOTE: Some industries recruit quite early, so make sure to scan this [industry breakdown](#), monitor your Bates email throughout the summer, and check out any industry-specific resources relevant to you (e.g, [pre-health](#), [pre-law](#), [pre-business](#)). We don't want you to miss out on advice that may be helpful with time-sensitive industry exploration.

It's never too soon or too late to connect with us -- even if it's just to say hello and get familiar with all that we have to offer. [If you need us, we're available throughout the summer!](#) Follow us on Instagram (@batespurposefulwork) to see what we're working on and what our summer interns are up to. Reach out, ask questions, and access resources -- especially if you haven't yet. We're here for you!

Happy summer,

[Bates Center for Purposeful Work team](#)