

Job Shadow Program

Program Overview for 2026-27

The **2026-27 Purposeful Work Job Shadow Program** is an opportunity for you to connect with Bates alumni, parents and other friends of the College to learn about professional career options, personal perspectives, and how others have navigated pathways toward purposeful work. Job Shadows are open to students of all four years and do not require any previous work experience. Matches are made based on the level of interest and the impact the experience will have on students' career exploration. After being matched with a sponsor, students will arrange their job shadow for anytime between mid-December and May. The length of each job shadow varies between two hours to two days.

Search and Explore on Handshake

- ✓ Students may log on to [Handshake](#) to view and apply for job shadows between Oct 5 - Nov 13
- ✓ Many opportunities are available. Explore all of the options for the best fit for you in [Handshake](#):
 - Under Jobs, search "PW Job Shadow" or search by label "job shadow 2026/27"
 - View the full list of job shadows being offered within our Job Shadow Index organized by industry at <https://www.bates.edu/purposeful-work/job-shadow-students/>
 - Use the full list of job shadows to identify a specific industry or employer name. Then type that industry or employer name into [Handshake](#).
- ✓ **Students may apply for up to three job shadows.** Please note that if you are matched with several job shadows, you are expected to complete all of them. If you would like to **rank your preferences**, email your rankings to jobshadow@bates.edu by November 13.

Prepare to Apply by November 13th at 11:59pm

- ✓ **Resume:** Your resume must be reviewed by Bates Center for Purposeful Work to apply for the Purposeful Work Job Shadow Program. Once reviewed, a label will appear on your Handshake account: "Resume Reviewed 2026/27"
- ✓ **Statement of Interest:** Conduct thorough research of the sponsor's organization and role in order to develop a tailored and compelling statement that demonstrates your genuine interest. Consider the format of the shadow carefully, as you take into consideration your availability and budget for travel. See page two for a sample Statement of Interest.

Receive your Match by mid-December

- ✓ In December the Bates Center for Purposeful Work will review the applications received.
- ✓ All applicants will be notified of their matching status by December 14, 2026.
- ✓ If a match is made, you will receive orientation materials and introduction to your sponsors so that you and your sponsor can plan your job shadow experience for any time between mid-December and the end of May.

Purposeful Work Drop-In Hours

Mondays - Fridays 1:30-3:30pm
Sundays - Wednesdays 7-9pm
Chase Hall, First Floor

Job Shadow Program

How to Write a Statement of Interest

A statement of interest for a job shadow should succinctly communicate your interest in the opportunity. Your statement should demonstrate that you have read and thoroughly understand what to expect during your job shadow. Ideally, the statement will address (1) your interest in the field/industry/employer, (2) how the shadow will help your career exploration, and (3) demonstrate your understanding of the possible formats of the shadow.

In three short paragraphs (250-word limit), please answer the following questions:

1. What about you, including your academic and professional interests, makes you a good match for this job shadow? Highlight your major, relevant coursework, related projects, or extracurriculars, along with your genuine curiosity about the sponsor's industry or role.
2. How will this job shadow benefit your career exploration? What are your goals in doing this job shadow? State 2–3 specific goals e.g., observing daily workflows, understanding required skills, or asking about career entry paths.
3. How will you arrange the logistics of your job shadow? Although the specific date(s), location, and format will be arranged in collaboration with your job shadow sponsor, it is helpful to think ahead about your experience. Briefly outline your plan for transportation and schedule availability. See example below.

Consider your audience: Job shadow applications are reviewed by the staff in the Center for Purposeful Work. Occasionally resumes and applications will be shared with the alumni/parent sponsor.

SAMPLE JOB SHADOW STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Jessica Bates '29
Statement of Interest for job shadow at Hubspot

Always include your name, class year, and the name of the organization that is hosting the job shadow

For me, purposeful work involves building connections and engaging with my community in meaningful ways. During my time at Bates, I have worked as a web editor and graphic designer for a local non-profit as well as several campus clubs, sparking my interest in digital communication and brand storytelling. This year, in my role as a Junior Advisor, I have also worked to foster community and offer guidance to first-year students. As a result of these experiences, I have cultivated strong communication skills and learned to be flexible and adaptable when navigating challenges—qualities I am eager to bring to a job shadow experience.

After college, I hope to continue strengthening my writing, graphic design, and communications skills. A job shadow with HubSpot would offer valuable real-world insight into how creative skills are applied at scale in tech and marketing. My primary goals for this shadow are to observe how creative and strategic teams collaborate on campaigns, understand how entry-level roles function at HubSpot, and learn how staff with liberal arts backgrounds successfully transitioned into the industry.

Given that this job shadow could take place in-person or virtually, I am excited to connect with the job shadow sponsor to discuss the ideal format and timing. If an in-person experience is possible, I am able to travel to Boston during winter break (date–date) or February break (date–date). Alternatively, if Zoom is preferred, my schedule is flexible on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the winter semester.