Facilities and Services

Books for Off-Campus Courses
Textbooks for off-campus courses are brought to the first meeting of the course, for sale at that time. Students who have not previously purchased their books should be prepared to pay by cash, check or credit card. Checks should be made payable to “Tatnuck Bookseller @ WPI.” Textbooks for remote ADLN registrants will be sent via UPS to the participant, pending advanced payment. The textbooks may be ordered through the bookstore by calling toll free 888-WPI-BOOKS. Individuals taking Advanced Distance Learning Network courses at remote locations should call 888-WPI-BOOKS to arrange for textbook shipment.

Bookstore
The bookstore, located on the first floor of Daniels Hall, will be open during the first days of classes from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. During the rest of the school year, hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. For more information please call toll free 888-WPI-books or e-mail wpi@tbsol.tatnuck.com.

Campus Police
The WPI main campus is protected by a police force on duty 24 hours a day. The Campus Police Office is located at 35 Dean Street. An escort service is available after dark for students who live near campus, and to escort students to parking lots and other on-campus locations. The campus police phone number is 508-831-5433. Southborough police can be reached at 508-366-3060; Waltham police at 781-893-1212.

Career Development Center
The Career Development Center (CDC) at WPI assists students in the development of lifelong skills related to careers and the job search process. CDC serves not only undergraduate students but graduate students and alumni as well. Information and guidance is provided in the areas of full-time employment, graduate school, part-time employment, cooperative education and summer positions. Call 508-831-5260.

Class Cancellation
Classes are rarely cancelled because of inclement weather. However, if in doubt you may call the WPI switchboard, the Graduate Admissions Office or 508-831-5744 to find out if a particular class has been cancelled. When all classes are cancelled (severe weather during the midday period, forecast to last through evening) cancellation will be broadcast on radio stations WTAG, WSRS, WAAF, WFTQ, WKOX and WBZ.

Computer Resources
WPI’s Fuller Laboratories provide dedicated space for faculty, staff and students working in the information sciences. The WPI Computing and Communication Center (CCC) is located in this building, along with the Computer Science Department and the Instructional Media Center.

CCC provides a wide range of services and access to computer resources for the WPI community, and manages an array of powerful UNIX workstations. All WPI students, faculty and staff can obtain a login ID at CCC for academic course work, research and self-education. The ID will remain in force as long as the person continues to be registered as a student at or to be employed by WPI. The systems have been configured so that the user will see the same familiar environment no matter which CCC workstation is used.

CCC facilities are accessible from a wide variety of locations on campus, via modem or from around the world via the Internet. CCC operates the campus data network, the modern bank and the Internet connectivity. Computer systems operated by academic departments are also on the same CCC communications infrastructure, so they are accessible just as easily.

CCC manages a computer help desk to answer users’ questions on any of the computer platforms and provide short instruction sessions on supported software. CCC also provides technical support for endorsed packages. Several special computer environments are maintained, including several PC classrooms and open-access PC laboratories.

CCC is generally open from 1 p.m. Sunday until 11 p.m. Friday (24 hours a day) and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the academic year. When WPI is not in session and during undergraduate “term breaks,” as well as summer session, hours will be posted at CCC. Assistants are available at both CCC and the PC lab to help students with special requests.

To reach the CCC help desk, call 508-831-5888 or e-mail: helpdesk@wpi.edu.

Extracurricular Activities
The Institute provides a varied program of sports and recreation. Graduate students usually enter teams in several intramural sports, and may participate in certain intercollegiate club sports as well as on-campus musical or theater groups.

There are outstanding athletic facilities for tennis, swimming, squash, basketball, racquetball and volleyball, as well as a weight-lifting room, a fitness center, a sauna and several outdoor playing fields. Graduate students frequently join faculty groups for noontime jogging, aerobics and basketball.

A wide variety of entertainment is brought to the campus, ranging from small informal groups to popular entertainers in the 3,500-seat Harrington Auditorium. A series of films is shown in Perreault Hall, and chamber concerts are presented in the Baronial Hall of Higgins House.

The normal social activities of a medium-sized city are readily accessible, many within easy walking distance. Other activities of interest to students are offered by the many colleges in the Worcester Consortium (see Intercollege Studies and the Consortium, page 8).

Gordon Library
The George C. Gordon Library supports the informational and research needs of the WPI graduate community. The library staff works closely with each department to augment library resources pertinent to graduate and other research interests. The collection currently numbers over 345,000 volumes and
includes subscriptions to over 1,200 current periodicals. The collection also includes undergraduate project reports, graduate theses and dissertations and the WPI Archives and Special Collections. Library resources come in many formats: print, audio, video and digital.

Gordon Library is open over 100 hours each week during the academic year. Many services and resources are also available to graduate students 24 hours a day via the library’s World-Wide-Web-based system. Here students can access the Gordon Library catalog, local and remote library catalogs, bibliographic databases, full-text articles in electronic periodicals, and other reference tools and resources located anywhere in the world.

In addition to the Gordon Library’s resources, WPI students may utilize the collections of other Worcester area libraries. Students with a WPI identification card can borrow books directly from the libraries at Anna Maria College, Assumption College, Becker College, Clark University, College of the Holy Cross, University of Massachusetts Medical Center and Worcester State College. Students also can request materials not owned by Gordon Library through the interlibrary loan and document delivery services. Before classes begin each semester, library staff offer orientation sessions to graduate students. Throughout the year, members of the Reference Department conduct both library and Internet orientation and instruction sessions. Gordon Library staff will consult with students in the preparation of theses and dissertations. Standard reference guides are also available. A pamphlet, “Regulations for Preparation of Theses and Dissertations,” prepared by the library staff and sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs, is available to all graduate students.

Open Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - midnight, Friday 8 a.m. - 11 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., and Sunday noon - midnight. During the weeks when there are no undergraduate classes and during the summer, hours are posted at the library. For more information, call 508-831-5410.

Housing
A limited amount of on-campus housing is available for single graduate students. Family housing is not available on campus. Most graduate students live in rooms or apartments in residential areas near the campus.

Please feel free to contact the Office of Residential Services, 508-831-5645, for information regarding both on-campus and off-campus housing. A listing of off-campus accommodations is available at http://www.wpi.edu/Admin/RSO/.

International Graduate Student Services
The Office of International Students and Scholars is located in WPI’s International House at 28 Trowbridge Road. The office provides information and assistance on immigration and other regulatory matters, information on cultural and social programs and services, as well as general counseling.

The International House also serves as a meeting place for international students with its lounge area, meeting room and resource room. WPI’s English as a Second Language (ESL) program is located in the house. The house also offers limited temporary housing for international graduate students.


Student ID Cards
The student ID card serves as a library charge card. Anyone without an ID must pay a fee of $8.00 to obtain one. Arrangements will be made at the beginning of each semester to provide ID cards for those registered in the evening program (usually the day of the first class meeting, between 5 and 6:30 p.m. in the lower level of Boynton Hall). You may obtain a current validation sticker at the time of registration, or with a completed registration form when obtaining a new ID. Additional opportunities to obtain an ID are available throughout the school year. For details, call 508-831-5150.

Student Life
The Student Life Office staff is available to students enrolled in the evening program to assist with any out-of-the-classroom concerns that may arise. Staff members are available between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Appointments