



# Worcester Polytechnic Institute Self-Guided Tour

Welcome to WPI! You are about to embark on a tour that will include academic, residential and athletic facilities. This tour typically takes about an hour to complete.

## Symbol Key

I.	Main tour directions
⇒	Points of interest in or between stops
☆	Interesting facts or other information

- I. Begin at The BARTLETT CENTER. This is our recently constructed main visitor's center on campus. This is the newest building on campus, which opened in April 2006.
  - ☆ The tree before you is our Beech Tree. This tree was planted in 1945 and is representative of our school colors, Crimson and Gray.⇒ Proceed past the Beech tree over the footbridge to your next building BOYNTON HALL
- II. BOYNTON HALL (5). Formerly academic classrooms, this building houses mostly administrative offices.
  - ☆ WPI was founded in 1865, just after the end of the Civil War, as the Worcester County Free Institute of Industrial Science. Boynton Hall was the first building on campus, built in 1865.
  - ☆ The clock tower symbolizes the first aspect of WPI's "Two Towers" philosophy – academic strength
- III. Continue walking around BOYNTON(5) with WASHBURN (30) on your left. At the end of the building, turn left and go into the glass-covered entrance. This is WASHBURN SHOPS (30) home of Manufacturing Engineering, Material Science and Engineering, and Management.
  - ☆ This second tower with a distinctive arm and hammer weather vane signifies the second aspect of the "Two Towers" philosophy- practical experience.
  - ☆ Washburn is the oldest building in the nation used continuously for engineering education.⇒ Walk up the stairs ahead of you. At the top of the stairs you will find the Robotics Laboratory, which houses devices like robotics arms and fully automated CNC lathes.
- IV. Exit the door you entered and turn right. Walk straight ahead and enter GORDON LIBRARY (13).
  - ⇒ To the right of the entrance are the on-line catalog terminals that provide access to regional and nationwide collections including those from the 12 other universities of the

- Colleges of Worcester Consortium, which can be delivered to campus free upon request. Also contained in the library are the music room, private study rooms, and the movie lab.
- ⇒ Exit through the main entrance and walk to your right towards FULLER LABS (11).
- ⇒ As you walk, on your right, you can see KAVEN HALL (21), the Civil and Environmental Engineering building at the bottom of the hill.
- V. Enter FULLER LABS (11), home of the Computer Science Department, Instructional Media Center (including a small recording studio), and the heart of the WPI high-speed network.
- ☆ Did you know that Yahoo ranked WPI one of America's Top 25 Most Wired Universities in 2001?
- ⇒ As you enter, you will find the College Computer Center on your right is one of a host of general access labs in the building with both PC and UNIX workstations.
- ☆ The entire campus is now wirelessly networked.
- ⇒ Head down the main stairs and out of the back door. Take a left and check out Institute Park on your right where the time-honored WPI tradition of the freshman-sophomore rope pull takes place over the pond.
- VI. Continue next door to ATWATER KENT (4) home of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Departments and enter through the front door.
- ⇒ Head left and take your first right down a hallway by the main ECE lab.
- ⇒ Turn right at the end of the hallway and check out the Electrical Engineering Major Project labs at the end of the lounge.
- ☆ As you walk through the lounge, you'll pass the "trolley panel" - decades ago, the Worcester Trolley operated out of Atwater Kent and WPI has preserved the original voltage electrical control panel.
- VII. Exit the nearest door and proceed right across the street. Take a left up the brick path towards the fountain.
- ⇒ Before the brick path to your right is GODDARD HALL (12), home of the Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Departments.
- ☆ Goddard Hall was named after 1908 WPI graduate and faculty member, Robert Goddard, inventor of the liquid fueled rocket, and the father of modern rocketry.
  - ☆ A multistory unit operations laboratory, where students learn about the practice of modern chemical engineering by running real chemical operations, dominates the center of the building.
- ⇒ To the right, on the brick path is the Physics building, OLIN HALL (22) and to the left is SALISBURY LABS (26) home of the Biology, Biotechnology, and Biomedical Engineering Departments as well as the Humanities and Arts Department.
- ☆ The brick path was formerly a regular Worcester city street until it was acquired by WPI in the 1990's. The street was bricked over and a fountain was constructed that a fire truck could still pass over in case of emergencies.
- VIII. Take a right at the fountain and the first building on your left is HIGGINS LABS (17). Multimillion-dollar renovations were completed in 1995 to the building that contains the Mechanical Engineering Department.

- ⇒ Enter at the end door closest to you, go up the small flight of stairs and continue down the hall. You'll see a typical lecture hall on your right. Take the hallway that branches off to the right and you'll be in the Biomedical wing of Higgins. You'll pass the materials lab, fluids lab and rehabilitation lab (they're all labeled).
- ⇒ Go down the large staircase then take a left down the hallway. Take a left at the vibrations lab and walk by the Fire Protection Engineering labs. Continue around the corner and down the hall by the ME Project lab where undergraduates build a Formula One racecar for competition, and the FIRST Robotic Competition Robot.
- ☆ Dean Kamen, inventor of the Segway (a self-balancing human transporter), started the FIRST Robotics Competition after he attended WPI, which now includes almost 1,100 teams and about 50,000 students.
- ⇒ Exit up the stairs out the door you entered.
- IX. Across from you, the glass front of the CAMPUS CENTER (6) faces you. Wander through this 71,000-square-foot building, which opened its doors for the first time in 2001 to serve as a place for community, collegiality, socialization, and learning. Located in the physical center of the campus, the center includes dining facilities, meeting rooms, mail facilities, student organization offices, the bookstore, a game room, and spaces for social events.
- X. Exit the campus center and walk to the right of Higgins Labs towards the parking lot. Take a right around ALUMNI GYM (3), which contains coaches' offices, locker rooms, a swimming pool, a fitness center, and a newly renovated bowling alley called Gompei's Gutters.
- XI. Just beyond is HARRINGTON AUDITORIUM (14), where WPI's athletic teams hold indoor events. Racquetball and squash courts are located on the lower floor.
- XII. XI. From the main entrance of Harrington, walk directly across the Quad towards the residence halls that face you.
- ⇒ To your right, down the hill are the outdoor athletic fields including a synthetic track, omniturf field, and natural grass baseball and softball fields.
- XIII. Enter the co-ed residence halls of MORGAN (H) and DANIELS (A) through the glassed-in area between the two buildings called "The Wedge." This is a student lounge, which also contains the main dining hall on campus to your right. Take a left and go by the offices of Academic Advising and the Writing Center. Exit Daniels through the door at the end of the hall and continue right.
- ⇒ The next building on the right is SANFORD RILEY (I), another co-ed residence hall.
- ☆ Every Tuesday during the academic year, the Social Committee holds concerts free for WPI students in the basement of Riley Hall in an all wood performance space called Riley Commons.
- XIV. Just ahead is ALDEN HALL (2), the location for performances by one of WPI's many theater, instrumental and singing groups.
- ⇒ Go downstairs and wander by music classrooms, practice rooms, audio technology labs, as well the Spalding Recital Hall.

XV. You've come full-circle! Even so, we have listed only a sampling of the facilities on campus. Please feel free to explore other buildings if we've left out any of particular interest to you. We hope you enjoyed your tour. Please stop by or call the Admissions Office (508.831.5286) if you have any unanswered questions.