CCPD Mission

In support of the Kalamazoo College mission to “prepare its graduates to better understand, live successfully within, and provide enlightened leadership to a richly diverse and increasingly complex world,” the Center for Career and Professional Development creates meaningful connections to the world of work, empowering Kalamazoo College students to explore, identify and pursue their diverse interests, values and passions, and to develop a framework of skills, networks and knowledge for successful lifelong career planning and professional development.

The CCPD provides career resources and personalized assistance in a friendly, creative, and professional setting. Through the CCPD’s programs and services, students and young alumni have access to support in their efforts to identify, secure, and make the most of summer opportunities, post-graduate employment, and admission to advanced degree programs. Students are supported in meeting their career development goals through the following specific services and programs:

- individual counseling by professional career counselors
- peer advising by trained student para-professionals
- Kalamazoo College Guilds (professional networks housed on LinkedIn)
- twice-yearly Recruiting Expos, and the K-Connect opportunity database
- financial and staff support for summer externships and field-based internships, through the Discovery Externship Program and the Field Experience Program
- self-assessment career inventory tools and interpretations, including the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, the Strong Interest Inventory, and the Gallup Strengthsfinder
- annual Professional Development Institute (intensive on-campus networking and skill-building aligned with Homecoming’s alumni visits)
- annual Senior Etiquette Dinner and Senior Connection Reception
- Passions to Professions, an occasional series of informal conversations with alumni and other professionals about the “nuts and bolts” of their career path
- MY CAREER: More in a Lifetime!, a four-step career development plan spanning summer before first-year through graduation
- résumé and application correspondence critiques
- LinkedIn profile assistance and networking support
- practice phone and video interviews
- programs and workshops on current career development topics

How to Access Our Services

The CCPD staff is available during normal business hours to help facilitate the career exploration process for students and alumni through appointments and drop-in career advising. Visit us in person on the first floor of Dewing Hall or online at: www.kzoo.edu/career.

You can also always access K-Connect, our exclusive database of internship and job opportunities, by clicking on the tab on our website.
Meet Our Staff

Joan C. Hawxhurst, Director
Rachel B. Wood, Assistant Director
Valerie A. Miller, Assistant Director
Jacqueline A. Srodes, Senior Career Counselor
Pam H. Sotherland, Program and Data Manager
Terri L. Raich, Operations Coordinator
Andrew D. Rajzer, Receptionist/Coordinator, CIP & CCPD

Each academic year we are also joined by a staff of student paraprofessionals. Our Career Associates are student leaders specially trained to support their peers in career exploration, helping them draft résumés, application materials and correspondence for internships, externships, post-graduate employment or advanced study opportunities.

To learn more about our team, see the “About Us” section of the CCPD website, or visit our LinkedIn profiles.