

CAREER AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES INTRODUCTION TO WENAV: CAREER NAVIGATION FOR YOUTH

For young people – and people of all ages – determining a career path and looking for a good job can be both intimidating and confusing. With this in mind, WEnav by Workforce WindsorEssex is designed to equip youths with the skills and knowledge necessary to understand and navigate our increasingly complicated and confusing labour market.

What is WEnav?

Inaugurated in late 2015, WEnav by Workforce WindsorEssex is a comprehensive “employment readiness” and career planning tool that invites young people in our community to perform career-oriented research and self-identify interest and ability profiles. In plain language, it’s an incredibly useful new way for young people in our community to get online career counselling and take important steps towards landing a good job.

Sure, but what is it actually?

WEnav is essentially a database of resources, including PowerPoint presentations, printable handouts, facilitator guides, and more. WEnav reminds us that career navigation is an *active* process that requires us to be engaged, thoughtful, and persistent as it walks us through the entire process. Importantly, all this content is based on real research, best practices, and identifiable community needs. With WEnav’s help, you can create an action plan that plots out, step-by-step, the pathway to your future career. Here is an outline of what you can expect:

- Considering ideal futures and basic career knowledge

- Acquiring Self knowledge

- o Cataloguing valuable experiences
- o Identifying transferable skills

- Exploring careers

- o Navigating job banks and websites
- o Identifying viable careers you like

- Developing further knowledge and skills

- o Studying labour market information
- o Understanding hard and soft skills
- o Exploring decision-making techniques
- o Networking
- o Exploring entrepreneurship

- Looking ahead to real career options

- o Considering informational interviews

- Developing a SMART action plan

What does WEnav cost?

WEnav is available for members of the Windsor-Essex community – including University of Windsor students – to use at no cost.

How do I use WEnav?

You can access WEnav at intranet.workforcewindsorsex.com. The online tool is, obviously, available 24/7. As you scroll down the page, be sure to click on “Handouts for Youth” links on the right-hand on each section. Alternatively, you can download a Workbook with all of these handouts included. We encourage you to take the time to really engage with WEnav’s activities and prompts, even if some activities are designed for audiences who may be younger than you. Once you’ve reached the end, the Additional Resources section contains quite a bit of further useful information.



Is WEnav for me?

Yes! Because the program is intended for use by local educational institutions, service providers, and agencies that work with young people in a number of capacities, the site is written for teachers, workshop organizers, and other instructors to deliver its information to young people. In your case, you're capable enough to "deliver" WEnav's content (the youth workbook and six sections) to yourself. We promise.

Everybody keeps saying "youths" or "young people." What does this mean?

WEnav is specifically targeted to people between 12 and 30 years of age. Most university undergraduates will be right in the "sweet spot" for getting the most out of this valuable tool.

Where did this come from?

The WEnav program is supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Ministry of Education's "Creating Pathways to Success" initiative. It was developed by Workforce WindsorEssex in conjunction with more than 20 community partners.

What is Workforce WindsorEssex?

Workforce WindsorEssex is an employment service provider that facilitates employment through research, partnerships, and communications. Its board comprises community leaders who work in sectors like business, labour, health, social welfare, newcomer integration, and education. As part of its mandate, the organization adopts a strategic outlook concerning the Windsor-Essex community as a whole.

Workforce WindsorEssex plans, facilitates, and advocates for workforce development in Windsor and Essex County. It defines development in this context as the education, retention, and recruitment of a wide range of skilled workers sufficient to meet the current and future economic and social needs of our region. In plain language, Workforce WindsorEssex takes steps to predict where the jobs of the future will come from and ensure that our local workforce is equipped to meet the demands of these new positions and industries. Ideally, this future workforce will act as a catalyst to attract new employers to Essex County.

I want to discuss what I learned about myself after using the WEnav tools.

The WEnav system promotes the fundamentals of career planning. To help you continue your career planning journey, the Career and Employment Services office at the University of Windsor offers one-on-one Career Advising appointments for students and alumni, at which you can further discuss career planning and employment readiness.

I just want to know more about labour market conditions in Windsor-Essex.

No problem. WEnav catalogues labour market information on local, regional, and national levels. Just click here for up-to-date market information and a feed of relevant news articles from our area.

Co-op, Career and Employment Services: www.uwindsor.ca/cces | mySuccess: success.uwindsor.ca



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CAREER AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES OFFERS A VARIETY OF RESOURCES TO HELP YOU LAUNCH YOUR CAREER:

Job searching • Career planning • Work experience • Career preparation workshops • Personal appointments • Resume critiques
Mock interviews • Interest testing and assessments • Job fair and networking opportunities • Volunteer Internship Program (VIP)



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