



**WHEATON
COLLEGE**
For Christ & His Kingdom

LEVERAGING the **WHEATON** **ALUMNI NETWORK**

One of the many benefits of attending Wheaton College is that you become part of our incredible alumni network! The vast majority of alumni are willing to connect with students and are eager to help in any way they can.

Here, we'll show you the best approach to leveraging the Wheaton alumni network.

* *Hot contacts = alumni have said you can contact them*

* *Warm contacts = we've seen students connect with alumni with great success*

** *Side Note: If you have more questions about [general networking](#) and how to do it, check out our [networking resources](#) here!*

LINKEDIN VS. WIN

There are two main platforms for connecting with alumni: Wheaton in Network (WiN) and LinkedIn. Each of these platforms connects you to alumni, and each holds slightly different advantages. Here's an overview of their similarities/differences:

	WiN	LINKEDIN
# of Alumni	2,800	22,000
Hot vs. Warm Connections	Hot*	Warm*
SEARCH BY:		
- Major	✓	✓
- Industry	✓	✓
- Geographic Area	✓	✓
- Race/Ethnicity	✓	
- Company	✓	✓
- Wheaton-Specific Activities (i.e. Soccer, Swimming, Honduras Project, Orchestra, etc.).	✓	
Your Profile Searchable by Recruiters		✓
Alumni Open to Connect About: <i>Graduate schools, life after Wheaton, maximizing Wheaton education, choosing a major</i>	✓	

LEVERAGING WiN *and* LINKEDIN

WiN

Start Here

- If you're networking for the first time or you're uneasy about networking, [WiN](#) is a great place to start. The alumni on this platform have signed up to engage with students and are eager to talk with you. You can even find alumni who were in the same clubs or campus organizations as you!
- WiN is also a great place to find an alumni mentor you can meet with more regularly. Many alumni are specifically interested in mentorship.

LINKEDIN

Expand Here

- If you're looking to build and expand your professional network more broadly, LinkedIn is the way to go. With 20,000+ alumni on LinkedIn, you will be able to find a wider array of experience. Whether you're looking for someone who has gone to law school at Harvard or is currently working in community development, you can likely find them here.
- Keep in mind that LinkedIn is also a social media platform. Not only can you connect with alumni, but you can also build your online brand by posting milestones, sharing articles, commenting on posts, and joining professional groups.
- Many recruiters also actively use LinkedIn to find job candidates. As opposed to a resume, your LinkedIn profile can work for you 24/7. If you're using LinkedIn regularly, that will make it easier for recruiters to find you when you're searching for a job or internship!
- Through LinkedIn, you can also access LinkedIn Learning, a comprehensive skill-building platform with thousands of video courses to help you develop hard and soft skills.
- Finally, LinkedIn also features a job board for searching and applying to open jobs/internships.

Pro Tip

LinkedIn's alumni search feature ([here's a video tutorial](#)) allows you to find alumni based on region, company, or major. Try layering multiple filters (e.g., Sociology majors in Chicagoland) and searching with keywords (e.g., "data analyst" or "copyeditor") to discover alumni in cities and/or industries that match your interests.