

Frequently Asked Questions from Community Colleges

As we continue to grow our support of community colleges, we frequently hear questions about how we can serve two-year campuses and their students. If you have more questions about how Handshake serves community colleges, we would love to answer them personally.

Why did Handshake decide to start partnering with community colleges?

We started Handshake with a goal to democratize access to opportunity for all students. Initially, we focused our efforts on four-year colleges and universities to build our platform. As we have grown into the nation's largest early talent network, we've developed the capacity to serve community and technical colleges, as well. We wanted to make sure that when we started working with community colleges, we'd be able to offer the *best possible* product, which is why we waited until now

Can Handshake really work for two-year schools?

Absolutely. We already have dozens of community and technical college partners, and are excited to partner with hundreds more in the coming months and years. In fact, there are already **over one million associate's degree students in our network today**. We are also committed to building more tools for our community college and technical college partners in the year to come. We'd love to share more about our plans!

Are employers on the Handshake network interested in community college talent?

We hear consistently from the top employers in our network that they are eager for us to help them connect with more associate's degree students. We have built a talent network that allows employers to reach out directly to students, and they want to be able to find and recruit your students today.

My students stay close to home—can Handshake help my local job community?

Our Handshake partners have complete control over the employers and opportunities that their students access. That means your students will see the jobs and employers you select, which can be limited by location . And because there are almost a half of a million employers on our network, we are confident we can dramatically improve your local and regional employer networks today.

I have a small team—is Handshake too complex a tool for what I need?

We actually have hundreds of partners who have small (or no) career center offices. Our platform can *amplify* the work of career professionals by helping you do your job more efficiently. We built Handshake to ensure that you can spend your time on the work that matters most.

Our students aren't here for four years—how do we engage them quickly?

The sooner you can engage students, the better! We work with you to reach your students early through resources like our [marketing toolkit](#), activation campaigns, and a dedicated relationship manager who can share best practices. In fact, schools that switch to Handshake actually see a 60% increase in student engagement in their first year compared to their previous system.