

Purpose/Mission

Our mission is to develop compassionate community advocates who collaborate on strategic social impact. We employ strategic frameworks, methodologies, and actions to provide students with a range of meaningful social impact learning experiences and skills that are applicable to their personal and professional lives.

Learning Outcomes

We accomplish our mission by designing learning opportunities and experiences so that our staff, students, campus collaborators, and community partners who engage with the Center for Social Impact will be able to do one or more of the following:

- Understand Social Impact Principles and Strategies
- Develop and Cultivate Social Impact Skills and Confidence
- Engage in Socially Impactful Community Opportunities
- Become Community Advocates Who Care
- Collaborate as Thought Partners in the Field of Social Impact

Programs and Services

The curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular learning experiences that students have with the Center for Social Impact contribute to their academic persistence, retention, and completion, as well as to the vibrancy of their communities and their personal and professional lives. Some of our programs and services are listed below.

Service-Learning Course

We coordinate over 400 course sections each academic year that receive the "service-learning" designation, providing both administrative, faculty, and partnership support.

Impact Fellows and Associates

Students who serve as Impact Fellows and Associates plan and implement events and programs that utilize social impact principles, values, frameworks, and methodologies, involving hundreds of students.

Social Impact Seminar

This one-credit course gives students beginning tools to understand the field of social impact and start a lifetime of engagement in strategically addressing social problems.

Alternative Breaks

Alternative Breaks are trips that engage students with a social problem through our frameworks and one or more of the pathways of social impact. Trips help students develop empathy, examine their assumptions, explore social problems, and develop patterns of involvement.

Community Partner Coordination

We develop and retain community partnerships, host gatherings and social impact fairs, and maintain an online database of social impact opportunities.

Social Impact Metrics Lab (SIMLab)

Students carry out evaluations and measurements of the impact of interventions led by local organizations. Faculty engage classes in impact data analysis.

Social Impact Scholars

Undergraduate students of all majors have an opportunity to complete course requirements, reflections, impact hours, and a capstone project to earn an academic distinction.

Map the System Challenge

Students use systems thinking and mapping to research and analyze a social problem. The winning local team goes on to compete in Oxford's Map the System competition.

Design for Impact

Students participate in a design-thinking workshop series and competition where the winning team receives a cash prize to help them develop their social problem intervention.

Learning Exhibits

We create hands-on exhibits showcasing data visualizations and creative displays that bring awareness to domestic violence, food and housing insecurity, and Civil Rights.

2023-2024 Impact Data

Service Learning

- 84% persistence rate and 30% completion rate of students participating in at least one service-learning class
- 17 SL faculty trained
- 443 SL course sections taught
- 8 student impact scholars
- 2,000 impact hours

Impact Fellows and Associates

- 49 impact associates (student employees), paid \$18/hr
- 12 impact fellows (students receiving full-tuition waivers), 60% BIPOC, 40% queer
- 3.6 average GPA for fellows
- 100% persistence rate of impact fellows
- 100+ events

Student/Alumni story

“I have learned that positive social impact comes with understanding the importance of lived experiences and relational care...Through this experience, I have grown personally and professionally, deepening my understanding of social issues, and I have become better at fostering meaningful dialogue. Most importantly, I have been reminded that change is a collective endeavor, one that requires active listening, collaboration, and a shared commitment to building a more just and equitable society.”

— Winnie Jada, Philanthropy Fellow

“Through my fellowship position, I have learned about systems thinking/mapping and design thinking. These tools have taught me the importance of digging deeper into the root cause of a social issue when designing an intervention. My personal development throughout this fellowship has been profound as I've come to recognize the interconnectedness of all elements within a system and the necessity of showing empathy towards individuals while being firm on addressing different systemic issues.”

— Estrella Farias, Strategy Fellow