

UVU CSI IMPACT REPORT 24-25

The Utah Valley University Center for Social Impact is a hub for students to learn, engage, and lead in creating positive community outcomes. **Our mission is to develop compassionate community leaders who collaborate on strategic social impact.** We define social impact as significant, positive change that addresses a community-identified social issue in effective, sustainable, and ethical ways.

Through innovative education, thought-provoking exhibits, and applied research and leadership opportunities, the Center for Social Impact empowers students to understand and address complex social issues using strategic frameworks for social impact initiatives.

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:

- **Produce Knowledge and Applied Understanding of Social Impact Principles and Strategies**
- **Develop and Cultivate Relational Awareness and Skills**
- **Develop and Cultivate Social Impact Skills and Confidence**
- **Develop Students into Compassionate Community Advocates**
- **Contribute to Local Community Well-being and Resilience**
- **Collaborate as Thought Partners in the Field of Social Impact**

PROGRAMS + 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, and to the vibrancy of their communities and their personal and professional lives. Some of our programs and services are listed below.

Impact Fellows & 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 pathways of social impact and start a lifetime of engagement in strategically addressing social problems.

Social Impact & Ethical Leadership Minor This new minor is offered through the Woodbury School of Business and includes required courses on inclusive and ethical leadership as well as strategic impact frameworks.

Social Impact Macro Courses in Social Work Master Program Our center partners with the Social Work Master Program to design, develop, and instruct macro courses for both first and second year master students.

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 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 followed by a final competition where the winning team receives a cash prize to help them continue the development of their social problem intervention and a trip to Stanford University's acclaimed d.school.

Learning Exhibits & Workshops We create hands-on exhibits and interactive workshops that include creative data visualizations and collaborative activities that bring awareness to relevant social issues such as domestic violence, food and housing insecurity, and human displacement.

"The frameworks I learned at the Center gave me clarity. They helped me understand where to start and how to move forward. Without them, I would have been lost in the ambiguity [of social change]."

-**Kayla Torres, Social Change Design Fellow**

"[The Center for Social Impact] taught me that even the smallest actions can make a meaningful difference. Start by creating a safe and loving environment for everyone around you. Build a circle of trust, and work together to support and uplift your community." - **Luana Santos, Alternative Breaks Participant**

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Community Partners

55

"The students at the center are amazing! The work they do is thorough and will be used by my organization for years to come."
- Curly Me! Community Partner Organization

Event Attendance

800+
Attendees

"I often left with a new angle to view life through, which has assisted me in pointing myself toward a path I am proud to walk."
- Student Participant

Student Persistence

100% for
Fellows 92% for
Associates

"Life-changing experience that...prepped me for professional life and enhanced my degree by giving me the tools to actually engage with my community."
- Former Impact Fellow

Student Leaders & Employees

11 Impact Fellows **6** SIMLab Scholars **23** Impact Associates
3.7 Average GPA **3.6** Average GPA **3.3** Average GPA

Alternative Breaks

"There was a point when meeting the Community Partners that I knew that I needed to have something related to social impact or humanity work in my life. All the knowledge I had gained on this trip, and reflecting on all I had learned at this Center, kind of just hit me all at once, and I knew that this is what I need in my life long term."
- Jose Sorcia, Alternative Break Trip Leader

20 participants

10 community partners visited

86% of participants said this experience influenced their desire to stay involved with social impact work

16 participants said they understand systems thinking better because of the trip

Impact Skills

88% of our students say they frequently use Social Impact skills in their lives

100% of our alumni respondents use lessons learned as a fellow in their current life

"I use social impact skills every day, even if it is just in small ways. I use it at work and home; it has been so helpful for me." - Melanie Wolfe, Former Impact Fellow

70% of our current students strongly agree that they could create a detailed plan to manage a project from start to finish

50 of our fellows alumni say they felt they built a real community on and off campus during their fellowship

90% of our current fellows want to pursue a social impact role after college because of their experience

"This school year I have learned...social impact is an accumulation of many different aspects that contribute to the bigger conversations. You use critical thinking skills and systems thinking to identify a social issue that resonates with you. Then you put those skills into practical use by doing something about it." - Abbie Fisher, Social Change Design Fellow

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2024-2025 Impact Report](#)