

Foundations in Social Impact

Foundations in Social Impact is a social impact leadership program designed exclusively for first-year Dartmouth students. Students work together to actively interrogate social impact themes and their place as changemakers in society. Foundations in Social Impact runs both Winter and Spring terms and students must participate in both terms in order to be accepted into the program. Students who participate in Foundations in Social Impact will emerge with the confidence to be leaders for the common good both on campus and in the community.

Program Overview

Foundations in Social Impact students meet once a week in the evenings during both the Winter and Spring terms.

Winter Term: Students take a Social Impact Tour of the College, where they are introduced to how a variety of disciplines and departments contribute social impact work across campus and in the community. Students also spend time discussing how these activities help them cultivate their own unique leadership identity and value structure.

Some past experiences Foundations in Social Impact students have had: Design thinking workshops with Thayer faculty, creating their own social impact artwork at the Hood, doing archival work at the Rauner Library, playing social impact games at Tiltfactor game lab, and more.

Spring Term: Foundations in Social Impact students become more independent as they work with a local nonprofit on their own group consulting project. With some support from alumni, staff, faculty, and community partners, students learn to solve problems creatively and collaboratively for an Upper Valley nonprofit organization, all while putting to use their knowledge of social impact work and honing their developing sense of leadership.

Some past group consulting projects have: drawn on Design Thinking principles to structure real-world problem solving, collaborated with Tuck Net Impact students to learn the basics of consulting, worked with Jones Media Lab to hone data visualization skills, work with the Sustainability Office to ensure project solutions aligned with sustainable best practice, and more.

About the Program

- Weekly evening meetings with dinner provided
- Winter and Spring retreats, plus a Fall welcome event
- Real-world group project with an Upper Valley nonprofit

Program Requirements

- Must be a first-year student in good standing with the College**
- Personal Qualities:** Flexibility, An Open Mind, Humility, Curiosity, Empathy
- Availability:** Our rigorous and rewarding program requires all students to be present at all meetings and special events to maintain the highest level of community accountability and to ensure the best progress for all consulting projects.

Application Process

All interested first year students must submit an application by the deadline. Finalists will be invited for group style interviews. In order to be successfully admitted into the program, a student must complete both an application and an interview, no exceptions.

Continued Engagement with DCSI

- Social Impact Practicums (SIPS):** Dartmouth courses embedded with projects from Upper Valley nonprofits.

For a list of current and past courses: <https://students.dartmouth.edu/social-impact/programs-initiatives/students/social-impact-practicums-sips>

- Youth Education and Mentoring Programs (YEM):** Connect with school age youth in the Upper Valley in a variety of ways and create holistic approaches to youth growth, development, and learning through America Reads, DREAM, Growing Change, OLE, SEAD, and SIBS.

For more information: <https://students.dartmouth.edu/social-impact/programs-initiatives/students/youth-education-mentoring-programs-yem>

- '82 Upper Valley Community Impact Fellowship:** Up to \$7500 grant covers one full-time leave term of immersion at a fellowship site in the Upper Valley to do social impact work and several terms of part-time involvement.

For an application and more information: <https://students.dartmouth.edu/social-impact/programs-initiatives/students/internships/82-upper-valley-community-impact-fellowship>