

Program

Impact Design

Activity Ideas

Skill learn or swap

Cross-major speed matching

Know engineers who want to bring their invention to market but need advice on how to write a business plan or price a product? How about business majors who have a great idea and want to build a team of designers and programmers to make it happen? Bring people together for an evening of speed idea-sharing to facilitate team formation.

Project critiques and shares

You get feedback from classmates on assignments, but how often do you get feedback from people in other departments or the idea to expand your mind by hearing about work completely outside your world? Bring people together for a night of project sharing, Pecha Kucha style: 20 slides, 20 seconds per slide.

Cross-major skill swap night

Know someone who really wants to learn business plan writing, basic visual design, or design thinking but can't find time to fit an extra class in their schedule? Hold an event where an expert student teaches their skill to curious people from other departments. After all, they say the best way to learn something is to teach it.

Movie night

Ask your members about their favorite movies related to impact design. Perhaps the True Cost or Design Disruptors.

Book club

Start an optional book club for your members and invite people from other clubs. Perhaps, the Design of Everyday Things, Make It New, Change by Design, Creative Confidence, or the Crossroads of Should and Must.

Skill Speaker

Is there a skill you want to learn but no course available to teach it? Is there a green building, circular economy, user experience, robotics, product design, or design strategy firm in your city? Why not invite a professional expert to teach your chapter something for one night or as a recurring series?

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Group online class

If there's a skill you want to learn but no class available, why not find a free one online and sign up with a group. Acumen+ and IDEO have courses on Human Centered Design, Design Facilitation, Prototyping, and Storytelling. Frog Design offers a course through Lynda.com on Design Thinking. Cradle2Cradle offers a sustainable product design course. See what you can find!

Interdisciplinary innovation minor

If it doesn't exist and you want it, why not make it! Check out the [suggested course list](#) Yale's Design club put together and imagine how you might construct one of your own.

Design sprint

Host your own

Use our toolkit to plan and run a one-day design sprint, leading participants through understanding a problem to brainstorm and prototyping solutions. Consider reaching out to companies, nonprofits, or communities near you to help. You can also run a sprint around a general issue or a campus issue.

Participate in a local jam, hackathon, or maker event

If you don't have time to plan one, or you want more experience with different frameworks, find local design sprints, hackathons, or jams in your city. TOM, Global Game Jam, and OpenIDEO events are a few ideas.

Circular economy brainstorm

The circular economy is all about designing the system around a product - its lifecycle - so that it's more sustainable from input materials to landfill output. Hold a sprint brainstorming ways to make one products lifecycle or one system more sustainable.

Consulting

Offer one-day consulting services to nonprofits on any component of interdisciplinary problem solving. Perhaps empathy, prototyping, ideation, design research, or user testing?

Career exploration

Biweekly meetup for job seekers

If many of your senior members are job hunting, why not build community and support them by creating a meetup every other week? You can meet in your campus center, a coffee shop, or someone's house. You can critique applications and share best practices in portfolios, resume design, and navigating the impact design field.

Career panel

You'd be surprised at how many professionals want to share their wisdom with young people (people like talking about themselves!) Invite industry leaders or Net Impact alumni to speak. Adaptive Path frequently gives talks on user experience design for free. Search our webinar archives and past speakers from the Net Impact conferences on our website and think about who else is in your city or on your campus in different departments.

Open skype with industry leaders

Sometimes it can be hard to get an expert to come to your campus in person. Try inviting them to a skype call. You can project them on a big screen and have your members come prepared with questions or organize a moderator. Go To Webinar and Zoom are good online conference platforms.

Impact careers awareness week events

Host a week of short events that help your peers understand how they can use their careers for impact.

Career trek

Ask a local company to visit their workspace and learn about what they do. Many companies will be excited about this and be great hosts. Try contacting the recruiting or HR department.

Pathways to Practice

Gather a group and read the 'Pathways to Practice' pamphlet or the 'Leap Dialogues: Career Pathways in Design for Social Innovation' book. Talk about your insights and career plans.

Teach a class

Petition to have a class added - or teach one yourself - about careers in design/STEM for impact. Check out [this one](#) created by a Net Impact chapter for an example.

Long Project

Human centered design consulting

Over the course of a semester, go from user research to brainstorming to prototyping and carry it through to testing and refinement (and implementation if you can manage). Consider local non-profits, companies, communities, or campus issues to tackle. This is a great project for your resume.

Hardware for sustainability or impact

Maybe you can create hardware that improves campus water consumption, or that helps a physically challenged person complete an action more easily. Consider needs that have a user you can safely test your hardware on and really help. E-Nable is always looking for volunteers.

Invention development consulting

Is there a social enterprise in your area that has a cool product that needs refining? See how Villanova worked with Solar Suitcase.

Future technology

Amazing advancements like the Internet of Things, 3D printing, Artificial Intelligence, and Drones are shaping the entertainment and comfort of our society, but are they having an impact? As a multi-week project, consider the potential impact applications of one or more of these technologies and prototype their use.