

Social Entrepreneurship & Non-profits Strand Descriptions

Art and Social Change:

Students in the Art and Social Change strand explore the ways in which the creative arts can be employed to promote social change. Examples of past Connecting Experiences in this strand include:

- Research and develop social networking tools to help non-profits and art groups collaborate.
- Research and create a multimedia marketing package for an international non-profit.
- Internship in the communications department at St. David's Episcopal Church, designing digital and print newsletters and promotional materials.
- Internship at Safe Place using storytelling and art to promote pet foster program.

Environment:

Students pursuing the Environment strand develop a greater understanding of the complex environmental issues relevant in today's world, as context for students with an interest in non-profits addressing environmental problems. Areas of focus may include food production, sustainable development, waste and resource management, and environmental ethics and policy. Examples of past Connecting Experiences in this strand include:

- Research on the accessibility of outdoor public space in Austin and non-profit efforts to increase accessibility.
- Research on non-profits working on conservation and restoration efforts in Costa Rica.
- Internship in media and public relations at the non-profit Sustainable Food Center.
- Internship at non-profit organization Austin Green Art.

Health and Health Care:

Students in this strand examine topics related to health from physiological and psychosocial perspectives, as context for understanding the role of health-focused non-profits. In particular, students may explore health concerns relevant to particular groups, such as children, women, and minorities.

Examples of past Connecting Experiences in this strand include:

- Research on mental health policy and the role of non-profits in providing mental health services.
- Research on factors influencing the use of contraceptives by Hispanic women in U.S.
- Internship at People's Community Clinic.
- Internship at the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

International Development:

The International Development strand is designed for students who seek an understanding of the context and myriad factors involved in development work on an international scale. Students in this strand may examine economics, public policy, culture, globalization, and social justice concerns and the roles these factors play in sustainable and ethical international development. Examples of past Connecting Experiences in this strand include:

- Research on the positive and negative effects of microloans in Panama.
- Research on challenges facing non-profits assisting with reintegration of former rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Internship at Asociacion La Restinga, a non-profit providing educational programming for Peruvian youth.
- Internship at The Miracle Foundation, an Austin-based non-profit serving orphaned children in India.

Youth and Family:

Students in this strand explore the social and economic factors at play in youth development and family dynamics, as context for students interested in non-profits or social venture serving children and families. Examples of past Connecting Experiences in this strand include:

- Develop a start-up plan for a non-profit serving children in Asia and Africa.
- Research student success in school-centered versus community-centered approaches to education.
- Internship at Heart House, a non-profit serving children from low-income families.
- Internship at Communities in Schools.

Community Welfare and Social Justice:

This strand is designed to give students a broad understanding of the relationship between social justice and equality, and the welfare and wellbeing of a community. In particular, students will critically examine social justice concerns related to particular groups, such as women, minorities, and low-income populations. Examples of past Connecting Experiences in this strand include:

- Research policy, and for-profit and non-profit programs, related to the financial stability of the elderly in the U.S.
- Research examining the effects of environmental pollution on marginalized, low-income communities in Latin America, including the role of non-profits in addressing these effects.
- Internship at Refugee Services of Texas.
- Internship with Habitat for Humanity.