Launching in fall 2016, the Delaware Innovation Fellows Program offers unique learning and enrichment opportunities to select students from any major who demonstrate passion, creativity, leadership and an entrepreneurial mindset.

Participating students spend their four years at the University of Delaware immersed in the design and development of new solutions to important societal, environmental and business problems and engaged with a like-minded community that includes successful inventors, educators, entrepreneurs, business executives and community leaders.

The purpose of the Delaware Innovation Fellows Program is to empower students who want to change the world by giving them the knowledge, skills, connections and access to resources needed to successfully manifest innovation and thrive in a rapidly changing world.

The Horn Program in Entrepreneurship ignites imaginations and empowers world changers through entrepreneurial education. Our offerings emphasize experiential learning, evidence-based entrepreneurship and active engagement with entrepreneurs, business leaders and members of the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Participation in Horn Program courses and co-curricular activities provides students with the knowledge, skills, connections and access to resources needed to successfully manifest innovation and thrive in a rapidly changing world.

CONNECT

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The Delaware Innovation Fellows Program is powered by the Horn Program in Entrepreneurship, which has quickly gained recognition for developing and delivering world class programs built on a foundation of experiential learning, external engagement and evidence-based entrepreneurship. The Horn Program grants project funding, delivers specialized programming and coursework and provides mentorship, internship and professional development offerings for the benefit of participating students.

The planned expansion of the Delaware Innovation Fellows Program over the next five years will provide students with opportunities to participate in off-campus immersion experiences in places like Silicon Valley, Europe and Africa.

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

Students from all majors are invited to apply to participate in the Delaware Innovation Fellows Program; up to 40 first-year students will be selected to participate. Applicants are asked to submit a 500 word essay in response to the question “Why should you be selected as a Delaware Innovation Fellow?” and may be required to participate in a phone or in-person interview as part of the application process.

SPECIALIZED COURSEWORK

Participating students are encouraged to enroll in specialized online coursework that has been designed to maximize the learning impact resulting from the program’s activities and unique opportunities.

| Year 1 | “Startup” Your Professional Path (1 credit) |
| Year 2 | From Ideas to Action and Venturing for Good (2 credits) |
| Year 3 | Entrepreneurship in Practice: Internship (3 credits) |
| Year 4 | Optional coursework to support your chosen path |

FOUR-YEAR EXPERIENCE

The Delaware Innovation Fellows Program offers an inclusive four-year experience to prepare students to excel on any existing career path or make their own.

YEAR 1

You will launch the “startup” of your professional life by visiting innovative companies, attending local and regional meetups and conferences, and beginning to build your network. You will also learn how to deliver a persuasive pitch to gain buy-in from others and conduct research to identify an important societal, environmental or business problem that you are passionate about solving. Recommended coursework focusing on establishing your personal brand and developing networking and communication skills will support your activities.

YEAR 2

You will gain experience with design thinking and the entrepreneurial process by working to develop a novel solution to the problem identified in year 1. A $500 grant will be awarded to support your work. Recommended coursework focusing on the basics of putting ideas into action, faculty mentors and other Horn Program resources will also support your efforts.

YEAR 3

You will gain additional experience with design thinking and innovation by completing a project-based internship for a startup, an innovative company or a social venture. A peer-to-peer mentoring group moderated by a seasoned entrepreneur or business professional and recommended coursework will provide guidance and support throughout your internship experience.

YEAR 4

In your fourth and final year you’ll choose a path: enhance Delaware’s entrepreneurial ecosystem, launch a startup, launch a social venture or complete another project-based internship. Each path will offer opportunities to gain funding, mentorship and other supportive resources provided by the Horn Program.