Beyond the Classroom exposed me to critical issues, and empowered me to take civic action.
C.R., UM Junior and BTC Student.

**Internships That Make a Difference**

Students in Beyond the Classroom obtain meaningful internship experiences with leading nonprofit organizations. Internships are tailored to students’ civic interests, academic skills and talents, and career aspirations.

By working on key civic issues, BTC students learn first-hand about how they can make a difference.

**Explore Issues That Matter**

Beyond the Classroom (BTC) is an interdisciplinary living and learning program for undergraduate students. Students in BTC develop educational and professional leadership skills to understand and contribute to civic engagement and social change in a global context.

BTC students explore significant civic and social issues that matter most to them. The Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, the world’s largest nonprofit and nongovernmental sector, becomes a place of learning through exciting internships, community service, and civic learning experiences.

**Join an Active Community**

**Participate in** —
- Issue-Oriented Classes
- Guest Lectures
- Field Trips
- Documentary and Film Series

**Engage in** —
- A vibrant community committed to constructive dialogue and mutual learning.
- Students accepted into Beyond the Classroom are eligible for priority housing in South Campus Commons’ Buildings 1 & 2.
WHAT TO EXPECT

Beyond the Classroom offers an integrated two-semester sequence that prepares students for professional roles in the nonprofit sector.

Students take an interdisciplinary seminar, UNIV 325, in their first semester in the program. Here they engage in problem-solving and critical thinking about civic issues. Students apply principles and strategies for enhancing civic engagement to advance social justice at the local, national, and global levels. They conduct research on civic issues and locate nonprofit organizations working on those issues.

During the second semester, students serve in internships with leading nonprofit organizations with concerns such as civil liberties, democracy, educational reform, environmental protection, global development, healthcare, human rights, poverty alleviation, and other social issues. At the same time, students take UNIV 326, which supports their field experience. The goal is to develop students’ leadership capacities, work on fostering civil discourse, and develop effective professional practices for the nonprofit sector.

Beyond the Classroom is an integrated academic, experiential, and service experience. It offers students real world opportunities to develop and realize their potential for civic leadership at the local, national, and global levels. Successful students receive a University transcript notation upon completion of the program.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Beyond the Classroom accepts applications twice a year, during the fall semester for students interested in beginning the program in the spring, and in the spring semester for students beginning in the fall. To be eligible for the program, students must have completed 30 credits by the end of the semester for which they are applying, be in good academic standing, and have demonstrated previous leadership on civic issues.