



# Social Impact in Education Faculty Small Grant Program

## ABOUT SORENSON IMPACT INSTITUTE

At the [Sorenson Impact Institute](#), we know capital can be a force for good. Proudly housed at the University of Utah's David Eccles School of Business, our mission is to expand the market for impact investing and to equip the next generation of impact leaders, forging a future where social impact is seamlessly integrated across sectors worldwide. Our headquarters, the Impact & Prosperity Epicenter, is a pioneering live/work ecosystem that fosters a shared vision for the betterment of people and the planet.

### We work to expand the market for impact investing in three ways:

- Connecting capital to impact as experts in the field.
- Expanding the market for impact through innovation, research, and thought leadership.
- Equipping the next generation of impact leaders through experiential learning and academic programming.

### Social Impact Defined

Social impact is the measure of an action's benefit to communities, society, or the environment. It goes beyond minimizing harmful outcomes to actively creating good ones by creating positive societal impact. In the world of impact investing, "impact" typically focuses on creating measurable social, environmental, or economic benefits in addition to financial returns.

For this grant, we will take a relatively broad approach to social impact. More importantly, we are looking for the incorporation of positive societal outcomes incorporated into any field of study or discipline.

## APPLY FOR FUNDS

### to Incorporate Social Impact into Your Course or Research

Faculty from across the university can apply for grants of up to \$2,500 per year to integrate social impact concepts into their work - research, courses, or other convenings. These funds can be used for a variety of purposes, including, but not limited to:

- Spending your own time integrating social impact-related concepts into your work, such as a course syllabus, research project with the goal of publication, or faculty initiative.
- Hiring graduate assistants (GAs) or teaching assistants (TAs) to assist with developing course content (e.g., finding readings, creating assignments, NOT grading or general assistance).

- Inviting a guest speaker from the field of social impact investing or a related impact field to speak and bring an impact perspective to the class.
- Hiring research assistants (RAs) to help integrate social impact-related concepts into a research project with the goal of publishing.
- Inviting an academic from another institution that focuses on social impact in your discipline to give an academic seminar to a group of faculty related to impact research in your field.
- Travel to a social impact-related conference to present research or incorporate social impact concepts into your own research.
- Purchasing course materials such as project-specific supplies, renting space or covering event expenses.

Regardless of college or discipline, faculty wishing to embed a social impact lens into their work can apply for these funds. We encourage both tenure track and career line faculty to apply. If faculty would like support understanding how an impact lens may integrate into their area of expertise, they are welcome to reach out to [katharine.luce@sorensonimpact.com](mailto:katharine.luce@sorensonimpact.com) for a conversation.

## Complete your application [here](#).

**Award Range:** \$500-\$2,500. Special consideration is given to courses required for a degree or program.



Scan QR code to apply

### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

**May 15, 2025:** Award applications due. Decisions will be made by early June, with funds disbursed by the end of the fiscal year.

For questions or additional information, contact [katharine.luce@sorensonimpact.com](mailto:katharine.luce@sorensonimpact.com)