College for Social Innovation’s semester programs are rooted in a strong foundation of peer-reviewed research into how young adults best learn and develop as emerging professionals and civic leaders.

"Learning is reflection upon experience.”
JOHN DEWEY

The cornerstone of both SITC and SFI is a 30-hour internship at one of 200+ partner organizations within the social sector. Each student Fellow is hand-matched with a vetted site mentor and completes a capstone special project in addition to more typical capacity-building work for the organization.

Through structured immersion into their internship organization, cohort community, and either the city of Boston (SITC) or the local impact sector surrounding their home school (SFI), Fellows engage in “learning by doing” with wraparound support. They also take two reflection-based classes designed to connect their individual internship experience to the theory, practice, and history of social impact work.

"SITC is an apprenticeship to adulthood, and students return from the program with purpose, new skills, less anxiety, and a better understanding of how to navigate both college and life in general.”
DOLITA CATHCART PH.D., CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER

The knowledge retention rate for employees who go through traditional learning is only five percent, whereas the retention rate from experiential learning can be up to 90 percent.