



**SWEARER CENTER**  
BROWN UNIVERSITY

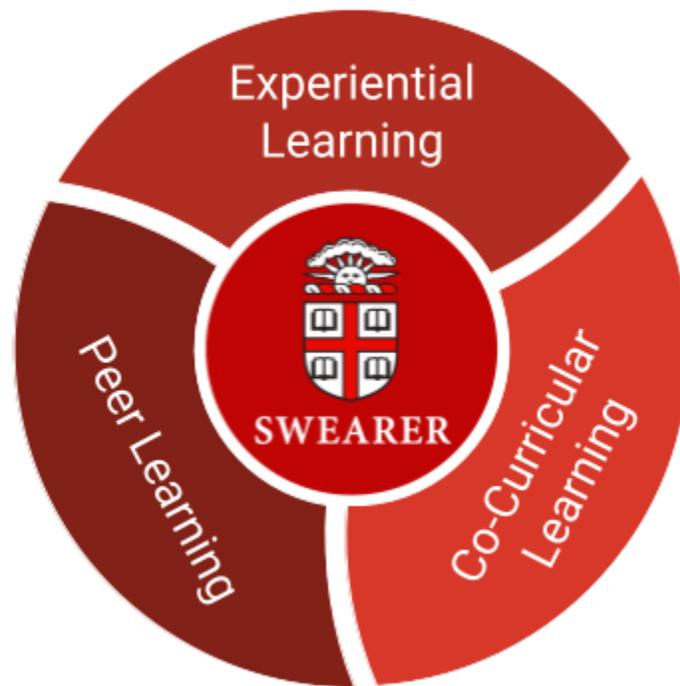
## Bonner Community Fellowship

THE SWEARER CENTER AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

# Bonner Community Fellowship (BCF) Learning Model

# Introduction

The Bonner Community Fellowship (BCF) is a 4-year developmental program that provides students with opportunities to advance social justice through experiential learning opportunities and critical reflection.



The BCF Learning Model is comprised of three learning modes:

1. **Experiential** - Learning by doing, mainly through Civic Engagement.
2. **Peer Learning** - Learning from peers via student-led discussions, reflections, mentorship, and activities.
3. **Co-Curricular** - Learning from workshops/training on topics that complement and enhance growth from the first two areas alongside academic study.

# Experiential Learning

## Overview

The goal of the BCF's Experiential Learning Model is to provide Bonner Fellows with pathways for direct and practical learning through service opportunities.

These pathways are informed by Swearer Center's Strategic and Learning Priorities. The BCF's experiential learning pathways focus on the following priorities:

- **Build Capacity for Just & Sustained Engagement** - Bonner Fellows will contribute to a strong and reliable civic engagement infrastructure.
- **Ethical Practice** - Bonner Fellows will use institutional and community-identified guidelines to avoid extractive, exploitative, and/or damage-centered engagement.
- **Personal and Collective Responsibility** - Bonner Fellows will recognize that justice work, in all aspects of one's life, is an ongoing process that requires humility and courage.
- **Responding to Community-Identified Needs** - Bonner Fellows will ensure that community-built and identified expertise, ideas, and priorities inform their engagement.
- **Anti-racism and Anti-Opressive Practices** - Bonner Fellows will practice collaboration and coalition building through anti-racist and anti-oppression frameworks.

The Bonner Community Fellowship offers the following experiential learning pathways:

1. **Civic Engagement**
2. **Leadership**
3. **Travel Opportunities**

## BCF Experiential Learning Pathways

### Civic Engagement

Civic engagement is the cornerstone of the BCF's Experiential Learning. This pathway allows Bonner Fellows to acquire practical skills and experiences specific to an issue while supporting a community partner.

These are the expectations for civic engagement in the Bonner Community Fellowship:

BCF's Civic Engagement	
<b>Frequency</b>	Bonner Fellows are expected to participate in civic engagement work every semester starting in the Spring semester of their first year and for at least one Summer term.
<b>Length</b>	Bonner Fellows are expected to commit to a partner for at least one semester. However, longer engagement opportunities are encouraged.
<b>Commitment</b>	Bonner Fellows are expected to engage, on average, between 4 and 7 hours a week for their civic engagement.
<b>Type</b>	Bonner Fellows are encouraged to find the type of civic engagement that works best for them and their community partners. These may include internships, projects, and Community-Based Learning and Research courses.
<b>Community Partner</b>	Bonner Fellows are expected to identify a local community partner and alongside them, with the support of the Swearer Center, create a plan for their engagement.
<b>Reflection</b>	Bonner Fellows are expected to submit regular reflections about their work and learning, which Swearer Center Staff will review.

Civic engagement opportunities look different for each Bonner Fellow and, as such, have different needs and requirements. Swearer Center staff are committed to providing individualized frameworks and support required to ensure civic engagement experiences reflect Fellows' interests while also responding and adapting to community-identified priorities

## Leadership

The BCF holds these core tenets for student leadership within the program:

- **Bonner Fellows should have a voice within the BCF.**
- **Bonner Fellows should actively support each other.**
- **Bonner Fellows should strengthen the BCF community.**
- **Bonner Fellows should be integral to shaping the BCF.**

Considering these tenets, the BCF provides opportunities for interested Bonner Fellows to take an active leadership role in the following areas:

- **Admissions and Orientation** - A committee of Bonner Fellows will evaluate applications to the Fellowship and make recommendations to the Swearer Center Staff on who should be admitted. The same committee will be involved in designing, planning, and leading the orientation for newly admitted students to the Bonner Community Fellowship.
- **Class / Fellowship Representative** - Bonner Fellows can be nominated and selected to become BCF representatives. These students will serve as liaisons and advocates for Bonner Fellows in meetings and projects with the BCF Staff and leadership.
- **Community Building** - Bonner Fellows should be leaders in strengthening the BCF Community. Through official or unofficial BCF events, Bonner Fellows are encouraged to organize community-building activities within and without the BCF.
- **Peer Facilitation** - Bonner Fellows are encouraged to take an active role facilitating or curating peer and communal learning experiences within the BCF.
- **Peer Mentorship and Support** - Upper-Class Bonner Fellows are encouraged to serve as official or unofficial mentors to other Bonner Fellows. Selected Bonner Fellows may take a more active role in facilitating these connections or creating support materials that could be used throughout the BCF.

These leadership opportunities are in addition to the Civic Engagement component of this pathway. However, Bonner Fellows who participate in the leadership pathway, besides the experience, will be recognized as Bonner Leaders.

## Travel Opportunities

Bonner Fellows may participate in travel opportunities as part of their BCF experience.

These travel opportunities provide valuable learning opportunities and connections that will enhance the Bonner Fellows' experience in the BCF and at Brown.

As participation in these opportunities is not guaranteed, they are not a required part of the BCF.

The travel opportunities available to Bonner Fellows include:

- **Brown-Tougaloo Partnership: Swearer Center Trip** - An all-expenses paid trip to Jackson, MS, and Tougaloo College. As a component of the Brown-Tougaloo Partnership (BTP), this trip explores the history and legacy of the Civil Rights Movement and the BTP. Participants on this trip can expect to engage with students, staff, and faculty at Tougaloo College, local activists, and business owners. **By application.**
- **Bonner Summer Leadership Institute** - Selected Bonner Fellows will be invited to accompany BCF Staff to the Bonner Foundation's Summer Leadership Institute (SLI). The SLI is a conference where staff and students representing Bonner Programs across the country share knowledge and attend workshops, keynotes, and networking events to strengthen the national Bonner community. **By invitation/nomination.**
- **Bonner Congress** - Selected Bonner Fellows will be invited to attend the Bonner Foundation's Bonner Congress. The congress is a conference where students participating in Bonner programs nationally come together to share experiences and knowledge to enhance their civic engagement experience and their own Bonner programs. **By invitation/nomination.**

These travel opportunities can greatly enhance a Bonner Fellow's experience in the program. However, they are not an integral part of the BCF's Learning Model as not all students may be able to participate.

# Peer Learning

## Overview

The goal of the BCF's Peer and Communal Learning Model is to create space and opportunities for Bonner Fellows to learn and reflect together. Bonner Fellows are admitted into the program based on their passion, potential, and previous experience with civic engagement and social justice. As such, Bonner Fellows are each others' best and most valuable learning resources.

The Bonner Community Fellowship focuses on these peer learning pathways:

1. **Bonner Class Meetings**
2. **Bonner All-Calls**
3. **Bonner Network Meetings**
4. **Senior Presentations of Learning**
5. **Informal Learning Opportunities**

## BCF Peer Learning Pathways

### Bonner Class Meetings

Bonner Class Meetings are regular, unstructured gatherings for each BCF Class. These meetings will have one of the following modes:

Bonner Class Meetings Modes	
<b>Theme Exploration</b>	The Bonner Class will informally explore and discuss the co-curricular theme for the semester. May be facilitated by the Program Advisor or an upper-class Bonner Fellow.
<b>Student-Led Meeting</b>	Bonner Fellows may bring conversation themes or questions they would like to discuss as a class. These topics may include themes they are currently interested in, challenges they are experiencing during their civic engagement, or a discussion of current events.
<b>Program Logistics</b>	The Bonner Program Advisor will work with or advise the class on a particular logistical part of the BCF or Civic Engagement.
<b>Closing of Semester</b>	These meetings will occur at the end of each semester for the class to reflect on the semester's co-curricular themes and their own growth. The Bonner Program Advisors will also work with the class to look ahead to the next semester and share important dates.

Bonner Class Meeting Frequency and Types					
Class	Total Meetings	Theme	Student Led	Logistics	Closing
<b>First-Year</b>	12 meetings	2	6	2	2
<b>Sophomore</b>	6 meetings	2	2	If Needed	2
<b>Junior</b>	6 meetings	2	2	If Needed	2
<b>Senior</b>	6 meetings	2	2	If Needed	2

## Bonner All-Calls

Bonner All-Calls are gatherings of all Bonner Fellows. They are designed to bring the entire BCF student community together. Bonner All-Calls will happen three times per academic year.

Bonner All-Calls will be facilitated and organized by Bonner Fellow Leaders. They will be mainly informal gatherings. However, occasionally, as determined by the BCF Staff, part of these meetings may be used to make Fellowship-wide announcements or a town-hall type of meeting.

## Bonner Network

The BCF is part of a national network of Bonner Programs led by the Bonner Foundation. Bonner Fellows are encouraged to connect and communicate with students participating in other Bonner programs. The BCF will also work to facilitate meetings and exchanges with other Bonner programs.

All Bonner Fellows are encouraged to participate actively in Bonner Connect, the Bonner Foundation's community site for students and Bonner alumni.

## Bonner Senior Presentations of Learning (BSPL)

As part of their last semester in the BCF, senior Bonner Fellows are expected to participate in the Bonner Senior Presentations of Learning. The BSPLs are an opportunity for Bonner Fellows to share their experiences, growth, and work with the BCF and Swearer Center communities.

Bonner Fellows may work with their Bonner Program Advisor to choose a format for their BSPL. There is no current restriction on what the BSPLs can look like. However, they require approval by the Bonner Program Advisor and shared. Some options may include live or pre-recorded personal presentations, online or offline portfolios, or multimedia presentations.

## Informal Learning Opportunities

Informal and extemporaneous conversations can be some of the most valuable learning opportunities. The BCF intentionally creates opportunities for these conversations to occur by:

- Working with Res-Life to house Bonner Fellow Classes together or in close proximity.
- Encouraging students to use the Swearer Center as a work/gathering space.
- Offering informal gatherings and events with Bonner Fellows such as Bonner Thanksgiving.

# Co-Curricular Learning

<b>First Year</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
	<b>Exploring Identity and Place</b>	<b>Moving from Deficits to Assets</b>

<b>Second Year</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
	<b>Knowing Your Issue</b>	<b>Activating Leadership</b>

<b>Third Year</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
	<b>Creating Sustainable Change</b>	<b>Advancing Institutional and Systemic Change</b>

<b>Fourth Year</b>	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
	<b>Transitioning from College to Career</b>	<b>Living Civically Engaged Lives</b>

## Overview

The goal of the BCF’s Co-Curricular Learning Model is to provide Bonner Fellows a developmental pathway to create a positive, sustainable impact in their communities.

Through a series of unique workshops, Bonner Fellows will develop tools, skills, and knowledge to advance equity and social justice while acknowledging and addressing systemic and structural challenges. Swearer Center staff will facilitate these workshops, however, we may invite community or campus partners to provide a workshop relevant to their areas of expertise.

Each semester, Bonner Fellows will focus on a learning theme that will build upon workshops from previous semesters. The specific workshops and instructors may change yearly, but the themes will remain the same.

## The BCF Learning Themes

### Exploring Identity and Place

Year 1 - Semester 1

Bonner Fellows will examine race, power, privilege, and their place within the Brown and Providence communities. Bonner Fellows will develop strategies and tools to navigate these conversations. Bonner Fellows will also reflect on the impact these themes have on their own lives, on their civic engagement, and on the Providence communities they will engage with.

### Moving from Deficits to Assets

Year 1 - Semester 2

Bonner Fellows will explore how to create and sustain practices for a healthy and sustainable civic engagement. Bonner Fellows will understand the differences between Deficit-Based and Asset-Based approaches to civic engagement. Bonner Fellows will reflect on how they can apply these practices to their own experiential learning.

### Knowing Your Issue

Year 2 - Semester 1

Fully engaged in their civic engagement, Bonner Fellows will understand and use Knowledge Democracy practices to expand their insight on issue areas relevant to their civic engagement. Bonner Fellows will reflect on how the knowledge they developed throughout the previous year now informs their approach to social justice.

### Activating Leadership

Year 2 - Semester 2

Bonner Fellows will explore topics around individual, team, organizational, and project-based leadership. Bonner Fellows will reflect on their own leadership styles and preferences using an Asset-Based approach. Bonner Fellows will identify and understand decision-making models that challenge white supremacy culture and better reflect the needs of their communities.

## Creating Sustainable Change

Year 3 - Semester 1

As Bonner Fellows deepen their civic engagement, they need to understand the trajectory of change of their work. These workshops will allow Bonner Fellows to build a framework to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of their civic engagement work, even beyond their own personal involvement. Bonner Fellows will reflect on the importance and challenges of sustaining activist movements.

## Advancing Institutional and Systemic Change

Year 3 - Semester 2

In order to create and sustain a long-term trajectory of change for their work, Bonner Fellows need to understand the ecosystem in which their work takes place. Bonner Fellows will explore some of the structural and systemic challenges that exist in non-profit and public work, such as the Non-Profit Industrial Complex and white supremacy culture. Bonner Fellows will reflect on how these issues permeate and impact their work and what can be done to address them.

## Transitioning from College to Career

Year 4 - Semester 1

During the last year of their undergraduate degree Bonner Fellows need to look ahead and plan for the next stage in their lives. Workshops this semester will support Bonner Fellows as they plan and prepare for that transition. Bonner Fellows will reflect on the skills, experience, and network they acquired in the BCF and how they can apply it in their future paths.

## Living Civically Engaged Lives

Year 4 - Semester 2

Bonner Fellows should remain civically engaged in their communities. These workshops will stress the importance of life-long civic engagement. Bonner Fellows will reflect on their personal long term trajectory of change and how they can continue the work and growth they acquired as a member of the BCF beyond an academic setting..