What are the ways in which students benefit from the secondary concentration?

Gives students a more holistic approach to examine the intersection of business and social value through the theoretical foundation, study of current approaches and experiential requirement.

Encourages students to be proactive in exploring a new field by pursuing an experiential component.

Complements students’ primary concentration and allows them to appreciate the intersection of social impact with their primary concentration.

Contextualizes students’ extracurricular involvement and gives them greater knowledge and skills to succeed in social impact organizations (e.g. Penn International Business Volunteers, Microfinance Club, Social Impact Consulting).

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What is Social Impact and Responsibility?
Social Impact and Responsibility is a broad, multidisciplinary, and evolving area. The secondary concentration is designed to help students address the question, “How should business enterprises and business thinking be engaged to improve society in areas not always associated with business?”

Who are the sponsors?
The secondary concentration in Social Impact and Responsibility was developed through the work of the Wharton Dean’s Undergraduate Advisory Board with support from the Wharton Undergraduate Division. Given the research interests of faculty and the fact that several existing LGST courses are included in the curriculum, the Legal Studies and Business Ethics Department houses this University concentration. The concentration reflects the interest in and support for Social Impact and Responsibility at The Wharton School and at the University of Pennsylvania.

Why concentrate in Social Impact & Responsibility?
For students dedicated to working in the social sector, the secondary concentration helps to put their specific interests into a broader context. For other students, the secondary concentration allows them to build on their primary concentration with a social impact perspective, and to think critically about the role of business in society.

Sample Concentration A
Student is interested in social entrepreneurship and creating financially sustainable social enterprises to benefit the developing world.

Foundation: LGST 230 - Social Impact and Responsibility

Focus: LGST 216 - Emerging Economies
Student learns about the challenges associated with economic development and collaboration between business and the social sector.

Application: MGMT 212 - Societal Wealth Ventures
Student acquires the skills for establishing a social enterprise.

Elective and Experiential: Wharton Field Challenge
Student consults for Life Straw, a social enterprise that sells filters to provide safe drinking water in developing nations.

Sample Concentration B
Student is interested in how companies develop environmental policies and respond to regulations.

Foundation: LGST 230 - Social Impact and Responsibility

Focus: LGST 215 - International Business Ethics
Student learns about the impact of environmental laws and regulations on business. Student engages in a consulting project for local Philadelphia business.

Application: MGMT 212 - Societal Wealth Ventures
Student acquires critical skills to evaluate the effect of environmental changes on business.

Elective: ENVS 204 - Global Climate Control
Student studies debates about climate change and ties this to corporate decision-making (taken outside of Wharton with permission of the concentration advisor).