



Career Catalyst Blocks Information

What Is a Career Catalyst Block?

Career Catalyst Blocks (CCBs) are immersive, three-and-a-half-week interdisciplinary academic experiences that connect classroom learning with real-world challenges. Designed and taught by Colorado College faculty in partnership with organizational partners, CCBs give students direct exposure to complex, real-time issues facing organizations while helping partners advance meaningful projects.

Partner Role & Commitment

Time Commitment: Engagement typically begins 6–9 months prior to the block for planning and course design. Partners participate in co-developing the course concept with CC faculty and staff over this time. During the block, partners host students on-site for approximately two to three weeks.

Interdisciplinary Focus: CCBs are not industry-specific, they draw students from multiple majors who apply diverse lenses to the same topic and challenge. For examples of prior topics, please visit <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/other/career-catalyst-program/>.

Not an Internship: Career Catalyst Blocks are academic, credit-bearing courses designed around experiential learning, not internships. Students engage as learners and collaborators, applying theory to practice within your organization.

Hosting & Space Needs: Partners provide workspace and meeting areas for students to collaborate. When possible, partners may also provide space to host an alumni or community reception to expand connections. While not required, some sites have provided lunch for students/faculty.

Typical Group Size: 15–20 students, 2 faculty/staff members participate in each block.

Partner Team Involvement: Executive or senior-level leaders and designees participate in class sessions on-site, guide the final project, provide context, and offer feedback.

Day-to-day staff contacts: support logistics and student engagement during the block. Additional contributors can include: panels, presentations, staff mentors for students, and networking opportunities.

Pipeline Opportunities: Organizations provide information and support students in connecting with organization internships, summer projects, and full-time employment pathways for students.

Beyond the Block: Partner Benefits

Fresh Perspectives & Innovation: Gain access to talented, motivated liberal arts students who bring diverse perspectives, research insights, and creative problem-solving approaches to your organization's real-world challenges.

Dedicated Talent Pipeline: Develop early connections with students who may become future interns, research assistants, or employees. Career Catalyst Blocks often lead to internship placements, summer projects, or full-time hires.

Organizational Visibility & Engagement: Increase your organization's visibility and reputation across Colorado College's network of students, faculty, alumni, and community partners. Opportunities to host alumni receptions, panels, or site visits further strengthen engagement.

Professional Development for Your Staff: Staff who mentor or collaborate with students often report renewed energy, leadership growth, and insights into emerging ideas and technologies through teaching and guiding the next generation of professionals.

Contribution to Education & Public Good: Support Colorado College's mission to connect liberal arts learning with real-world impact. By co-developing a block, your organization helps shape the future of experiential education and workforce readiness.

Interested in Learning More?

Complete the Partner Interest Form at <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/other/career-catalyst-program/>.