



# THE JUSTICE CHALLENGE

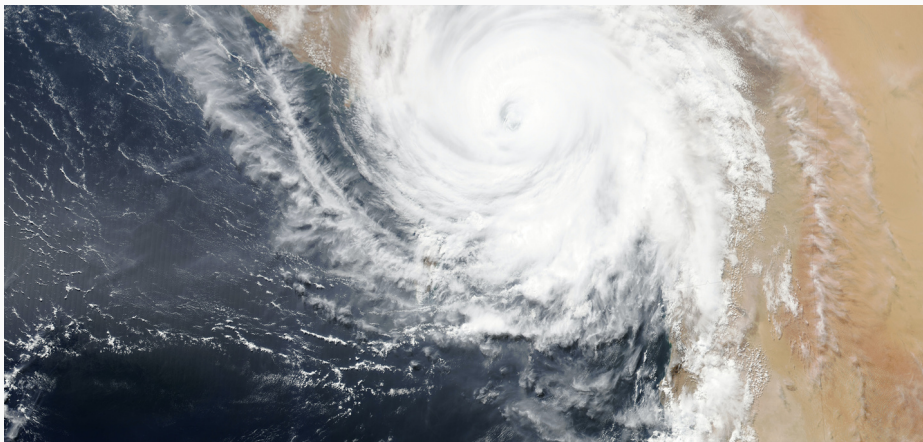
FOOD • CLIMATE • SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Join honors students from universities across the United States in exploring the complex issues around climate justice in the 2024-2025 academic year. Collaborating with experts from a variety of fields, you will engage with real social needs and develop your capacity for civic engagement, innovation and leadership.

The program is open to a limited number of participants. Each student will enroll in a nine-week online colloquium and a 1-day concluding online conference. In addition, each student will participate in at least one of three signature experiences: a Design Challenge (semester-long course, in-person); a Hackathon (2-day, online); or a Field Course (1 week, in-person). Details of each are provided below. Applicants should complete the signature experience preference form. Every effort will be made to match participants to one of their top preferences based on availability. Applicants selected for the Justice Challenge will be notified of their signature experience match prior to committing to the program.



## CALENDAR YEAR 2

### Priority Registration Deadline

APRIL 15, 2024

Students may nominate themselves or be nominated by a representative of their college or program. Students who self-nominate should ask a current or former professor to complete this reference form by April 15th. After the priority registration deadline, applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

### Colloquium

AUGUST 27 – OCTOBER 22  
OR AUGUST 28 – OCTOBER  
23, 2024

Students in the colloquium will meet online once a week, Tuesdays 5-8 PM CST OR Wednesdays 1-4 PM CST.

## The Program

A nine-week synchronous virtual online colloquium for all participants to engage with experts to explore the theme of climate justice. Students will meet online once per week with dual foci of meeting with a subject expert or experts and applying the knowledge in an online workshop format. The colloquium will provide the context and content knowledge that students will need to take on the challenges offered in the subsequent signature experiences. Students may (but are not required to) enroll for credit at participating institutions.

Signature Experiences are offered in multiple formats to allow each participant flexibility in what best accommodates their needs. Signature experiences include the Design Challenge, Hackathons, and Field Course described below. Students will be matched to one or more experiences based upon their preferences and availability.



In the Hackathons, student problem solvers from multiple institutions will form working teams and develop innovative solutions for a climate justice challenge, concluding the event with solutions presented and evaluated based on workability, feasibility, and usability. The top three teams in each hackathon will receive a \$500 award.

### Design Challenges

SPRING 2025

On-site at the University of Houston (Houston, TX), the University of Montana (Missoula, MT), and Texas A&M University (College Station, TX).

### Hackathons

SPRING 2025

Online January 24-25 and February 21-22. Student problem solvers from multiple institutions will form working teams and develop innovative solutions for an issue central to climate justice.

### Field Course

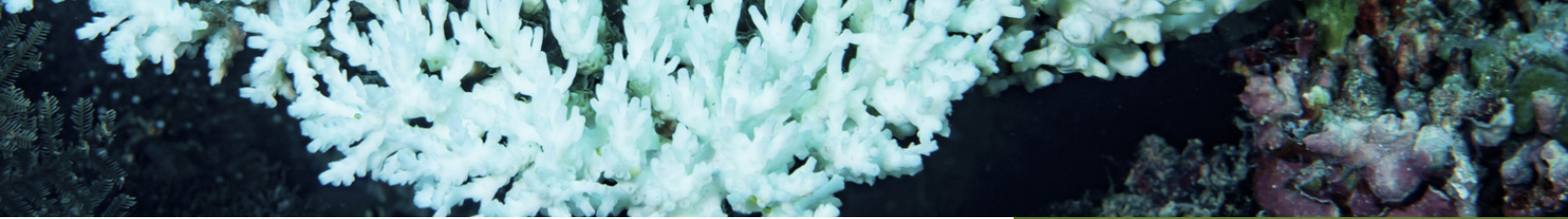
MAY 18-23 2025

On-site at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. Each student participant will receive a flight subsidy of \$500. Student participants will be housed on-campus and provided with a campus meal plan. Capacity 15 students.

### Culminating Conference

JUNE 5, 2025





## The Program (continued)

The optional semester-long Design Challenge is a local, in person opportunity for students to identify and propose solutions to a local problem related to climate justice. Design Challenges emphasize design thinking, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration on solutions to climate justice issues. Understanding the inter-relationships and complexities of what are termed “wicked problems” (i.e., issues so inter-related that a singular solution may lead to further problems unless they are tackled at a systemic, structural level) is central to each design challenge.

A six-day in-person Field Course experience will immerse students into a deep exploration of climate justice within Blacksburg, Virginia and surrounding communities. Students will experience real-world constraints, opportunities, and realities of climate justice from the expertise of field course coordinators and the lived expertise of local communities. The curriculum will be packed with local community visits, team building, problem solving, and projects.

The annual program ends in a Culminating Conference for all participants to reflect on their learning and to provide a forum for cooperative learning among students from their signature experiences. Student participants will create an e-portfolio.

Students will be offered (but not required) to enroll for credit at participating institutions.

Colloquium: 2 credits  
Design Challenge: 3 credits  
Hackathon: 1 credit  
Field Course: 3 credits



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