

OWEN BOARD FELLOWS STUDENT OVERVIEW

Owen Board Fellows is a program of 100% Owen, the community service and philanthropy-focused club at Vanderbilt's Owen Graduate School of Management. We aim for students to engage meaningfully with the community and strengthen leadership skills by pairing full time MBA students to serve on the boards of local nonprofits in and around Nashville.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Owen Board Fellows participants will serve as non-voting board members for their designated non-profit organization for a year, spanning the first and second years in the MBA program. Student leadership and staff from the Turner Family Center for Social Ventures will help select and screen both local nonprofits and selected student Fellows, looking for high levels of engagement and motivation from each, and create individual pairings. The program will also provide training for Fellows during the year to strengthen their nonprofit management skills and acumen.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

An important element of leadership development is participation in organizational governance. You can expect to gain insight into the roles and responsibilities of nonprofit board leadership by attending board meetings and specifically designing and owning one project of strategic importance to the organization. Through this fellowship, you will strengthen your executive leadership skills in a community setting and grow your network to include leaders in the Nashville area. Owen Board Fellows will apply the analytical business skills learned in the classroom into the community by helping nonprofit organizations with strategic leadership initiatives.

ENGAGEMENT

Training and Preparation

- Attend a Friday training on Nonprofit Board Governance, facilitated by a third party (Mod 3 TBD)
- Attend additional Owen Board Fellows learning sessions (ex. Accounting for Non-Profits), approximately one per mod through end of your second year

Board Engagement

- Engage with board chair and/or executive director in initial 1:1 introductory meeting and hold additional sessions for feedback (minimum mid-way point and end of year session)
- Attend all board meetings for the designated nonprofit, including potentially serving on a board committee, as identified by board chair and executive director
- Support and attend the organization's special events, similar to other board members

Nonprofit Project

- Work with Executive Director and board chair to identify a specific and strategic project to address identified needs within the organization.

TIME COMMITMENT

As a Fellow, you can expect to commit approximately 5-10 hours a month, which is roughly the same amount of time as a full board member (dependent upon the organization). The commitment will last from November 2022 through January 2024, with your nonprofit pairing occurring from approximately January 2023 to January 2024 (understanding that you may be out of town for your summer internship).