

Dhruv Maheshwari



Dhruv Maheshwari is a budding entrepreneur, passionate about the intersection between technology and social impact. At Penn, Dhruv was deeply involved in the various social impact initiatives. Dhruv began management consulting for nonprofits through Social Impact Consulting and then went on to found Hack4Impact, a student software development group that builds applications and software for nonprofits. In addition, Dhruv was a Penn Social Impact House Fellow, which exposed him to the world of social entrepreneurship, and a member of the Penn Program for Public Service, which allowed him to work with Philadelphia schools and research online pedagogical methods. Outside of social impact, Dhruv worked on developing his technical skills through internships at Google and Microsoft, as well as leading Penn Labs, a student group that builds software for the University of Pennsylvania. While he will be pursuing a product manager role at LinkedIn after graduation in the short term, he hopes to start his own technology-based social venture in the near future.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

“Hack4Impact: Fostering the adoption of software as a tool for social impact”

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Walter Licht, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of History

Technology is often thought to have immense potential in helping find solutions to massive problems in education, healthcare, poverty and other social arenas. However, as mentioned by many in the tech industry, the majority of the world’s smartest engineers are working on profit-making products, not necessarily solving problems for humanity. My capstone is about the journey of starting Hack4Impact, a student group dedicated to building software for social impact. By walking through the decisions we made, the social impact technology projects we worked on, and the structure of the organization we created, I hope to demonstrate one attempt at increasing the pipeline of engineers towards social impact causes. In creating this document, I hope it can serve as a model for other students interested in starting similar initiatives.