WHAT ARE IMPACT ENGINES?

Impact Engines galvanize and organize interdisciplinary learning, research, and partnerships around solving a challenge or set of challenges, with the goal of maximum impact. Impact Engines span disciplines, colleges, campuses, and industry sectors, connecting diverse communities of problem-solvers around creating measurable change. They are a key pillar of the university’s new academic plan, and a means for Northeastern to claim leadership as an institution with broad societal impact.

WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

A key pillar to Northeastern’s Academic Plan, Impact Engines emphasize seamless collaboration across multi-expertise, inclusive networks. Innovation emerges organically wherever challenges and research partnerships intersect. This lively ecosystem positions our faculty to work more productively with industry, government, and our local communities on the research that matters most.

Impact Engines, drawing upon Northeastern’s disciplinary strengths, are focal points for education, research, and entrepreneurship throughout our network. This will fully activate our humanics curriculum while ensuring the continuous integration of ideas, people, and experiences across our network.
THE SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCESS

WHO CAN PROPOSE AN IMPACT ENGINE?

Any faculty or staff member, research team, student, entrepreneur, or partner in the Northeastern community can propose an Impact Engine.

HOW ARE IMPACT ENGINES SELECTED?

The Impact Engine support team assists the applicant throughout the application and review process. The support team will help applicants communicate the strength of their proposal to the review team and assist in addressing feedback from the deans and senior leadership.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA?

A successful Impact Engine focuses on a real-world problem. It may align around an entire global problem or focus on solving a contained, related issue. Impact Engines must aim to:

- address global challenges or societal needs, and make meaningful impact in people’s lives.
- be an area where we have existing strength with deep involvement from multiple interdisciplinary researchers and external partnerships
- be a problem space where, with focused investment, Northeastern can become an impact leader

THE REVIEW TIMELINE

Once Impact Engines are submitted, they enter a transparent selection process. The Impact Engine team aids each team through the steps.

1. Submission: Submit through IE Website
2. Refinement: Refine with IE Team
3. Senior Leadership Calibration: High-level read
4. Dean Evaluation and Feedback: Deans’ recommendations
5. Technical Review: ADRs collaborate with network
6. Decision: IE accepted, declined, or asked to be revised

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US

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