



POLYMATH
UNIVERSITY

DEVELOPING LEADERS WITH RANGE

The leaders who will solve
climate change

will need to understand
business, environmental science, & philosophy

The leaders who will solve
our greatest challenges
will be polymaths

A polymath

is someone who has developed
breadth, depth, & integration

across at least three disciplines

Who We Are & Why We Care



Dan Futrell leads a group of nine Tillman Scholars, and is joined by Dr. David Staley, author of Alternative Universities: Speculative Design for Innovation in Higher Education.

In addition to Ph.D.s, an Ed.D. and a D.N.P. in disciplines including higher education design, early childhood literacy, human resources, computer science and cancer genetics, this group also counts over a dozen military deployments in leadership roles.

As veterans and military spouses, they have deep experience applying lessons learned across domains, and believe in more accessible and effective higher education.

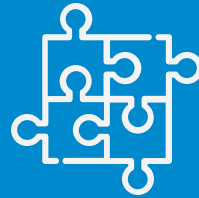


Universities & colleges overcharge and under-prepare students for the workplace and the world.



UNPREPARED GRADS

Narrow specialization forced by industrial-era college majors limits human development and inhibits complex problem solving at a pivotal phase of career decision and growth.



SKILL v. JOB MISMATCH

There is a mismatch between employer needs and college curriculum, where 11% of employers say their recent college grads are ready for work, compared to 96% of university educators.



COST OF COLLEGE

Over 15 years, 40% tuition increases have put college out of reach for millions. Tripled student debt of \$37k average is dragging entrepreneurship, delaying families, and reducing lifetime income.



Polymath University will prepare students more effectively, at a lower cost, through 3 innovations

RANGE

students graduate with 3x majors in non-adjacent domains to develop as polymaths.

PROBLEM: NARROW SPECIALIZATION UNDER-PREPARES STUDENTS.

REAL-WORLD APPRENTICESHIPS

students work 3 days per week as an apprentice, 2 days as a student toward a 3-year, debt-free degree.

PROBLEM: UNIVERSITY AND EMPLOYER NEEDS AREN'T ALIGNED.

REMOTE

remotely-delivered courses include week-long immersions for same-city cohorts.

PROBLEM: HIGHER EDUCATION BUSINESS MODEL IS LIMITING OPPORTUNITY.



Why are polymaths valuable for employers?

**A POLYMATH IS A PROBLEM SOLVER
WITH WIDE-RANGING KNOWLEDGE.**

Polymaths have a high tolerance for ambiguity. Polymaths are systems thinkers. They are adept at using what they've learned in other domains to solve complex problems in front of them.

They repurpose what is already available.

They can synthesize information from many different sources and connect it in new ways. Polymaths read more, and more broadly, and have a broad range of interests.

**POLYMATHS ARE
LEADERS AND COLLABORATORS.**



Create **RANGE** with 3x distinct fields of study



PROFESSIONS

Accounting

Finance

Business

Education

Engineering

Health Science

SCIENCES / SOCIAL SCIENCES

Physics

Chemistry

Political Science

Biology

Sociology

Agricultural Science

ARTS & HUMANITIES

History

English

Philosophy

Art

Religious Studies

Theater



Learn through **REAL-WORLD APPRENTICESHIPS**

Employers As Partners

Polymath U. will partner with employers to host paid student-apprentices (2nd and 3rd year students) as part of their early career talent acquisition strategy.

High demand fields are prioritized as Polymath U. will respond to employer needs. Industries that Polymath U.'s curriculum will serve early will likely include **healthcare**, **technology**, and **education**.

Tuition of \$9k/year unlocks the \$5,250 educational assistance tax deduction for employers, reducing the financial cost of their support.

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APPRENTICE ←

← **STUDENT**



Strengthen **REMOTE** learning through cohorts

Beginning in Chicago IL and Burlington VT: Remote Learning + Immersive Experiences

Remotely delivered courses from faculty spread across the country...

...with week-long immersive, in-person experiences that are highly collaborative and project-based...

...for a cohort of (initially) 100 students in the same geographic area to create opportunities for the social dynamic of a residential college, and to minimize the financial burden of immersive experiences.

Launching in both urban and rural locations, Chicago and Burlington, forces us to build the model for two distinct economies and environments, thereby strengthening Polymath University as a school that will be accessible to many.



Launch Plan in 3 Phases

Polymath Fellowship
2025 and on

Polymath University +
Accreditation Partner
2028-2033

Independent
University
2033+

Polymath Fellowship

Starting a university will be complex. The fellowship allows room for **rapid iteration** within an MVP context by a lean team.

18% growth in post-baccalaureate non-degree enrollment by 18% from 2016 to 2021, to a total market of ~500k students.

Allows PolyU to **recruit visiting professors** for 8-week courses, some of whom would be invited to join full time in 2028+.

Establishes brand as high caliber and sought after based on fellowship selectivity and high quality instruction.

Partnered Polymath University

Partner with existing university for accreditation and credibility.

Work with accreditor and, after securing a finding of eligibility, **apply for accreditation candidacy**.

Significant growth phase for PolyU. **Build on early learning from the fellowship** in student recruitment and admissions, course development and delivery, faculty recruitment and support, and normal operational processes.

Accredited Polymath University

A ~9 year course that started with an MVP concludes with Polymath University **operating independently**.

By 2033, alumni community will include **800 Polymath Fellows** and **400 undergraduate alumni**.



Polymath Fellowship program

Fellows will apply with a proposed project to work on a complex, “wicked” problem for which a polymathic approach will be well suited.

Polymath U. will match each fellow with experts related to their project. For example, if a fellow wanted to work on removing PFAS from drinking water in Flint, Michigan through advocacy, PolyU might pair them up with a chemist, a historian, and a policy analyst.

This launch approach for a university mirrors the successful strategies of Olin College, Ashoka University, and Minerva University.

Introduction to Polymathy

*define, accessible exemplars,
building habits, creating your narrative*

Interdisciplinary Systems Thinking

*Characteristics, comparative analysis.
(ex. economic, aesthetic, social systems)*

Applying Polymathy Through Collaboration

inquiry, leadership, conflict, communication

Knowledge Translation

*adapting knowledge to local context,
evaluate interventions*

Accelerating Impact with Technology

*data science, qualitative and quantitative
analytical methods, artificial intelligence*

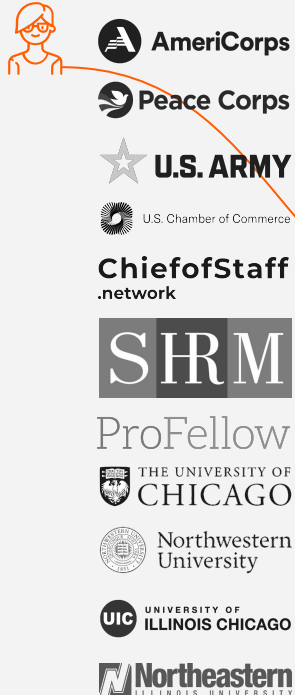
Human-Centered and Speculative Design

*Human + process interaction,
systems design for discussion*



Polymath Fellowship

Recruitment & Selection



Fellows
+ Idea Selected

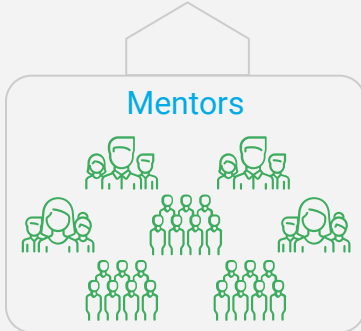


Interdisciplinary Groups

support development of
fellow's impact project,
representing 3x
non-adjacent areas of
expertise related to idea



Mentors

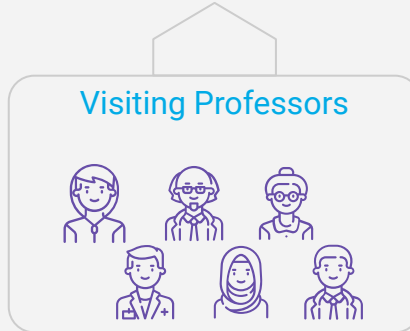


6-course Curriculum

helps fellows broaden knowledge and
integrate across domains with mentors



Visiting Professors



Present Impact Project



Advisory Board

Dr. Emily Balog, Ph.D. in Translational Health Sciences from George Washington University; six year Air Force veteran with service in Afghanistan; current Rutgers professor.

Dr. LaChiana Hamilton, D.N.P. from University of South Florida. 10+ years as an Army officer in Human Resources. Co-founder and COO of healthcare startup, Free To Feed.

Dr. Emily Junkins, Ph.D. in Microbiology from University of Oklahoma. Research Fellow and Whitman Fellow at UC Santa Barbara and the Marine Biological Lab.

Dr. Daris McInnis, Ed.D in Reading, Writing, and Literacy from University of Pennsylvania's School of Education, five year Army logistics veteran and Americorps alum, current Penn professor.

Dr. Vivin Paliath, Ph.D. in Computer Science from Arizona State University; nine year veteran of the Army National Guard with service in Iraq.

Dr. Jake Schillo, Ph.D. in Cancer Genetics from University of Iowa, five year veteran of the Air Force as a nuclear weapons team chief. Post-doctoral fellow at Yale University.

Dr. Maggie Smith, Ph.D. in Public Policy & Administration from George Washington University; active duty cyber security officer and USMA professor for the Army, focus on cyber-warfare.

Brad Snyder, Ph.D. Candidate in Public Policy from Princeton University; Navy veteran as a Special Operations Platoon Commander in Afghanistan; 6x Paralympic gold medalist.

Dr. David Staley, Ph.D. Author of Alternative Universities: Speculative Design for Innovation in Higher Education. Educational designer and professor at the Ohio State University.

Maryn Taylor, Ph.D. Candidate in Human Resource Development from University of Texas; military spouse; current U.T. - Tyler adjunct professor. Human Resources executive for 20k member sorority.

Additional need: 1-2 university administrators (Dean/Provost roles), 1-2 employer voices (specifically around university relations or talent acquisition/development). Senior Advisors will be added later who have broad name recognition in the education & apprenticeship space.



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