Frameworks for Interdisciplinary Exchange (FIX) is a new cooperative venture between the Joint Educational Project and the Thematic Option Honors Program. Open to all juniors and seniors, FIXs offer interdisciplinary service-based approaches to “wicked problems,” problems that are difficult or impossible to solve because of incomplete, contradictory, and changing requirements that are often difficult to recognize.

This year, FIX will be addressing homelessness in Los Angeles. The combination of course-work and service will give you the unique opportunity to collaborate and learn across the schools of USC, helping you recognize and respect the various areas of knowledge and experiences that other students from other academic fields have developed and engaged.

No one field or person can solve the impossible problems we all face; only by working together, connecting a variety of expertise, skills, and ambitions, can we fix seemingly impenetrable issues. Further, joining a FIX means expanding your education and putting it into action in the Los Angeles community as you work together with faculty and students to impact — hopefully fix — the world.

There are three components to a FIX done simultaneously in one semester:

- **CORE 499: Focused Fixes**, a one-unit course that provides one discipline’s perspective on the wicked problem, a narrow contextual understanding. Taught by incredible faculty from across USC, there will be multiple Focused Fixes from which you will choose one that speaks to your interests, not necessarily your major. You will join a small group of students in your particular Focused Fix, learning together in an intimate, intensive environment. Your professor will push you to explore the successes and confront the failures your chosen emphasis has had in tackling the given wicked problem, asking you to read both widely and deeply while integrating guest speakers and visits to critical sites.

- **FIX service placements** will provide on-the-ground experience, assigning you to work with philanthropic organizations, charities, government offices, religious organizations, schools, companies, or clinics that engage with homelessness. Through your service, you will make a difference as you learn how various groups around Los Angeles have strived to make an impact on what often appear as insurmountable challenges. JEP will ask you to reflect on your service through carefully and thoughtfully designed curriculum as well as critically assess your assignment’s approach to intervention, its position in the city and its immediate community, and the benefits and limits of its resources and scale.

- **CORE 499: Collaborative Fixes**, a three-unit course that brings together all FIX students from across the Focused Fixes. In your Collaborative Fix, you will learn not just from your professor but from each other, all students contributing knowledge and experiences from their majors, minors, research, extracurriculars, service, plus everything gained from the one-unit course and service placement. The objective of this cooperative mission is to develop, as a team, a series of actionable proposals for addressing homelessness in Los Angeles with the guidance of FIX faculty. The semester ends with the class giving a presentation to stakeholders from across USC and Los Angeles, outlining possible solutions. Stakeholders in positions to enact particular ideas may engage FIX students to work with them to implement proposals in a volunteer or paid capacity.

There are no minimum requirements or specific majors needed to participate in a FIX. There is an application process that will gather information about you, your experiences, and your interests as well as your choice of 1-unit Focused Fix.

For more information, including the link to the application, go to dornsife.usc.edu/fix
CORE 499: COLLABORATIVE FIXES

Professor Seth Kurzban
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work
Thursdays, 4-6:50pm

CORE 499: Collaborative Fixes (3 units) is one part of a two-course framework for enabling students to engage with “wicked problems” and to develop methods for seeking understanding and action that are as complex and multifaceted as the problems themselves. Often this course will fill in some gaps of your knowledge about homelessness and give you a sense of the bigger picture and challenge we face. Other times, your instructor will serve as a guide to the class as it works together to determine specific interdisciplinary ideas for how we might “fix” homelessness in Los Angeles.

CORE 499: FOCUSED FIXES

Taken concurrently with the above, CORE 499: Focused Fixes course (1 unit) explores how a particular industry/sector or discipline has engaged with homelessness historically, in practice, and in scholarship. This course will provide disciplinary background and give context to your weekly service work. You do not need to have previous experience with the academic area. Each student will enroll in one of the three Focused Fixes below:

Social Entrepreneurship

Professor Adlai Wertman
USC Marshall School of Business
Mondays, 4-5:50pm

Learn how hybrid business social enterprise models – both non-profit and for-profit - work at addressing social challenges, with a particular focus on the issues surrounding homelessness.

Religious Communities

Rev. Jim Burklo
Senior Associate Dean of Religious Life
Tuesdays, 9-10:50am

Learn about the role of religious and faith-based communities in addressing homelessness with historical and contemporary perspectives on faith-based interventions.

Philanthropy and Nonprofits

Dr. Cara Esposito
USC Sol Price School of Public Policy
Tuesdays, 4-5:50pm

Learn the fundamentals of the nonprofit and philanthropic sector (the third sector) and how the third sector has endeavored to tackle the homelessness issue throughout Los Angeles.

FIX SERVICE PLACEMENT

At the same time, your FIX course work will be supplemented with a service experience focused on homelessness through the Joint Educational Project (JEP). FIX students will participate at one of JEP’s community partner organizations to better understand issues of homelessness in Los Angeles, get on-the-ground experience, and engage in written reflection assignments to enrich the in-class learning. JEP will work with you to find a site and a schedule that works for you. Some possible services includes: School on Wheels, Midnight Mission, Chrysalis, and Union Rescue Mission.