A new Cornell University program aims to help liberal-arts students bring humanistic values to technology fields and address ethical quandaries in the fast-changing digital world.

The school plans to formally announce the $20 million initiative on Thursday. A group of students at Cornell’s College of Arts and Sciences in Ithaca will be able to get specialized courses in computer science, free summer sessions at Cornell Tech’s new campus on Roosevelt Island and internships in New York City.

School officials said they hope to develop a pipeline of leaders who can tackle issues such as the misuse of social media, privacy breaches, the integrity of electronic voting and automation’s impact on jobs.

“We’re all seeing today the incredible challenges of producing digital technology that reflects humanistic values,” said Daniel Huttenlocher, dean of Cornell Tech. “The goal is to start to train students who are thinking about these issues when designing technologies.”

This program comes as many college students nationwide are moving away from liberal-arts degrees and toward fields with clearer job prospects, such as engineering and health sciences. Many face a heavy load of student debt.

Just below 12% of the bachelor’s degrees conferred in 2015 were in the humanities, down from about 15% a decade earlier, according to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

The new initiative, known as the Milstein Program in Technology and Humanity, will be the first

Funding comes from the family of Howard P. Milstein, a 1973 Cornell graduate who runs a range of banking and real-estate companies. His son Michael, a 2011 Cornell graduate who works in the family business and was involved with the initiative, said he wanted to foster an “interdisciplinary approach that can help unlock the value of liberal arts in the 21st Century.”