



# SILICON VALLEY PROGRAM

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## CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

### **Intern, Study, and Connect in Silicon Valley**

The Silicon Valley Program (SVP) provides emerging innovators and entrepreneurs from the Claremont Colleges with an off-campus study semester that integrates a high-impact internship experience, related coursework, and professional development and networking opportunities in the prime hotbed of global innovation, Silicon Valley.

### **Silicon Valley Program is an ultimate experiential learning opportunity.**

Silicon Valley Program staff will work with you to fine-tune your resume, enhance your LinkedIn profile, and apply proven search strategies to secure a full-time semester internship in a company that speaks to your talents, passions, and professional aspirations. SVP interns have worked in start-ups, established companies, and non-profit organizations, learning what it takes to be successful in a wide range of functions, including: product management, data science and analytics, sales/business development, marketing, customer success, finance, human resources, and software development.

### **The academic program is customized to your internship.**

All four SVP courses are applied directly to what you will be learning and experiencing on the job as an academic intern. Your internship serves as the ultimate “laboratory” to bring the classroom to life.

### **Your experience is enhanced by numerous professional development opportunities.**

From special master class speakers, to start-up pitch days, to evening networking dinners, to athletic and entertainment events, you will get to experience the heart of Silicon Valley while establishing and developing personal and professional relationships with Claremont alumni, parents, friends, and employers.

### **Eligibility and Applications**

SVP is coordinated by Claremont McKenna College. Second-semester sophomores, all juniors, and first-semester seniors from any of the Claremont Colleges are eligible to apply, although non-CMC applicants should check with their home campus off-campus study office before applying. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA. Successful completion of ECON 50 CM or an equivalent course is required, but we will consider exceptions on a case-by-case basis. Applications open at the beginning of every semester and are usually due mid-semester.

### **Dates**

SVP operates on a similar schedule as the Claremont Colleges with the fall semester beginning in August and the spring semester beginning in January.



Spring 2023 SVP Academic Interns

### **NEED MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT THE STAFF:**

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## Curriculum

The curriculum includes four courses taught by Claremont McKenna College faculty.

All students are enrolled in the following courses:

**ECON 065/165 CM:** *Innovation Management / Industrial Organization* is a cross-listed course that can be taken as a level 1 or a level 2 economics course; the difference between the two lies in the assignments. This course uses economics to study firm strategy and industry evolution in contexts where innovation is important. We discuss imperfect competition and the main sources of competitive advantage, describe several stylized facts about innovation, consider factors that impact the generation and diffusion of innovations, study dynamic strategic interaction and how high-tech firms and industries evolve, and develop an understanding of the role and impacts of public policies in innovative industries. ECON 165 serves as an elective for the finance sequence at CMC, counts toward the Science Management major, and requires successful completion of ECON 101 CM Intermediate Microeconomics or equivalent.

**LEAD 150 CM:** *Leadership, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Silicon Valley* provides an overview of leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship theories and constructs, with applications and implications for leading in innovative and cutting-edge organizations in Silicon Valley. Topics will range from leading creative, entrepreneurial teams to the leadership skills necessary to foster innovative organizations. A central theme will be to equip students with the knowledge and skills to be effective leaders in innovative organizations – both established firms and startups. This course satisfies the capstone requirement of the leadership sequence at CMC.

**INT 030 CM:** *Silicon Valley Program Internship* enables students to gain experience in innovative organizations by securing full-time internships in consultation with the program director. This experience complements the other coursework in the program to enhance students' understanding of the strategies and practices of innovative organizations, firm-level innovation ecosystems, high-tech markets and the regional system of innovation in Silicon Valley and the surrounding area. Whether credit is earned depends on the policies of each campus. This course satisfies the experiential requirement of the leadership sequence at CMC.

In addition, each student enrolls in one structured independent study course. Offerings vary by semester, though ECON 98 and 198 are always offered. The following list includes courses we anticipate providing in Fall 2023. CMC, Mudd, and Pomona students may also be able to arrange a unique independent study in an area of their choice with a Claremont-based professor.

**ECON 098/ 198 CM:** *Organizing for Innovation / Economics of Innovation* is a cross-listed course that can be taken as a level 1 or a level 2 economics course. This course guides students through several individual and group projects grounded in economics that provide insights into how firms and other entities should organize themselves in order to generate innovations and appropriate returns. Links between the course content and the internship experiences are developed: the internship settings are like “labs” that provides examples of the concepts and frameworks developed in the course. ECON 198 requires successful completion of ECON 101 CM Intermediate Microeconomics or equivalent. ECON 98 is open to all students in the program. Either course satisfies the breadth requirement of the leadership sequence at CMC.

**DS 181 CM:** *Advanced Projects in Data Science: Off-Campus Programs*. SVP students interested in this option must identify a professor willing to supervise the course and petition the Director(s) of the Data Science program and the organizer of DS 180 for approval. If approved, DS 181 will replace DS 180 Advanced Projects in Data Science. To qualify for DS 181, the student's internship must involve data science, but the coursework in DS 181 will be distinct from the work the student does for their employer. This class requires successful completion of CSCI 036 CM and at least 2 other Data Science sequence courses.

	CMC ECON	CMC SCIENCE MGMT	RDS LEADERSHIP	LEADERSHIP SEQ.	FINANCE SEQ.	CMC DATA SCIENCE
INT 030 CM			✓	✓		
ECON 65	Level 1					
ECON 165	Level 2	✓			✓	
LEAD 150			✓	✓		
Choice of one independent study course:						
ECON 98	Level 1			✓		
ECON 198	Level 2			✓		
ECON 120	Level 1					
DS 181 CM						✓