

SILICON VALLEY PROGRAM

Companies like Google, Apple, and eBay are as much about entrepreneurship as they are about technology, and individuals with a liberal arts education help to drive innovative cultures in this global hotspot. The mission of the Silicon Valley Program (SVP) is to provide the students of the Claremont Colleges with an off-campus study alternative that marries the liberal arts to challenges facing technology firms in Silicon Valley. Students on the program will explore theoretical organizational structures and will apply classroom lessons to the daily tasks associated with an internship in technology. Students will meet corporate executives—and early-career professionals—who will provide less formal insights into current challenges.

BACKGROUND

Modeled after the long-standing, successful Washington Program, the SVP is rooted in the mission of Claremont McKenna College's Silicon Valley Networking Trip, a one-week networking immersion trip held annually the week prior to the spring semester. This trip has introduced nearly 100 CMC students to careers in one of the most innovative regions of the world, and, more importantly, has inspired an understanding of how their liberal arts education will serve them well in future endeavors.

INTERNSHIPS

Alumni and parents who lead successful careers in Silicon Valley will serve as mentors and internship sponsors at scores of Silicon Valley companies. Internships will vary depending upon the needs of the sponsoring organizations and the skills of the students. Generally speaking, internships will be secured in engineering, finance, human resources, product development, customer service, marketing, and other corporate functions. Many internships will feature significant quantitative and analytical duties. All internships must provide students with the types of experiences that would be afforded to early-career professional staff. Should an internship not live up to these standards, the program director will work with the student to find a suitable position at another firm.

Internship sponsors include, but are not limited to: Applied Materials, Atlassian, Box.net, Bloom Energy, BVI Networks, eBay / PayPal, Electronic Arts, Google, FibroGen, Hewlett-Packard, Intuit, YouTube, and Zynga. Students are encouraged to identify qualified companies of their choosing for potential internship opportunities.

LOCATION

Student housing will be secured in the greater Mountain View, CA area. A number of companies have offered conference room space to house the program classroom.

CURRICULUM

The curriculum includes four courses presented by the Robert A. Day School of Economics and Finance at Claremont McKenna College.

ECON 165 CM: "Industrial Organization" covers the latest theories and empirical evidence concerning the organization of firms and industries. It compares the traditional structure-conduct-performance paradigm with recent advances based on microeconomic theory including transactions cost economics, game theory, strategic behavior, contestability, and information theory. The focus is on applying theories of industrial organization to common business practices and on evaluating U.S. antitrust policy toward these practices. This seminar-style course requires each student to be well-prepared for weekly discussion.

ECON 197 CM: "Special Topics in Economics" explores topics of current interest to faculty and students. This course will derive its curriculum at the intersection of technology, economics, and innovation. This seminar-style course requires each student to be well-prepared for weekly discussion.

ECON 199 CM: "Independent Study & Research" will allow each student to choose a research project that marries the work s/he is conducting in her/his internship with the two seminars mentioned above. Each student will be required to submit a substantial research project at the end of the semester, following regular update meetings with the program director and/or the faculty advisor.

ECON 030 CM: "Internship" will allow each student, in consultation with the program director, to secure an internship at a Silicon Valley firm. The internship should be with a technology company, or should be in a field closely related to technology innovation in Silicon Valley. Internships must have a corporate sponsor or supervisor who understands that this is first and foremost an academic undertaking, and will be supervised by the program director.

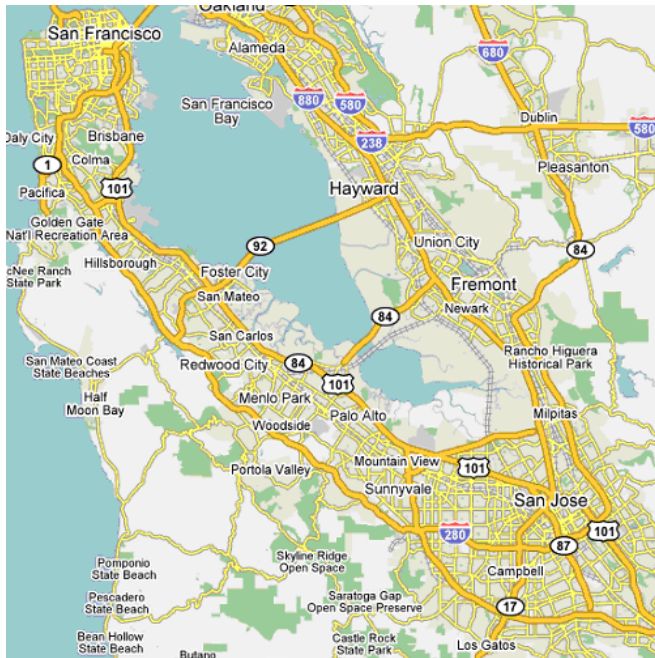
CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students on the SVP semester will be afforded opportunities to meet informally with corporate executives in a number of companies, as well as recent graduates who can provide insights into how Silicon Valley works. The CMC Alumni Association's Silicon Valley Chapter has adopted the SVP students, and will organize networking and social functions. The program director will reach out to the alumni offices of the other four colleges as their students participate in the program.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Silicon Valley program is managed by the Robert A. Day School of Economics and Finance at Claremont McKenna College. The College's Center for Global Education supports the organization of the off-campus study program, and the director of the Washington Program has served as a key liaison. In addition, the program director has established key relationships with the CMC Office of Alumni & Parent Relations, as well as faculty and staff of Pomona, Scripps, Harvey Mudd, and Pitzer colleges.

- [Robert A. Day School of Economics & Finance](#)
- [Center for Global Education](#)



FACULTY

Program faculty will uphold the exacting standards of Claremont McKenna College, and will have earned a Ph.D. or terminal degree in his/her field.

DATES

The program operates on the same schedule as the Claremont Colleges. It includes a three-day orientation session prior to the start of the internship / classes. The program operates in the fall and spring semesters.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Any students of the Claremont Colleges are eligible to participate so long as they have completed ECON 101 CM "Intermediate Microeconomics" or a related course, the prerequisite for ECON 165. Students will typically be juniors, but may be second-semester sophomores or first-semester seniors. Students must have attained at least a 9.0 GPA and must not already have taken ECON 165 CM. Exceptions to these criteria may be made by the Dean of the Robert A. Day School of Economics and Finance.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact **Stephen M. Siegel '87**, director, Silicon Valley Program, steve.siegel@cmc.edu, 909-607-2366, cell: 909-322-3461, or visit the program website: www.cmc.edu/svp.