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 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 win 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, software development, data science and analytics, sales/business development, marketing, customer success, and finance.

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 receptions, to athletic and entertainment events, you will get to experience the heart of Silicon Valley while establishing and developing the personal and professional relationships with Claremont alumni, parents, friends, and employers, who can help you land successfully when you graduate.

Eligibility and Applications

SVP is coordinated by Claremont McKenna College. Sophomores, juniors, and 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 9.0 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 are accepted at the beginning of every semester. Students who successfully complete the written application will be invited to interview with the SVP selection committee.

Dates

SVP operates on the same schedule as the Claremont Colleges for both fall and spring semesters.

NEED MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT THE STAFF:

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Internship sponsors have recently included:
3Q Digital • Affinity • Apple • August • Cisco • Clarify Health • Cloudflare • Electric Imp • Equinix
Google • Initialized Capital • LinkedIn • Netlify • NovoEd • PagerDuty • Square • Tuesday Capital • Vista Point

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Curriculum

The curriculum includes four courses presented by Claremont McKenna College faculty. As discussed below, economics majors can take two of the courses as level 2 economics courses if desired.

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 exams. 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 and 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 range from the history of Silicon Valley, to leading creative teams, to entrepreneurial start-ups, and the leadership skills necessary to foster innovative organizations. A central theme is to equip students with the knowledge and skills to be effective leaders in innovative organizations. 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 depending on student interests and faculty availability (ECON 98 and 198 are always offered). The following list includes courses we anticipate providing in Fall 2020. CMC and Pomona students may also be able to arrange a unique independent study in an area of their choice through an appropriate arrangement with a Claremont-based professor. For example, recent students have pursued tailored independent studies in Economics, Math and Psychology.

**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.

**ECON 120 CM:** *Statistics* is a level 1 economics course. It provides an introduction to probability theory and the logic of statistical inference with applications to economics and business. Topics include measures of central tendency and dispersion, point and interval estimation, hypothesis testing, correlation, decision theory, and regression analysis. ECON 120 CM requires successful completion of ECON 50 CM or equivalent and MATH 030 CM or equivalent.

**DS 181 CM:** *Advanced Projects in Data Science: Silicon Valley Program* is for students pursuing a data science sequence. Students can petition to replace DS 180 Advanced Projects with an appropriately constructed SVP independent study (we refer to this course as DS 181, but the prefix and name are subject to change). Interested students must identify a professor willing to supervise the course and obtain approval from Professors Mark Huber and Jeho Park. DS 181 CM requires successful completion Statistics, CSCI 036 CM or the equivalent, and at least 2 other Data Science sequence courses. DS 181 replaces DS 180 in the data science sequence at CMC.