

UChicago Careers in Entrepreneurship

To maintain UChicago's tradition of discovery, **UChicago Careers in Entrepreneurship (UCIE)** integrates a variety of entrepreneurial opportunities into its programming. Students interested in startups, venture capital, and other related careers have access to one-on-one advising from a professional with extensive experience. Students with innovative ideas are connected to resources at departments and organizations throughout the University of Chicago, including the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Advising

UCIE provides students ready access to an experienced career adviser in entrepreneurship who works closely with startups and innovation initiatives across the University. One-on-one advising consists of four main elements:

- Arriving at a mutual understanding of the student's abilities, needs, and aspirations
- Continual coaching, encouragement, evaluation, and critique
- Developing realistic career strategies and tactics
- Implementing an agreed-upon action plan

Metcalfe Internship Opportunities

The Jeff Metcalfe Internship Program provides paid, substantive internships exclusively to UChicago students. UCIE staff can assist students in securing these internships, where students gain skills in coding, entrepreneurship, and creative practice. Some entrepreneurship-related internships include:

- Digital startup companies at the 1871 co-working space
- Other entrepreneurially-minded organizations such as Google, Uber, and Airbnb
- True Ventures—True Entrepreneur Corps (TEC)
- Venture for America—VFA Fellows

Workshops and Guest Speakers

UChicago Careers in Entrepreneurship hosts workshops and guest speakers throughout the year, covering an array of topics within entrepreneurship. Some past workshops and speakers include:

- Communications leader, Melissa Harris
- Co-founder of Kickstarter, Charles Adler
- Founder of SparkNotes, CEO of Match.com, Sam Yagan
- Founder of Industrial Toys, creator of video game Halo, Alex Seropian

Treks

UChicago Careers in Entrepreneurship students visit entrepreneurial organizations in Chicago and around the country in order to expose them to a wide variety of careers and workplaces. Several treks are available to students throughout the academic year, including:

- Silicon Valley & San Francisco
- Boston & New York City
- Austin
- Beijing & Shanghai

UChicago Degree AB'13, Cinema & Media Studies
Home Miami, FL
Occupation Cofounded Sportsmanias, a sports news website



VICENTE FERNANDEZ

"The entrepreneurial spirit and atmosphere at UChicago has grown exponentially since I was a first year. It's exciting to see more and more students starting their own ventures and the university supporting them every step of the way."

Career and Internship Fairs

Career Advancement hosts two large scale career fairs on campus each year for students looking for internships or full-time jobs. Many company representatives conduct interviews with students either during or immediately following career fairs.

Special Events

UChicago Careers in Entrepreneurship students have access to enriching opportunities. Past special events have included:

- Exclusive talks with Entrepreneurial leaders including programs with companies such as Y Combinator, TechStars and Impact Engine
- Networking receptions with alumni and other Chicago-area students at 1871, Polsky Exchange and other innovation hubs
- Invitations to national competitions including: Undergraduate Venture Capital Investment Competition, Microsoft Imagine Cup, Clinton Global Initiative College, Midwest Social Enterprise Competition, and SXSW Startup Madness

Field Experience

Focusing on hands-on professional work, UCIE field experiences fall into four main categories:

- Apprenticeships: Students contribute to an entrepreneur's practice and promotion in exchange for learning entrepreneurship.
- Collaborations: Agreements with entrepreneurs and startup founders involving mutual career benefit.
- Internships: Substantive and well-supervised work in a professional startup environment. Some internships are paid, others are for College credit.
- Mentorships: Discipline-specific critique and career guidance from experienced professionals.

College New Venture Challenge

By participating in the College New Venture Challenge, teams of students have the opportunity to propose a for-profit or nonprofit enterprise that would provide an innovative service to the community—whether that's the University, the nation, or the world. Finalist teams share up to \$30,000 in prize money to start their enterprise. Past winning teams have been featured in the New York Times and other media outlets, and alumni mentors provide guidance and support to these students to allow them to develop their ideas into viable business plans. Students involved with the CNVC have gone on to found such companies as:



Uncommon Ventures

Uncommon Ventures is an undergraduate managed student investment fund designed to invest \$1,000 at a time in University-related projects requiring concept and prototype funding. In addition to the experiential opportunity for the fund managers, these investments are designed to make funds available for creative and innovative projects to start.

Partnership with the Polsky Center

Career Advancement partners with the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the world-renowned Chicago Booth School of Business to offer vocational training to aspiring entrepreneurs in the College. College students are able to access resources and programming originally developed by the Polsky Center for Chicago Booth MBA students. For example, undergraduate teams are eligible to apply to participate in the Polsky Center's Summer Accelerator Program (polskycenter.com/accelerator) in which students can attend regular programming specifically catered to their needs and receive mentoring from Chicago Booth alumni and Chicago-area entrepreneurs.

Chicago Booth Course Enrollment

UChicago entrepreneurs pursue seed funding from a wide range of organizations. UChicago Careers in Entrepreneurship provides guidance and mentorship as students compete for these funds. Sample funding opportunities include:

- Building the New Venture – This undergraduate course is a mix of lecture and lab that teaches students the fundamentals of all the stages of starting a business and culminates with student presentations on their projects to potential investors.
- Students are able to take courses at Chicago Booth on a space available basis. In addition, courses from around the University including “Negotiations” and “Psychology of Decision Making” provide a solid educational basis for the critical thinking and problem solving that are the core of the entrepreneurial mindset.



“Entrepreneurs push boundaries, using every tool at their disposal – including supreme creativity – to solve real problems and imagine future possibilities”

Starr Marcello
Executive Director,
Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

“Entrepreneurship is not an industry. You can have an entrepreneurial career as a banker, a doctor, a lawyer, a consultant. We want to expose students to entrepreneurial skills they can use in any field.”

Jerry Huang
Program Director,
UChicago Careers in Entrepreneurship



Entrepreneurial Student Groups

UCIE supports a number of Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) and other related student organizations. These include:

- Edge
- CampusCATALYST
- DECA
- Midway Ventures
- EnvisionDo
- GlobeMed
- hack@uchicago
- ILC - Entrepreneurship



MADELEINE BARR
UChicago Degree AB'16, Economics
Home Cleveland, OH
Occupation Co-founder of CommonCents

“UChicago’s amazing network of resources made it possible for us to turn our idea into a company. We found mentors at the Polsky Center and throughout the University who really cared about our careers as entrepreneurs, and challenged us to become better ones. The support I got there completely changed my career path in the best of ways.”



VICTOR KUNG
UChicago Degree AB'14, Economics
Home Shanghai, China
Occupation Founder of Tandem Designs and The Remote Lifestyle

“Getting involved in entrepreneurship after coming to UChicago has changed the course of my life. ...This process of creating your own unique solutions is exhilarating and requires you to constantly learn and grow as you encounter unexpected obstacles.”



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

**Career
Advancement**

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