LEARNING IN ACTION

At the Polsky Center, UChicago students apply their classroom education to the real world. Workshops, competitions, conferences, internships, and lab courses offer the practical skills and hands-on experiences needed to launch businesses or embark on careers in entrepreneurship or private equity.

VENTURE CREATION AND CROSS-CAMPUS PROGRAMS

Interest in entrepreneurship has grown at a rapid pace across campus. Students, staff, researchers, and others from across UChicago are now participating in programs and accessing Center resources to launch businesses.

The Edward L. Kaplan, ’71, New Venture Challenge (NVC)
The Polsky Center’s capstone program, the NVC, helps UChicago students conceptualize, launch, and grow businesses. Through class sessions, workshops, and mentorship, the program offers the framework and resources to enable businesses to be financially viable and impact the economy through innovation and job creation. Introduced in 1996, the NVC has expanded to include four tracks: Traditional, Social, Global, and College. These distinct components are designed to fit the diverse needs of UChicago’s entrepreneurial community, as well as engage alumni and industry experts worldwide. The NVC concludes with the UChicago Innovation Showcase, an interactive celebration of entrepreneurship, innovation, and collaboration across the UChicago community. The Showcase features winners of the NVC, as well as of the Mobile App Challenge, which is hosted by the UChicago IT Services department. chicagonvc.com and innovationshowcase.uchicago.edu

17 years running
85+ companies founded
$240M+ raised in funding
1,300+ jobs created

NVC Coaches Waverly Deutsch and Troy Henikoff

IN THE CLASSROOM & BEYOND

Students select from 27 courses in entrepreneurship and related topics taught by more than 20 faculty members, including the Entrepreneurial Internship Program, through which students participate in subsidized summer internships with start-ups; then may take a fall seminar to develop their internships into case studies; the New Venture Lab, Social Enterprise Lab, and Clean Tech Lab, three courses that allow students to work with local entrepreneurs, social entrepreneurs, and leading clean tech firms to help them grow their businesses; and Building the New Venture, an award-winning course that simulates the first year in the life of a start-up.
PRIVATE EQUITY & VENTURE CAPITAL TRAINING

Venture Capital Investment Competition A day-long event that lets students role play as VCs and network with local investors and entrepreneurs. student.chicagobooth.edu/group/evc/vcic

Sterling Partners Investment Thesis Challenge Mentors at PE firms advise student teams as they develop original investment theses. polskycenter.com/spitc

Private Equity and Venture Capital Lab Students intern at Chicago-area PE and VC firms while earning credit through an academic course. polskycenter.com/pelab

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

SeedCon An annual conference hosted by the Polsky Center and the Chicago Booth Entrepreneurship & Venture Capital student group featuring keynotes and panel discussions, interactive workshops and networking events, and a fast-pitch competition. seedcon.com

The Beecken Petty O'Keefe & Company Private Equity Conference An annual conference hosted by Polsky Center and the Chicago Booth Private Equity Group that brings together students, alumni, and private equity professionals to network and share industry insights. student.chicagobooth.edu/group/pe/conference

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The Polsky Center grants fellowships and awards to students pursuing entrepreneurship, including: The Herman Family Fellowship for Women in Entrepreneurship, given by Michael, ’64, and Karen Herman to incoming female students dedicated to pursuing entrepreneurship; the Vashee Promising Entrepreneur Award, granted by Vijay, ’77, and Sita Vashee to students who have shown leadership in entrepreneurship; and the Moulder Student Entrepreneur Award, given by Lonnie Moulder, ’97, to students who have successfully launched and grown companies while pursuing the MBA. The Polsky Center also awards financial prizes through the New Venture Challenge and Accelerator Program, as well as internship subsidies through the Entrepreneurial Internship Program.

PARTNERSHIPS IN CHICAGO & THE MIDWEST

Hyde Park Angels and Hyde Park Venture Partners An angel network and fund founded by Chicago Booth alumni for investment in early-stage businesses in the Midwest. Chicago Booth students are hired each year as associates. hydeparkangels.com

Midwest Energy Forum An annual conference that unites researchers, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and others within the energy industry. midwestenergyforum.com

Community Organizations & Events The Polsky Center partners with many entrepreneurship organizations in the Chicago area, including the Chicagoland Entrepreneurial Center, which helps local, high-growth, digital start-ups. 1871, a collaborative workspace downtown where the Polsky Center keeps an office; Excelerate Labs, a summer start-up accelerator program; Built in Chicago, an online community of entrepreneurs and digital innovators; Chicago Ideas Week, an event dedicated to igniting change to positively impact the world; and TechWeek, a series of exhibitions, events, and workshops to showcase new technologies.

GLOBAL ALUMNI INITIATIVES

Global Launchpad A travelling, four-day seminar on entrepreneurship for globally-based UChicago alumni. polskycenter.com/globallaunchpad

Chicago Private Equity Network & Entrepreneurial Advisory Groups Various regional alumni and advisory groups host events to connect UChicago alumni working on start-ups and in private equity. chicagopen.com

Industry & Academia Dinner Series The Polsky Center partners with Career Services to host dinners for alumni working in private equity. Dinners feature keynotes from distinguished UChicago faculty.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Polsky Center programs, visit: chicagobooth.edu/entrepreneurship For a calendar of events and the Polsky Center blog, visit: entrepreneurship.uchicago.edu Email us: polskycenter@chicagobooth.edu