HANDS-ON INDUSTRY TRAINING

At the University of Chicago, students interested in pursuing careers in private equity and venture capital have access to a unique blend of coursework, experiential learning, and world-class alumni.

INTERNSHIPS & EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

The Polsky Center offers a range of innovative private equity programs designed to supplement courses, giving students hands-on industry experience.

Elfman-Wareham Private Equity & Venture Capital Lab The Private Equity & Venture Capital Lab, sponsored by Rick M. Elfman, '83, and Terri Wareham, '82, was created for Chicago Booth students to learn firsthand about the private equity, venture capital, and angel industries. Through the combination of an intensive internship at a Chicago-area private equity or venture capital firm and an academic course, students become active participants in the analysis of real-world investment decisions made by seasoned investors and learn to apply their academic frameworks to their internships. [polskycenter.com/pelab]

Venture Capital Investment Competition (VCIC) The VCIC is a day-long competition that lets students play the role of venture capitalists. Student teams evaluate promising start-ups and present their investment decisions to a panel of alumni investors. The winning team advances to a regional—and in some cases international—VCIC competition. Between 2005 and 2011, Chicago Booth teams won the regional competition five times. The 2012 team, pictured above, won the Entrepreneurs' Choice Award at the regional competition. [student.chicagobooth.edu/group/evc/vcic]

Hyde Park Angels and Hyde Park Venture Partners Founded by Chicago Booth alumni, Hyde Park Angels is an active network that provides a forum for its more than 100 members to invest in seed- and early-stage businesses located in the Midwest. Hyde Park Angels also offers the opportunity for UC Chicago students to intern as associates or junior associates and gain valuable investing experience by screening potential deals and coaching entrepreneurs. [hydeparkangels.com]

Sterling Partners Investment Thesis Challenge The Polsky Center expanded its private equity programming in 2012 with the Sterling Partners Investment Thesis Challenge (SPITC). Through SPITC, student teams work with mentors at private equity firms to develop an investment thesis based on original research and recommend an execution strategy. The program spans four months, during which student teams prepare and submit thesis proposals. If selected, teams receive resources and mentorship to develop their thesis and ultimately present their work to the hosting private equity firm. This challenge, the first of its kind among national MBA programs, provides students with unique insight into the conception and development of an original investment thesis. [polskycenter.com/spitc]

ACADEMIC FRAMEWORKS

Students select from 27 courses in entrepreneurship, private equity, and other related topics taught by more than 20 faculty members, including Entrepreneurial Finance & Private Equity, which explores private equity from both the entrepreneurs' and investors' perspectives, and Commercializing Innovation, through which students learn how to effectively evaluate and communicate the fundamentals of novel business opportunities. Students may also earn credit for their internships through the Private Equity & Venture Capital Lab and the Sterling Partners Investment Thesis Challenge.
THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The Beecken Petty O’Keefe & Company Private Equity Conference An annual conference co-hosted by the Polsky Center and the Private Equity student group that brings together students, alumni, and private equity practitioners to network and share industry insights. Highlights of the 2012 conference included keynote addresses by Glenn Hutchins, co-founder and co-chief executive of Silver Lake, and Jeff Burgis, partner at Adams Street Partners. chicagobooth.edu/group/pe/conference

SeedCon An annual conference hosted by the Polsky Center and the Entrepreneurship & Venture Capital student group featuring keynotes and panel discussions, interactive workshops and networking events, and a fast-pitch competition. SeedCon features keynote addresses from renowned venture capital investors, including Brad Burnham, managing partner at Union Square Ventures (2011), and Mark Suster, partner at GRP Partners (2012). seedcon.com

STUDENT GROUPS

Private Equity Group The Private Equity Group is one of the largest and most active full-time student groups at Chicago Booth. Its members have access to career development opportunities, conferences and events with industry-leading speakers, and additional resources. chicagobooth.edu/group/pe

Booth Entrepreneurship Through Acquisition (BETA) The BETA group educates students and alumni about the entrepreneurship through acquisition process through an array of programs and events, including topical discussions with industry experts and opportunities to source and evaluate live investment targets. chicagobooth.edu/programs/full-time/student-experience/beyond-classroom/groups/beta.aspx

Private Equity, Entrepreneurial Ventures, and Venture Capital Club (PEVC) The PEVC Club, open to part-time students at Chicago Booth, enhances the understanding of the private equity industry and the process of setting up one’s own company. The group hosts year-round social events, presentations, and panel discussions featuring speakers from a wide range of industries. chicagobooth.edu/parttime/groups/pevc/

ALUMNI INITIATIVES

Chicago Private Equity Network (CPEN) An organization dedicated to connecting and serving UChicago alumni investing principal in private equity and venture capital. CPEN increases the awareness of UChicago graduates in private equity and facilitates information sharing among alumni, students, faculty members, and industry professionals. CPEN has chapters in Chicago and New York City and over 300 members around the world. chicagopen.com

Industry & Academia Dinner Series The Polsky Center partners with Career Services to host intimate dinners for alumni and other senior professionals working in private equity. Dinners are held in various locations around the US and feature keynotes from distinguished UChicago faculty. Past dinners have showcased research from Chicago Booth professors Luigi Zingales, who has done extensive work on the future of securities regulation, and Steven Kaplan, whose work focuses on emerging trends in the private equity and venture capital industries.

Private Equity Alumni Reception Chicago Booth alumni working in private equity and select members of the Private Equity student group gather annually the evening before the Beecken Petty O’Keefe & Company Private Equity Conference for cocktails and networking.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES & AWARDS

The Polsky Center grants transportation reimbursements and other support to students participating in the Private Equity & Venture Capital Lab, SPITC, and the VCIC. In addition, student winners of the VCIC and SPITC are eligible for prize money.

Canfield Private Equity Fellowship Program A fellowship given by Phil Canfield, ’96, principal at GTCR, which grants two incoming students each year financial assistance towards graduate study and internships at private equity firms in Chicago.

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