

Overview

Every career, regardless of industry, can be an entrepreneurial career if you have the right mindset. There are plenty of entrepreneurial opportunities at big and small corporations, non-profit organizations, government entities and, of course, at startup companies. The most important thing for entrepreneurs to have is a passion for the problem they are solving. Entrepreneurs have to be comfortable with a degree of risk. They are self-starters who are open to feedback. Successful entrepreneurs usually have a strong support system, whether it be co-founders, family, friends or advisors.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Get started with these resources and stay up-to-date on entrepreneurship events and internships!

- **Explore Metcalf opportunities in Handshake** to find paid, substantive internships around the world.
- **Sign up for Career Advancement's Entrepreneurship newsletter** to get regular updates on events and opportunities.
- **To subscribe to Career Advancement's events calendar**, copy this calendar feed URL and add to any calendar application. Contact Career Advancement with any questions.

TRY IT OUT

Short-term experiences are a great way to try out a career path, start building your resume, and meet mentors - no prior experience needed!

- **Job shadow** with an alum working in venture capital, at a startup, or an incubator or accelerator. The deadline to apply for Winter Break Job Shadowing is Nov. 10 and the deadline for Spring Break Job Shadowing is Feb. 17.
- **Apply for an entrepreneurship career trek** to meet employers and build your network. Upcoming treks include San Francisco, Berlin & Frankfurt, and Shanghai & Beijing. The application deadline for Spring Break Treks is Jan. 20
- **Join an entrepreneurship competition**:
 - Rural Innovation Challenge: applications closed for this year.
 - **College Venture Capital Investment Competition**: apply by December 5.
 - **College New Venture Challenge** (CNVC): apply by November 6.

BUILD YOUR SKILLS

Whether you're a beginner or already have some entrepreneurial experience, UChicago offers many resources to help you build your technical skills and stand out in the job market.

- **Get involved with research** to build your subject matter expertise. Work with a faculty member specializing in economics, computer science, biological sciences, molecular engineering or your field of interest!
- **Learn business skills** with UChicago courses or free resources like LinkedIn Learning.
- **Learn technical skills** with UChicago courses or supplemental training through **Udemy**. UChicago students can access customized learning pathways and learn new skills on-demand.
- **Take classes** UChicago's Entrepreneurship and Innovation minor combines the College's liberal arts Core with the skills of starting and running a business. Students can take courses in building a new venture, finance, marketing, management, competitive strategy, and more! Students also benefit from resources, hands-on experiences, and networking connections offered by the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.
- **Connect** with the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation team, take advantage of their entrepreneurial essentials series, accelerators, or mentorship program.

GET EXPERIENCE

Get hands-on experience by interning with UChicago employer partners:

- Apply for the Startup Internship Program to gain experience working in the innovation ecosystem. Offered in each academic quarter, applications for Winter Quarter internships open August 25.
- Academic Year Startup Internship programs: work with accelerators such as Techstars, and startups such as Network Tree, Rayni, FoodFight, GridLink, Ballot Ready, and Recreash. Polsky Center Southside Business Development Internships provide allow students to gain valuable
- Join a team in one of the graduate-level New Venture Challenge tracks to build skills. Applications will open in the winter.

FIND OPPORTUNITIES

There are many strategies to find jobs and internships, including applying for posted positions and creating your own opportunity through networking. These resources can help you find opportunities and networking contacts.

- **Attend employer information sessions** to network with recruiters.
- **Get personalized support** from Careers in Entrepreneurship advisers such as Derek Scalf.
 - Derek is a banking executive who provided \$1 billion+ in financing and advising to investors and entrepreneurs.
- **Use the UChicago Alumni Directory** and other tools like LinkedIn to reach out to alumni at your target employers.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

EVENTS

Fall Quarter

- Sept. 23 | Polsky Center Open House: First Year Students
- Sept. 29 | Fall Career Fair
- Sept. 30 | UChicago Grad Programs Fair featuring 4+1 Advanced Scholars Programs
- Oct. 1 | Polsky Center Open House: College Students
- Oct. 2 | CNVC Kickoff
- Oct. 3 | Rural Innovation Challenge Kick Off
- Oct. 10 | Rural Innovation Challenge Finals
- Oct. 17-19 | Year of Games Fall Symposium
- Oct. 23 | CNVC Application Workshop & Quick Pitch Event
- Oct. 23 | Venture Capital 101 Information Session
- Oct. 25 | Polsky Center Collaboratorium
- Nov. 1 | College Venture Capital Investment Competition (CVCIC)
- Nov. 6 | Founders and Funders Fireside Chat
- Nov. 13 | Basics of Startup Finance Workshop
- Dec. 15-19 | Winter Break Treks to Berlin and Frankfurt, Germany, Beijing & Shanghai, China; Los Angeles, CA; San Francisco, CA; and more!
- Dec. 15-19 | Winter Break Job Shadowing

Winter Quarter

- Jan. 8 | [Dine and Define Your Summer Plans](#)
- Jan. 15 | STEM Recruiting Night
- Jan. 16 | Building a Startup Workshop
- Jan. 16-19 | UChicago Game Design Game Jam
- Feb. 10 | Essential Elements to a Successful Pitch Deck
- Mar. 16-20 | Spring Break Trek to San Francisco, CA
- Mar. 16-20 | Spring Break Job Shadowing

Spring Quarter

- Mar. 28-29 | Uncommon Hacks Hackathon
- Apr. 9 | Evaluating an Investment Memo Workshop
- Apr. 28 | Internship Best Practices Workshop
- Apr. 30 | Final Startup Investment Competition
- May 10 | 100 Day Startup Competition Finals

APPLICATIONS

Fall Quarter

- Aug. 14 | Fall Quarter Startup Internship Program Applications Open
- Aug. 28 | [Rural Innovation Challenge Registration Open](#)
- Sept. 5 | Fall Quarter Startup Internship Program Deadline
- Sept. 25 | Rural Innovation Challenge Registration Deadline
- Sept. 29 | Winter Break Trek Applications Open
- Oct. 2 | [CNVC Application Opens](#)
- Oct. 13 | Winter Break Trek Application Deadline
- Oct. 16 | Winter Quarter Polsky Southside Business Development Internships Applications Open
- Mid-October | College New Venture Challenge (CNVC) Applications Open
- Oct. 24 | Deadline to Register for CVCIC
- Nov. 3 | Winter Quarter Polsky Southside Business Development Internships Application Deadline
- Nov. 3 | Fall Deadline: 4+1 Programs
- Nov. 6 | CNVC Application Closes (3 PM)
- Nov. 10 | Winter Break Job Shadowing Application Deadline
- Nov. 17 | Winter Quarter Startup Internship Program Deadline
- Nov. | Winter Tech Showcase
- Mid-Nov. | CNVC Application Deadline
- Dec. 1 | Winter Quarter Startup Internship Program Deadline

Winter Quarter

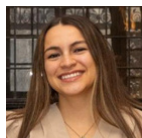
- Jan. 5 | Spring Break Treks Applications Open
- Jan. 12 | Apply to UChicago Game Jam Developers Challenge
- Jan. 12 | Winter Deadline: 4+1 Program
- Jan. 20 | Spring Break Treks Applications Deadline
- Jan. 25 | Digital Assets Trading Competition Deadline
- Jan. 26 | Spring Quarter Startup Internship Program Applications Open
- Feb. 2 | Spring Quarter Polsky Southside Business Development Internships Application Deadline
- Feb. 9 | Spring Quarter Startup Internship Program Deadline
- Feb. 16 | Apply to work with Polsky NVC, SNVC, or GNVC team
- Feb. 17 | Spring Break Job Shadowing

Spring Quarter

- Apr. 1 | Applications open for Polsky Center Summer Accelerators
- Apr. 13 | Spring Deadline: 4+1 Program
- Apr. 15 | Selective Career Cohorts
- May 17 | Summer Tech Showcase

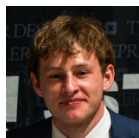
OAKNORTH YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS PROGRAM

UChicago's [OakNorth](#) program is a one-year immersive program sponsored by Rishi Khosla and focused on fostering the next generation of entrepreneurs. The program is built on three elements: entrepreneurship fundamentals, mentorship, and practice application. First-year students are paired with a mentor in the industry, and in turn, they mentor a high school student interested in the space. In parallel, students receive programming to ground them in the foundations of entrepreneurship while participating in a year-long startup development project, culminating in a pitch competition.



Catalina Castañeda, AB'24

- International Leadership Council, Women in Business
- CNVC 2nd Place Winner, bellie
- Post Graduation: Co-Founder, bellie



Truman Pierson, AB'24

- Delta Sigma Pi, Baseball
- Polsky Center Launch Accelerator, 2024
- Post Graduation: Founder, Theta Neurotech