Expert Advising and Support

Industry experts provide students with one-on-one advising to help them explore their career goals, develop a plan how to reach them, and have a consistent source of mentorship and feedback along the way.

Internships: Applying Creativity and Gaining Experience

UChicago’s Jeff Metcalf Internship Program provides 3,000+ paid, substantive internships across many different career fields. Previous Metcalf students have completed internships with a highly diverse set of arts, entertainment, journalism, and cultural organizations, including:

- A24 Films
- ABC
- American Writers Museum
- Disney
- Encyclopedia Britannica
- New York Philharmonic
- New York Times
- Second City
- Simon and Schuster
- University of Chicago Press

Grants to Design Your Own Career Experience

In addition to paid internships through the Metcalf Program, the Careers in Arts, Culture, and Entertainment and Careers in Journalism and Creative Writing programs offer grants to fund hands-on professional experiences with mentors who will help students build their creative skills.

Previous recipients have used their grants to work at organizations such as Warner Brothers Records, LA Review of Books, the Guggenheim Museum, as well as pursue opportunities to collaborate with filmmakers, composers, graphic novelists and others.

Producing Creative Leaders

UChicago students have gone on to successful careers at a wide variety of leading publications, arts organizations, and media outlets, including:

- “Careers in Journalism and Creative Writing was a supportive resource for me at UChicago. From the career trek to New York to the Studs Terkel Fest where I briefly met Ira Glass, its programming helped expose me to rich possibilities in media and journalism via amazing alums and Chicagoans doing work in exciting ways. It was through a UChicago event that I originally met and co-moderated a career talk with one of my heroes. Now I’m proud to say I work with her full time and returned to lead my own talk!”

- Summer Fields
  Engagement Manager and Growth Lead
  Hearken Media
Learn Your Craft, Share Your Voice

Arts, Culture, and Entertainment

Careers in Arts, Culture, and Entertainment hosts a variety of skill-building workshops throughout the year. Programs include panel discussions, lecture-demonstrations, and hands-on workshops with professionals in the fields of music, filmmaking, fine arts, arts entrepreneurship, and beyond.

Panelists include practicing artists, arts administrators, critics, curators, art historians, and entrepreneurs. Recent guests have included President and COO of FX Networks, Chuck Saftler, jazz drummer Matt Wilson, artist Simone Leigh, and many more.

Journalism and Creative Writing

Careers in Journalism and Creative Writing provides a wide range of resources to help students navigate these rapidly evolving fields, gain hands-on experience, build a portfolio of clips and writing samples, and connect with experienced journalists and authors.

The program hosts a variety of professional development events throughout the year to train students in foundational skills and connect them with writing professionals such as reporters, critics, published authors, and freelancers. Recent guests have included journalist Sarah Koenig of “Serial,” author Samuel G. Freedman, and poet and journalist Ted Genoways.

Career Treks

Career treks give students an opportunity to meet potential employers in cities throughout the U.S. and around the world. Career Advancement treks connect students with employers in major arts, culture, and media hubs, including Chicago, London, Los Angeles, and New York.

On recent treks, students have networked with leading organizations including the BBC, Bloomberg, FX, Industrial Toys Gaming, Ogilvy, Paramount Pictures, Showtime, and Vice.

Careers in Arts, Culture, and Entertainment treks and internships helped expose me to the wide variety of tasks I’ve faced in music graduate school. Careers in music can involve all sorts of unusual jobs and skillsets, but through the program I was able to get a good sense of what it takes to put on performances and help run an ensemble, as well as the numerous paths I might take afterwards.”

Noah Kahrs
Ph.D Student, Music Theory
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