What do students gain from participating in TCM and SMIF?

Students completing 2 or more sessions of Finance 341 SMIF or participating in the TCM student investment program gain confidence and knowledge that distinguishes them from other candidates when applying to investment jobs after graduation. Graduates regularly tell faculty and administrators that the TCM and SMIF programs are life-changing, opening the students to careers they previously thought impossible to access. Students also build friendships that last well after graduation, enabling them to help each other progress through their careers as they gain more experience in the workplace.

Specific learning objectives include:
- Recognize the risk and return characteristics of stocks and bonds
- Evaluate economic, political, market conditions to decide when/where taking risk is acceptable or when caution is prudent
- Communicate clear, concise, and reasonable analysis with a logical narrative and supporting evidence
- Recognize the diverse skillset available across team members and optimize each member’s contribution to the team’s success

How does TCM differ from SMIF?

TCM is a 12-month practicum accepting students by application only. TCM students manage one of three portfolios for the CSUF Philanthropic Foundation valued at over $3.5 million. To prepare students for this responsibility, they must attend 2 or 3 full-day ‘boot camps’ during the summer. In addition to the boot camps, students complete several self-study projects and attend optional half-day workshops to build skills needed to be successful investors.

Finance 341 Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) is a 1-unit course open to all students who have completed their lower-division general education requirements. This course provides students with a broad foundation in stock and bond investment practices. Students may repeat the course up to 3 times, selecting more challenging assignments each time as their investment knowledge increases. SMIF students have the opportunity to compete against local universities to invest funds for the Chartered Financial Analyst Society Orange County (CFAOC). CSUF SMIF has won the right to invest funds for the CFAOC each year since 2016.

How do I prepare to join TCM?

Complete the suggested courses outlined in the Titan Capital Management ‘Brochure’ online.
- Actively participate in Fin 341 Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) at least 1 semester prior to applying to TCM.
- Build a solid foundation in accounting, statistics, economics, and finance concepts.
- Practice business writing skills! Learn to be complete yet concise, use professional grammar and spelling, and base conclusions on reason and persuasive evidence.
- Develop a professional relationship with one or more faculty who would be willing to recommend you to the TCM program.

Is it possible for students to participate in TCM and still have jobs or internships off-campus?

Yes! Though TCM is a rigorous program, many past students have held part-time jobs or internships during the program. If you plan ahead for assignment due dates and extra-curricular activities, you should be successful at TCM and at an internship or job.

How successful have the students been with the investment portfolios?

SMIF students receive a new portfolio each January so long-term success is difficult to track. TCM students have a strong history of success investing both stock and bond portfolios since the first graduating class in 2013.