FAQs

HOW WOULD JOINING COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE BENEFIT ME?
As a college undergraduate, you’ll gain the skills to focus your interests and craft your career path. What’s the best way to launch your career? Is graduate education an option? How do you find internships? Is my resume the best it can be? We give you the tools to answer these questions, while introducing you to a valuable network of corporate partners and Consortium alumni who can help you succeed. Plus, corporate partners seeking to fill internships will interview students.

HOW DOES IT WORK?
You’ll start with a 2.5 day program of workshops, simulation events, team-building exercises and networking. Students will have the opportunity to interview with corporate partners seeking to fill positions. From there, you carry those skills back to school, working with career advisors, and tap into the Competitive Advantage network whenever you need to.

HOW DO I APPLY?
Submit your application at https://form.jotform.com/81266396163159 (mobile friendly). Upon acceptance, unofficial transcript and resume must be submitted within 45 days. The deadline is 11:59 p.m. CST, June 30, 2018.

WHEN WILL I FIND OUT IF I WAS ACCEPTED?
We’ll notify you by July 3, 2018.

WILL I BE INTERVIEWED AS PART OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS?
Interviews will not be required.

DO I NEED TO BE A BUSINESS MAJOR?
No. Competitive Advantage is open to any college undergraduate on any career path.

WHY THIS PROGRAM VERSUS OTHERS?
We have a longstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion and an admirable track record for fulfilling our mission. Our deep connections with our member universities and to our corporate partners also set us apart. Our program is fully funded through corporate sponsorships; reducing the financial burden for students.

WHY DOES COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE EXIST?
We’re here to drive college and career success among members of historically underrepresented minority groups - African Americans, Hispanic Americans and Native Americans. The Competitive Advantage is a product of The Consortium for Graduate Study in Management, which has worked for more than a half-century to increase diversity in business education and corporate leadership.

SO, WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
To join Competitive Advantage, you must be a college sophomore, junior or senior in good academic standing who is part of a historically underrepresented minority group, a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, and can demonstrate leadership in your extracurricular activities and community involvement.

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM COST?
Students selected to attend the conference will be responsible for roundtrip transportation to the event. All other expenses (e.g. lodging, meals and social/material fees) will be covered through corporate sponsorships.
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WHERE AND WHEN IS THE CONFERENCE?
Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center, Oak Brook, IL.
Arrive noon Friday, Sept. 7, 2018.
Depart Sunday afternoon, Sept. 9

WHAT’S THE CONFERENCE GOING TO BE LIKE?
You’ll need to arrive at the hotel by 11 a.m. on Friday. After a busy afternoon of networking, Saturday will also be packed with activities. We finish after lunch on Sunday when you’ll depart for home. You’ll have one-on-one time with corporate partners, a mini-career fair, career and graduate school exploration exercises, time to get up and move - and a variety of activities targeted specifically to your year in school.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?
Visit our website for more details at gainyouradvantage.org.
Learn more about our parent organization, The Consortium for Graduate Study in Management, at cgsm.org

IF I’M CHOSEN, WHERE DO I STAY? WHAT DO I WEAR? WHAT ABOUT MEALS?
You’ll be paired with another Competitive Advantage scholar and you’ll room together at the conference hotel. The dress code for the conference is casual, but bring a business casual outfit, too. You’ll eat well! We’ll provide lunch and dinner the first day, three meals on the second day and breakfast and lunch before you leave the third day. Have special dietary needs? We’ll make sure you’re covered.

YOU MENTIONED CORPORATE PARTNERS. WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
Support for Competitive Advantage comes from a number of top U.S. companies, including 3M, General Mills, Campbell Soup Company, Discover, Zio Biomet, and Google to name a few. These companies support diversity and recognize the importance of an inclusive workforce that represents the customers they serve. They provide funding so they can have a chance to meet you and provide tools for your success.

YOU ALSO TALKED ABOUT UNIVERSITIES. WHICH SCHOOLS ARE INVOLVED?
If you apply now, you may be part of the inaugural class of Competitive Advantage, featuring students from: University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Los Angeles, Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Emory University, Georgetown University, New York University, Rice University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Rochester, University of Southern California, The University of Texas at Austin, University of Virginia, and Yale University

CAN A FACULTY MEMBER OR CAMPUS ADMINISTRATOR NOMINATE ME?
Yes! Have them visit our website at gainyouradvantage.org and look for the “Refer a Prospect” link in the main menu. They can submit your information there.

CAN I RECOMMEND SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE A GOOD CANDIDATE?
Sure! You can use the same referral link we mentioned above.

CAN I PARTICIPATE IN COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE IF I AM UNSURE ABOUT MY CAREER INTERESTS OR HAVE A JOB PROSPECT?
Yes. We know students often have many decisions to make, so we want to help you explore the many possibilities.