
USC Marshall Student Investment Fund (SIF)

**Information Session
September 29, 2020**

SIF 2021, Professor Scott Abrams, & CIS Director Suh-Pyng Ku

Student Investment Fund Snapshot

1986

15-MONTH LONG
COURSE ESTABLISHED

5

FUNDS

\$9.0M

AUM

8

CIS BOARD MEMBERS

445 SIF ALUMNI



17 MBA

PORTFOLIO MANAGERS



INCLUDES LECTURES,
GUEST SPEAKERS, SITE
VISITS AND STOCK/BOND
PITCHES



SF & NY
SIF TREKS

What is the Student Investment Fund?

An experiential learning program consisting of two 3-unit electives over a 15-month period, in which students learn the theory and practice of financial analysis and portfolio management. Today, 17 Marshall MBA student managers are responsible for the management of \$9.0 million of USC endowment funds.

Fund	Style	Benchmark	AUM** (\$MM)
Trojan Equity Fund	Large Cap Value	Russell 1000 Value	\$2.40
Provident Growth Fund	Mid Cap Growth	Russell Mid Cap Growth	\$2.50
Babcock California Fund	Small Cap, 50% in CA	Russell 2000	\$1.43
Global Equity Fund	Global All Cap	MSCI ACWI	\$1.67
Marshall Fixed Income Fund	U.S. Fixed Income	Blended Barclays Index*	\$1.01

*The blended benchmark is 80% Barclays US Intermediate Credit Index & 20% Barclays US High-Yield Bond Index.

**As of September 18, 2020, the total SIF AUM is \$9.0 million.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible, all student applicants must:

- Currently be enrolled in either the USC Marshall MBA or the USC Marshall MBA.PM Program
- Be in good academic standing with a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA at the time of application
- Plan to graduate in May 2022
- Have successfully completed GSBA 548
- Have successfully completed FBE 529 (and/or FBE 555)

What are we looking for?

Candidates must demonstrate the following qualities:

- Serious interest and commitment in the areas of asset management, investment banking, financial consulting, and/or corporate finance
- High level of intellectual curiosity
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Outstanding leadership and teamwork skills
- Highly professional
- Diverse class of managers

What is the Application/Admission Process?

1. Submit application by 5pm on Thursday, January 14, 2021
 - A copy of your resume.
 - A 2-page personal statement (750-word maximum). In Page 1, explain why you are interested in the SIF and how working as a SIF manager would contribute to your career objectives. In Page 2, explain your unique skill sets and how you can contribute to the SIF program.
2. First Round Interviews on Friday, January 22, 2021 (conducted by SIF 2021 members)
 - Present a 5-minute “pitch” of a stock or bond idea
3. Second Round Interviews during the weeks of January 29 and February 5, 2021 with the SIF Instructor
4. Class of SIF 2022 will be announced in February 2021

What can you do to prepare for the SIF application?

1. Demonstrated interest
2. Take calculated risks and start building your portfolio
 - a. Academic
 - Do well in accounting, economics, data science and finance (GSBA 548)
 - Do well in FBE 529 and FBE 555
 - b. Follow the markets
 - Write research reports (or investor memos)
 - Build a stock portfolio (paper or real money)
 - Read a few books
 - c. Network
 - Do informational interviews
 - Participate in MFA activities (e.g. stock pitches)
 - Meet with your classmates and the class of SIF 2021

What are the Prerequisites?

Required:

- FBE 529 – Financial Analysis and Valuation
- FBE 555 – Investment Analysis and Portfolio Management (*co-requisite*)

Suggested:

- FBE 535 – Applied Finance in Fixed Income Securities (Required for SIF Fixed Income Fund)
- FBE 558 – Law of Corporate Finance and Management
- FBE 559 – Management of Financial Risk
- FBE 560 – Mergers & Acquisitions
- ACCT 572 – Corporate Accounting and Reporting
- ACCT 581 – Financial Statement Analysis
- BUCO 503 – Advanced Managerial Communication

Questions?

www.marshall.usc.edu/faculty-research/centers-excellence/center-investment-studies

Contact:

investment@marshall.usc.edu

Funds & Managers

Babcock California Fund

- [Nathan Dixon](#)
- [Lee Hamburger](#)
- [Jeff Wang](#)
- [Yunpeng Zhang](#)

Global Equity Fund

- [Manya Agarwal](#)
- [Raman Anurag](#)
- [Peggy Quon](#)
- [Alberto Tugnoli](#)

Marshall Fixed Income Fund

- [Jeff Denault](#)
- [Jessica Lin](#)
- [Robert Pinsent](#)

Provident Growth Fund

- [Aaron Abel](#)
- [Nicholas Gantchev](#)
- [Michael Ibe](#)

Trojan Equity Fund

- [Nicholas Bassi](#)
- [Michael Chen](#)
- [Alex Ouligian](#)

**Click fund names to learn about the investment philosophies; click fund managers to see their biographies*