Frequently Asked Questions About The Stanford Executive Program

Application & Admissions

Q. Is an application required?
A. Yes. Everyone must submit an application; however, submitting an application does not constitute acceptance.

Q. How does the admission process work?
A. All applications must be submitted online through the Stanford Executive Program website. An admissions committee carefully reviews applications to determine whether a candidate is accepted into the program.

Q. When will I hear back from admissions?
A. Receipt of your application will be confirmed via email. Application deadlines and corresponding admission notification dates are outlined below.

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<th>Application Round</th>
<th>Submit By</th>
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<td>November 30, 2015</td>
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Q. Are there any specific educational or professional requirements?
A. No. We welcome participants with a wide range of educational backgrounds and professional experiences.

Q. Should I apply if I already have an MBA?
A. Yes. Many SEP participants have received their MBAs from other universities and even Stanford Graduate School of Business. The rigorous, highly focused nature of the program and the collaboration with a diverse, highly qualified, and experienced group of professionals make the SEP experience very different than a traditional MBA education. The program is especially valuable for those who received their MBA five or more years ago.

Q. Is the GMAT or other exam required?
A. No. We do not require submission of graduate test scores to apply or qualify for SEP. We do require fluency in English.

Q. Do I need to be fluent in English?
A. Yes. Participants need to be able to both understand and speak English at a level that allows them to participate fully in the fast pace of the program. Participants should be able to read large volumes of work in English; understand and participate in lectures and class discussions; and engage in study group discussions.
Q. Do I have to submit payment for the program with my application?
A. No. Please do not send payment with your application. Full program tuition payment, however, is required upon notification of admission.

Q. What does tuition include?
A. SEP tuition includes private accommodations with regular housekeeping service in the executive residences at the Schwab Residential Center; all meals; course materials; transportation to official off-campus program events; an Apple iPad; access to program guest services; entrance to the recreational and fitness facilities throughout Stanford; evening yoga and meditation; access to health care services through Stanford Healthcare Alliance; and early-morning fitness instruction during the program.

You have the option to purchase the executive coaching package that includes a 360-degree feedback session and self-assessment, followed by the development of a personal 100-day leadership action plan based on your specific business objectives.

What's not included: Airport transportation, airport transfers, and any non-program specific social or recreational activities.

Q. When is tuition due?
A. Full tuition payment is due upon admission to the program.

Q. Do you offer admission deferrals?
A. Yes, we will allow deferment of admission once to the same program for the following year. Please notify us as soon as possible if you wish to defer. We will issue an updated invoice reflecting any tuition increase from the previous year. Payments made prior to the deferment will be applied toward your new balance. Deferrals for the 2016 program are not permitted after May 19, 2016.

Q. What is your cancellation policy?
A. The following cancellation policy has been established for SEP 2016:
– For cancellations made on or before May 6, 2016, 100% of paid tuition will be refunded.
– For cancellations made between May 7 and May 20, 2016, 50% of paid tuition will be refunded.
– Cancellations made on, or after, May 21, 2016 are subject to a full tuition charge and no refund will be issued.

Q. Do I need a visa to attend?
A. Possibly, it depends upon the country from which you are traveling. Generally speaking, the 1/B2 visa (for participation in scientific, educational, professional, or business conventions, conferences, or seminars) is the appropriate visa for entry into the United States. When applying for a visa, you should include your SEP program admission letter with the visa application. It is important to state on any visa application that you will be traveling on business and NOT as a student. It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify the visa requirements for his or her specific situation. Stanford does not provide assistance regarding the visa application process.

Q. Does SEP accommodate multiple participants from the same organization?
A. Yes. We have several organizations that send multiple participants each year. We welcome this ongoing organizational commitment and recognize the wider impact that multiple participants have on an organization after the program concludes. SEP staff will be happy to work with your organization to help determine how best to structure your organization’s participation.
Program Details

Q. Are tests administered or grades given?
A. No. SEP is a certificate program and as such there are no tests or grades.

Q. Does participation in the program provide a degree or credit toward a degree?
A. No. Upon completion of SEP you will receive a certificate of completion signed by the program's faculty director and the dean of Stanford Graduate School of Business (GSB). Your completion earns you Stanford GSB alumni status and a lifetime membership in the GSB Alumni Association with access to exclusive learning and networking benefits, career services, and special events.

In the past, SEP participants have been awarded continuing professional education (CPE) credits in specific fields. Please ask the program staff for details.

Q. Is there anything I need to do before the program starts?
A. Yes. You will receive materials electronically prior to the start of the program and will be responsible for completing all readings and/or assignments.

Q. What is the typical program workload during the week?
A. In preparation for class each day you are expected to keep up with readings assigned by each professor. Readings can be articles, book chapters, case studies, or papers. There is occasional group presentation preparation and other group collaboration that is expected to take place outside of class time in daily discussion groups.

Lodging, Food, & Fitness

Q. What are the executive residences at the Schwab Residential Center like?
A. The Schwab Residential Center epitomizes the California lifestyle, with many indoor and outdoor common areas for relaxing and socializing, as well as a dedicated fitness center. Each private room accommodates a single participant and comes with:
  – Private bath
  – Shared kitchenette
  – Bed linens and bath towels
  – Daily housekeeping service
  – Onsite laundry facilities
  – Dry cleaning, including drop off and pick up, for an additional charge
  – Free wireless access
  – Complimentary access to fitness and recreation facilities
  – Front desk staff available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week
  – Guest services staff available daily

Q. Where is the Schwab Residential Center located?
A. Directly across from the Knight Management Center where the classrooms are located. This makes it easy for you to take advantage of study groups, work sessions, and networking opportunities. On-campus and nearby cafes, restaurants, and workout facilities help provide a stress-free, commute-free learning experience.

Q. Do I need to live on campus during the program?
A. While not mandatory, it is a key part of the SEP experience. Single occupancy accommodations are included in the cost of the program. Please ask us about our family accommodations.
Q. Do you offer on-campus accommodations for families?
A. Yes, on a limited basis. For participants who would like family accommodations for the entire six weeks, we offer apartment style housing next to the Stanford campus. Please contact us for additional information on our family-friendly housing.

Q. What are the meals like?
A. In a word, extraordinary! The meals and snacks served to SEP participants have earned the Financial Times Executive Dining Award eight years running. Delicious, nutritious, locally-sourced food options are available at every meal, carefully planned and prepared by our award-winning executive chef, Raul Lacara.

Q. Can my dietary restrictions be accommodated?
A. Absolutely. The Schwab Residential Center’s dining staff works closely with participants who have special dining requests and food restrictions. Vegetarian options are offered at all meals. Please discuss your dietary concerns with SEP staff and they will work with you to identify suitable options.

Q. Will I have time to exercise?
A. Yes! SEP is about exercising your mind and your body. Early morning exercise classes are offered each weekday, and yoga classes are offered twice a week. During your stay you will have access to the onsite fitness center at the Schwab Residential Center, as well as all of Stanford's on-campus fitness and recreation facilities. Nutritional counseling is also available, as well as an optional health assessment through the Stanford Healthcare Alliance.

Q. Will I have access to health care services during the program?
A. Yes. We offer health care through the world-class Stanford Healthcare Alliance on a fee-for-service basis.

Q. Do you offer health insurance through the program?
A. No. We do not offer health insurance during the program. We recommend that participants (especially those from outside the U.S.) ensure they have an insurance plan in place for local medical care while on campus.

Life at Stanford

Q. What is the recommended attire?
A. Business casual or casual clothing is recommended for all program activities except for the closing ceremony and dinner, when semi-formal attire is recommended. A jacket or sweater is recommended for cool mornings, air conditioned classrooms, and cool evenings. Don't forget to pack exercise clothing, footwear, and swimwear if you want to work out on campus.

Q. What’s the weather like?
A. Fantastic. The average daily temperature during your six weeks on campus is 70°Fahrenheit/21°Celsius and super sunny. Mornings and evenings can be much cooler.

Q. Do I need a car or bicycle on campus?
A. No. Most program activities take place within walking distance of the Schwab Residential Center and Knight Management Center, and transportation is provided for any official program events taking place off campus.
  – Bike rentals are available through the Stanford Campus Bike Shop
  – A free campus shuttle operated by Stanford University provides transportation around campus and to downtown Palo Alto
  – The Caltrain station is close to campus, with service to the airport, to San Francisco, and to San Jose and all stops in between
  – If you do bring your own car, you will receive a complementary parking permit for your time on campus
Q. Will I have free time?
A. Absolutely. While we know you’re here to learn, life-work balance is important, too. Each weekday includes plenty of time for exercise and relaxation. On weekends you’re free to come and go as you please. Programming begins each week with the Sunday evening dinner and week overview with the faculty director.

Q. Are there any breaks during the 6-week session?
A. Yes. Halfway through the Stanford Executive Program, the mid-program break gives you an extra day off to tack onto a weekend for longer excursions or family visits to campus. Many use this time to visit attractions such as Yosemite National Park, Lake Tahoe, or Redwood National Park in northern California or Los Angeles to the south.

Q. What is there to do at Stanford and in the surrounding area?
A. More than we could ever include here. But for starters:

On campus
- Running and bicycling paths, including “The Dish,” a challenging path up a hill with a working satellite dish on its summit
- Cantor Center for Visual Arts, featuring the Rodin Sculpture Garden and other important works
- Anderson Collection
- Bing Concert Hall
- Stanford Golf Course, consistently rated as one of the finest in the world
- Stanford's state-of-the-art fitness and recreational facilities
- Sporting events including the Bank of the West Classic Tennis Tournament and professional soccer and golf tournaments

In Palo Alto (our hometown, less than 2 miles (3 km) from the Knight Management Center)
- A dynamic mix of restaurants, coffee houses, shops, and nightlife
- University Avenue is a popular hangout for students, faculty, SEP participants, tourists, and locals
- The Stanford Shopping Center offers world-class shopping in a beautiful outdoor setting

In the San Francisco Bay Area…and beyond
- World-renowned museums, restaurants, sightseeing, and stores
- San Francisco Marathon and Half Marathon
- Major League Baseball games (San Francisco Giants or Oakland A’s)
- Major League Soccer games (San Jose Earthquakes)
- Napa and Sonoma wineries
- Marin County hiking
- Monterey Peninsula
- World-renowned golf courses including Pebble Beach, CordeValle, and Old Greenwood