

SUMMARY

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I worked on two related but different projects. The first project involved studying about firms' ownership requirement for directors and officers. The objective is to see what role the requirements play, and also what the optimal holding policy is. The second project was a study on insider trading policies and conflict of interest policies. As in the first project, we are interested in determining the influence of the policies and the optimal policies. The projects are still on-going; we've finished most of the data-gathering and coding this summer, and I will continue to work with Professor Heather Tookes this semester to formulate models and analyze data.

I was responsible for gathering and coding data. I downloaded code of ethics documents, annual reports, and proxy statements from all S&P 500 companies' websites. We established criteria for coding insider trading policies, conflict of interest policies, and stock ownership requirements, and I coded the policies according to this criteria. We will continue the project this semester and work on making a model, and running regression with the data.

I experienced what economics research is like. Gathering the data and coding it was definitely a much more challenging task than I anticipated - I've learned that things like establishing a concrete criteria for coding, keeping it consistent, and figuring out what data fields are important in empirical research.

It was definitely a great experience. Working with Professor Tookes and getting first-hand experience in research was very helpful, especially since I am thinking about going to graduate school in economics. I feel like as an undergraduate, it is quite difficult to get a feeling of what doing research in economics is like; and the SRO program definitely solved that problem for me.