

SRO Summary
Daniel Bond
Class of 2016

Over the course of this past summer, I had the opportunity to work with Professor Justin Murfin at the School of Management. The project we set out to work on at the beginning of the summer was titled Credit Constraints and the Durability of Machine Investments and was a study into how the availability of credit in different regions of the country affected the flow of necessary machinery to the area. My initial work with the datasets included writing a program to match manufacture names across the various different sets. This was followed by working to compile geographic data for bank branches across the nation, which was made into a separate data set.

At this point, the project pivoted to a different topic, and it was on this new topic that I did most of my actual economic analysis. We began looking into how changes in assignment fees charged on syndicated loans affected the liquidity of said loans. The goal of the inquiry was to determine if these shocks could be used as a way to test the effects of liquidity on syndicated loans independent of any other market factors. I started by researching policy changes that occurred during the 2000s for the largest banks on the syndicated loans league table. I turned this information into a Stata dataset, which was then merged into a dataset that Professor Murfin had previously acquired. I wrote a code to run a variety of ttests and diff-in-diff regressions on the data, and wrote a report on my findings, which I presented to Professor Murfin at the end of the summer.

Overall, I felt that the SRO was an incredible experience. I learned so much from my time, including Stata (which I had barely used before), how to prepare and clean datasets for use, and how to conduct original analysis on the results of my tests. Perhaps of most value to me was simply talking to Professor Murfin about what conducting research in Econ is like as a profession. After talking with him, I am more interested than ever in potentially pursuing a life in academic economics instead of industry. I truly recommend this program to anyone even remotely thinking about engaging in research in the future! If Professor Murfin is part of the program again next year, I further recommend that you try to work with him specifically. He is extremely knowledgeable and has a very interesting background, which is perfect for students who might be debating going into academia or industry. He is also very engaging and was a pleasure to work with. While I am sure the other professors are great too, working with Professor Murfin specifically really helped to make this experience a deeply memorable one.

If you have any questions about the program or my experience with it, please feel free to email me!

Dan