



CMAA
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Construction Management Association of America

A Student Chapter Companion Guide



Who Is Construction Management Association of America (CMAA)?



CMAA promotes the profession of construction management and the use of qualified construction managers on projects and programs. All owners will realize project and program success by using professionally qualified construction managers.



Our Southern California (SoCal) Chapter offers valuable networking opportunities and educational programs contributing to the early professional development of the CM practitioner.



In collaboration with our many generous sponsors, the SoCal Chapter Foundation has funded over \$1 million in scholarship and internship programs to deserving students in our region.

What is Construction Management?

“Construction management is a professional service that provides a project’s owner(s) with effective management of the project’s schedule, cost, quality, safety, scope, and function. Construction management is compatible with all project delivery methods....”

- CMAA website, December 2020



Construction management practitioners lead teams of design and construction professionals on behalf of the owners they represent. Construction managers come from varied backgrounds – legal, engineering, architectural, business, and construction, among others. A qualified Construction Manager (CM) is multi-lingual and can converse on a technical level with architects, engineers, and contractors. CMs orchestrate and manage project details and communications amongst designers, contractors, and their project owners.

CMAA’s membership is comprised of individual CM/ PM practitioners, corporate members, and construction owners in both public and private sectors, along with academic and associate members from diverse backgrounds, service lines, market sectors, and regions who all share a common goal of delivering, receiving, and partnering on projects employing high quality professional construction management services.

Why Become a CMAA Student Member?

CMAA exists to promote the use of CM as a professional service and to enhance the quality of the CM practice. Your membership offers:

- Access to career database and networking opportunities at both National and Regional levels with over 16,000 members
- National and Regional scholarship opportunities for students in construction management or related degree programs
- Discounted event registration fees for networking and educational programs
- Local internship opportunities following the Construction Management in Training (CMIT) guided pathway to become a Certified Construction Manager (CCM) using the Standards of Practice (SOP)
- Listing in CMAA's Membership Directory, which is visible to industry stakeholders and employers
- Participation in Chapter and Foundation volunteer activities alongside board members who are leaders in their respective firms



Our Future Leaders

When Can Students Join?

Student Chapters are welcome at any time to initiate a request to join our organization and become members. Becoming a member of a Student Chapter is just the beginning. The ability to enhance your knowledge and experience in the design and construction industry is readily available through the networking and educational programs we offer. You will meet experienced professionals as well as young professionals through our unique CMIT programs. **We recognize the future of our industry is with students and young up-and-comers. Come and join us now!**

Where are the SoCal Chapter Boundaries?



Counties within our region include:

Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Kern, San Bernardino, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Fresno.

How to Start a Student Chapter?

SoCal Student Chapters are hosted and supervised by the CMAA SoCal Chapter Foundation, which also serves as the primary source for CMAA student communications. Confirm Student Outreach contact information via the [CMAA SoCal Chapter Foundation](#) website. The Student Outreach Committee has primary responsibility for overseeing CMAA SoCal Chapter Student programs including our Rising CM Conference/Hiring Fair, providing guidance on Student Chapter operations, reviewing Student Chapter Applications from student groups wanting to be recognized as official CMAA Student Chapters, and in coordination with our other Chapter Foundation committees disseminates applications for participation in our premier Internship and Scholarship programs.

When considering the formation of a Student Chapter, several key factors should be evaluated in making that decision:

- Is there an identified, interested faculty sponsor who teaches CM or a related discipline? Is this faculty sponsor a member of CMAA?
- Is there a CM degree or related program offered by the school?
- Does the curriculum of the school address CM as a discipline?
- Are the basic administrative requirements achievable for establishing a Student Chapter?

Dues

The faculty advisor of the student chapter shall be a member in good standing of CMAA (at a cost of \$140/year). The members of the Student Chapter shall be Student Members of CMAA. Students may join CMAA as a Student Member regardless of the presence of an official CMAA Student Chapter on campus at no cost if they are enrolled full-time. Transitional membership for recent graduates is available at \$55/year.

Basic Student Chapter Structure

Student Chapters are self-administered within the rules specified by campus organization bylaws or administrative guidelines which shall, at a minimum, prescribe the frequency of general meetings; the election of officers, their duties, and responsibilities; and the reporting requirements for maintaining the Chapter as a campus student organization. As an organization affiliated with CMAA, the Student Chapter may not discriminate among its potential members based on race, gender, religion, or national origin.

To maintain its affiliation with CMAA, once approved, the Student Chapter must renew its annual application to the CMAA National organization with copies to the SoCal Chapter Foundation.

Student Chapters elect officers to manage its activities within established rules. It is recommended that officers represent students from various academic years to maintain continuity within the Student Chapter to ensure succession planning.

Suggested Elected Positions

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Past President (optional)



This organizational structure can be expanded to include appointed positions to chair committees, and those filling such positions should work closely with the officers under which their positions fall.

In addition to the elected and appointed positions of the organizational structure of the Student Chapter, Standing Committees should be established. Each committee should consist of an appointed chairperson and enough responsible volunteers to carry out the functions of the committee. A Student Chapter structure helps to:

- Provide a structure wherein student members run the Student Chapter
- Provide opportunities for younger student members to contribute to the Student Chapter by volunteering on committees
- Improve Student Chapter continuity from year to year
- Provide a steppingstone to elected office for volunteers on committees

Standing Committee Options

- Social Activities (live and virtual)
- Membership
- Publicity
- Fundraising
- Community Service
- Internships
- Scholarships
- Competitions



Suggested Student Chapter Activities

Although each Student Chapter is free to pursue its own goals and activities, the following are examples of successful activities for CMAA Student Chapters:

- Guest Lecture series featuring CMAA SoCal members
- Social gatherings (involve alumni and members of related student professional organizations)
- Forum for graduate student research reports and peer review
- Professional CMAA member office visits
- Project site visits to CMAA member locations
- Resume/interview workshops by professional CMAA members
- Recruitment events
- Studio/classroom visits to student members from multiple disciplines
- Volunteer opportunities working with CMAA Chapter committee and Board members
- Networking events with Young Professional CMITs from SoCal
- SoCal annual events – CM Rising Conference/Hiring Fair, Awards Gala, and Golf Tournament
- Monthly educational programs offered by the SoCal Chapter
- CMIT mentoring opportunities

Additional Resources

Additional materials necessary to start a new Student Chapter are provided with this companion guide, including:

- CMAA Guide to Forming Student Chapters (including Application and Annual Renewal)
- Student Chapter Leadership Roles and Responsibilities

