

The Gary J. Sbona Honors Program

Founded by SJSU alumnus Gary J. Sbona, the key feature of the Sbona Honors Program is the practicum. It provides the top undergraduate students in the College of Business with the opportunity to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real business problems. About 50 corporations and non-profits have participated in the program, ranging from large companies like Cisco Systems to startup companies and the City of San José.

Students are selected based on a combination of high GPA, prerequisites, and excellent communication skills. Students are typically placed in groups of three to work on the projects for college course credit. They graduate with Honors from the College of Business if they complete two semesters in the program, have a 3.5 GPA or above, and write a scholarly paper.

“The Gary J. Sbona Honors Program at San José State University continues to be a rewarding program, not only for the students, but also for potential employers like Ernst & Young. It is one of the programs Ernst & Young strives to have a presence in every year because we know it is where we will find the top business students. Over the years, students in the program seem better prepared for the work place and are more knowledgeable about issues that are in today’s business headlines. Therefore, students from the Gary J. Sbona Honors Program are extremely marketable to employers like Ernst & Young.”

The Sbona Honors Program also includes international study trips of 20-25 students to destinations that have included China, Europe and South America. In addition, executive level guest speakers, networking events and seminar sessions expose students to current issues, ideas, and practices in their own disciplines and other fields of business.

