



Jeff studied Computer Science and Economics at Penn State from 2018 to 2022. He joined LLC in 2020 as an Associate Analyst of the IT sector and later served as Secretary of LLC for the 2021 calendar year. During his junior year, Jeff interned as a Sales and Trading Analyst on the Structured Credit desk at Bank of America, where he returned full-time upon graduation.

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Alumni Spotlight: Jeff Zhao '22

1. When were you a member of Leveraged Lion Capital and what positions did you hold?

I interviewed for LLC in Spring 2020 and subsequently joined in Fall 2020 as an Associate Analyst in the IT sector. I later served on the executive board as Secretary for the 2021 calendar year, where I helped publish weekly portfolio reports, organized alumni networking sessions, and assisted in the ratification of the LLC Board of Directors.

2. What did Leveraged Lion Capital mean to you when you were on campus?

Leveraged Lion Capital served as my first formal introduction to the finance industry and more specifically the fixed income markets. As a STEM major, I had very little experience in the world of finance, but with the help of LLC I was able to gain an immense amount of knowledge of the industry, whether it be general financial concepts, current market trends, economic talking points, or other key topics and skills that would help me succeed on a career in Wall Street. The organization's focus on fixed income was instrumental in building my technical foundation in credit markets and has certainly served me well as an analyst on the Structured Credit desk at Bank of America. In addition to these, the dedicated and driven community of individuals that LLC fostered was crucial in pushing me along my personal and professional path, and I am extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to join and work in the organization during my time at Penn State.

3. What advice do you have for members of Leveraged Lion Capital who are currently recruiting for internships?

Stay up-to-date on the latest news, market developments, deals and trends. There are so many resources available nowadays via WSJ, Bloomberg, Spotify podcasts, morning newsletters and more that make it incredibly easy to ramp your general understanding of the economy, financial markets, industry verticals, asset classes, etc. Even apps like ChatGPT can be a great tool to reconcile questions you might have had in a specific finance class or after a networking call. Be a sponge and try to absorb as much information out there as possible. Over time, the more background and context you have in a given topic, the easier it is to give authentic opinions on the spot (which I believe makes candidates stand out in the interview process) and the easier it is to have those thoughtful conversations that ultimately help you decide what you want to do not only for an internship, but full-time as well.