Standard Research Corporation is an investment research firm in Nashville, TN that provides economic research to institutional investors. The firm focuses on government policy, and implements supply-side principles when evaluating how policy will affect the stock prices of different companies. My job as an intern was to provide whatever research was necessary for the current project(s), and help integrate that research into the thematic papers sent to clients. In addition, I promoted the work on the company’s Twitter and LinkedIn pages, along with publishing it on sites such as Forbes.com and The Tennessean. Topics this summer included the EPA ethanol mandate, offshore drilling and exploration and cloud technology, among others. In addition to assisting with research, I was able to accompany my boss, Tom Landstreet, to numerous presentations and a conference in Nashville.

The internship provided me with a great opportunity to develop a variety of skills. I gained experience with Microsoft Excel as well as social media and website management. I strengthened my skills in evaluating companies and learning the ins and outs of financial research. In addition to the technical aspects of the position, it also required a level of critical thinking when connecting the dots between a proposed tax or regulation and its effects on a company, industry, or consumer down the line that I continually developed over the course of the summer. Often these connections are not easily made, and I continually strengthened my
knowledge of supply-side framework during the summer while analyzing policy. During the internship I worked on a number of projects. Often these projects were Mr. Landstreet’s thematic papers, and on these I would work on everything from providing research to formatting the paper for distribution. Also, I was responsible for posting his papers on his website and Forbes.com, as well as marketing them through his Twitter and LinkedIn profiles. Overall, my job was to make Mr. Landstreet’s life easier by tackling a lot of the day to day research tasks to free up his time to interact with clients.

This experience working at Standard Research is one that I will carry with me as I enter my final years of college and ultimately in my future work. The job taught me how to approach the financial markets each day by immersing myself in its activity. It gave me great real-world experience to pair with my classes at Sewanee, and also taught me many things I likely would never experience in the classroom. This internship affirmed my desire to enter the financial world, and I believe has given me a great foundation for doing so going forward.