

Harlem Capital Syllabus

October 2022



Harlem Capital



Since its inception — the Harlem Capital Syllabus has been the cornerstone of our Internship program. For the first time, we've decided to release the Syllabus to the community.

If you're looking to go 0-100 on venture capital — this syllabus is for you!

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Overview

The Harlem Capital Syllabus synthesizes common VC topics and circulates helpful VC resources — for funders, founders, operators, and those seeking to transition into a role in the innovation economy.

As the venture capital industry is constantly evolving, this is not meant to be end-all be-all, VC resource guide — but a starting place for those looking to learn more on core VC topics.

A Note on How to Use the Syllabus:

We recommend working through the Syllabus over a number of weeks.

Our internship is 10 weeks and our interns deep dive on 1-2 sections per week. Each section has:

- **Summary Pages** – to give an overview of the concept
- **Resources Page** – providing articles, videos, podcasts and additional materials for all types of learning styles





Sourcing & Due Diligence



Sourcing and Due Diligence

HCP Deal Funnel

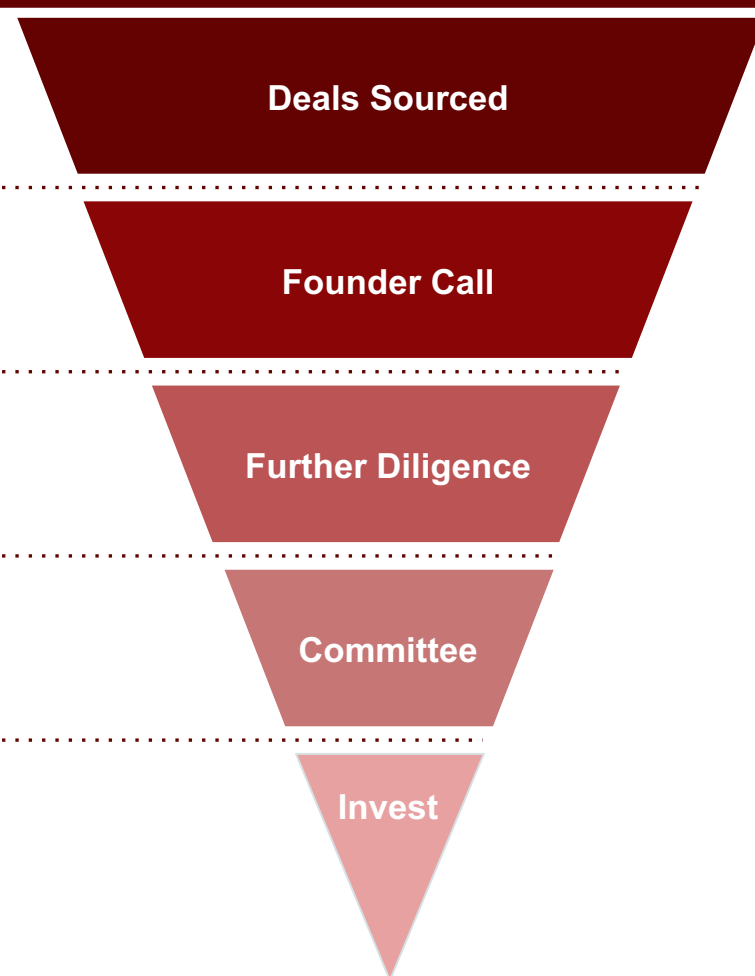
Deals are sourced through inbound (e.g., email, LinkedIn) or network (e.g., other VCs, pitch competitions, accelerators, outbound outreach) channels

Initial screen (based on sector, stage, geography, valuation, market size, product, customers, founder, KPIs, source, etc.) informs decision to proceed to intro call with founder

Following founder call, product, market, founder, and fundraise amount are discussed with team; team discussion informs decision to proceed with further diligence (e.g., founder references, exit models)

Investment Committee reviews full investment memo prepared during diligence and issues go / no-go decision

Should the Investment Committee decide to investment, term sheets are issued to founder, and the deal closes following successful negotiations



Supporting processes must be built thoughtfully to be efficient with team time and reduce bias

Conversion rates through the funnel will vary by fund - at HCP, roughly 1% of deals sourced convert to investments

Sourcing and Due Diligence Resources



Articles

- [Venture Capital Funnel Shows Odds Of Becoming A Unicorn Are About 1%](#)
- [VC Sourcing 101](#)
- [Venture Capital Due Diligence: An Introduction](#)
- [Venture Capital Due Diligence: The Screening Process](#)
- [Venture Capital Due Diligence: The Market Test](#)
- [Venture Capital Due Diligence: The Scorecard](#)
- [A VCs four most valuable connections for sourcing deals and conducting diligence](#)



Videos / Podcasts

- [Dalton Caldwell: Incubators, Accelerators, and Y Combinator](#)
- [Decision Analysis in Venture Capital](#)



Product-Market Fit

What Makes A Good Business?



Product-Market Fit (PMF)

What is PMF?

Product-market fit is **the ability of a product to meet the demand of a (large) market**

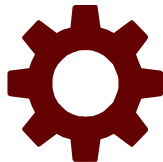
Achieving product-market fit is not synonymous with building a “great” product - the product just needs to be good enough to meet customer needs



Why is it important?

Without product-market fit, founders don't know if they are solving **a real problem in a sufficiently large market**

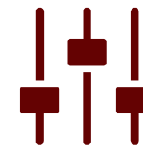
A startup might invest resources building a “great” product, but without sufficient demand, it won't scale or succeed



How do I achieve PMF?

There is **no simple formula for achieving product-market fit**

It is a highly iterative, hypothesis driven process that involves listening to customers, rapid prototyping, and user testing



When do I know I have it?

There are **many signs of product-market fit**, such as rapid organic growth, high customer retention, and low customer acquisition costs

When you have PMF, customers are racing to purchase your product



The majority of startup failures are due to a lack of product-market fit

Product Market Fit Resources



Articles

- [HCP Investment Box](#)
- [How To Find A Company's Competitive Advantage?](#)
- [Your startup doesn't have a MOAT](#)
- [The only thing that matters](#)
- [How to navigate the product/market fit journey](#)
- [12 things that matter most for product market fit](#)
- [Investment Thesis @USV \(Network Effects\)](#)
- [Product Strategy: How to Find Product/Market Fit](#)
- [How to know if you've got product-market fit](#)
- [What Makes a Successful Founder?](#)



Videos / Podcasts

- [Mastering the VC Game: How to Raise Your First Round of Capital \(Jeff Busgang\)](#)
- [Paying Attention to Details: It's All in the Details \(details that matter for startups\)](#)
- [Iterating Your Product and Market Strategy](#)
- [Caitlin Strandberg \(Lerer Hippeau\) - How To Identify Consumer Pain Points, The D2C Investment Landscape, and The New York Ecosystem](#)
- [20VC: How to Measure Product-Market Fit](#)
- [How VCs evaluate Product-Led Growth companies](#)



KPIs and Unit Economics



KPIs / Unit Economics

1

What are they?

- KPIs are a set of indicators that help organizations assess progress toward strategic objectives
- KPIs track key metrics of a company
- A KPI sits at the intersection of a strategic objective, a key metric and a threshold value

2

Why are they important?

- They help companies:
 - ✓ Monitor the company's health
 - ✓ Measure progress
 - ✓ Make adjustments and stay on track
 - ✓ Analyze patterns over time
 - ✓ Solve problems or tackle opportunities

3

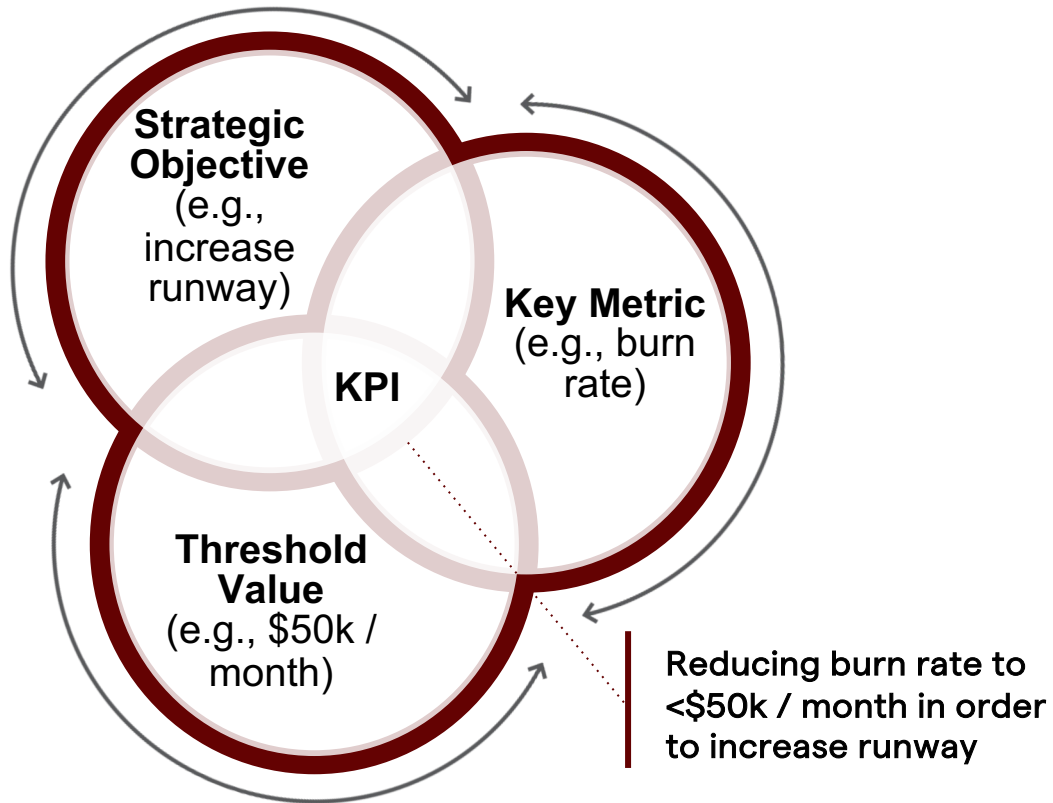
How do you identify them?

- KPIs should align with the strategic objectives of the company
- KPIs vary based on company and industry
- There are broad KPIs that will apply to all companies, but there will be specific KPIs that are only applicable depending on industry and/or business model



KPIs / Unit Economics

Key Performance Indicators track metrics in order to assess progress towards goals, e.g.,



KPIs will vary based on industry and business model, but may include...

Financial	Monthly Recurring Revenue Profit Margin Burn Rate
Sales	Sales Conversion Retention Rate Customer Churn
Marketing	Cost per Lead Returning vs. New Visitors Net Promoter Score
Project Management	% of Overdue Tasks % of Project Completed Cost Variance

Being thoughtful about monitoring KPIs is critical to measuring progress, analyzing patterns over time, and addressing opportunities

KPIs / Unit Economics Resources



Articles

- [DTC metrics explained](#)
- [Ultimate SaaS Metrics Guide to Smarter, Faster Growth](#)
- [What is good retention](#)
- [What is a good growth rate](#)
- [Metrics that Matter: Crucial KPIs for High Functioning Revenue Teams](#)
- [SaaS Metrics Framework](#)
- [SaaS Finance Metrics](#)
- [What is good monthly churn](#)
- [What is a good payback period](#)
- [Ultimate Guide to Unit Economics](#)
- [Insight's Periodic Table](#)



Videos / Podcasts

- [Understanding Startup Metrics -- Mat Johnson of 500 Startups](#)
- [Consumer Earthquakes](#)

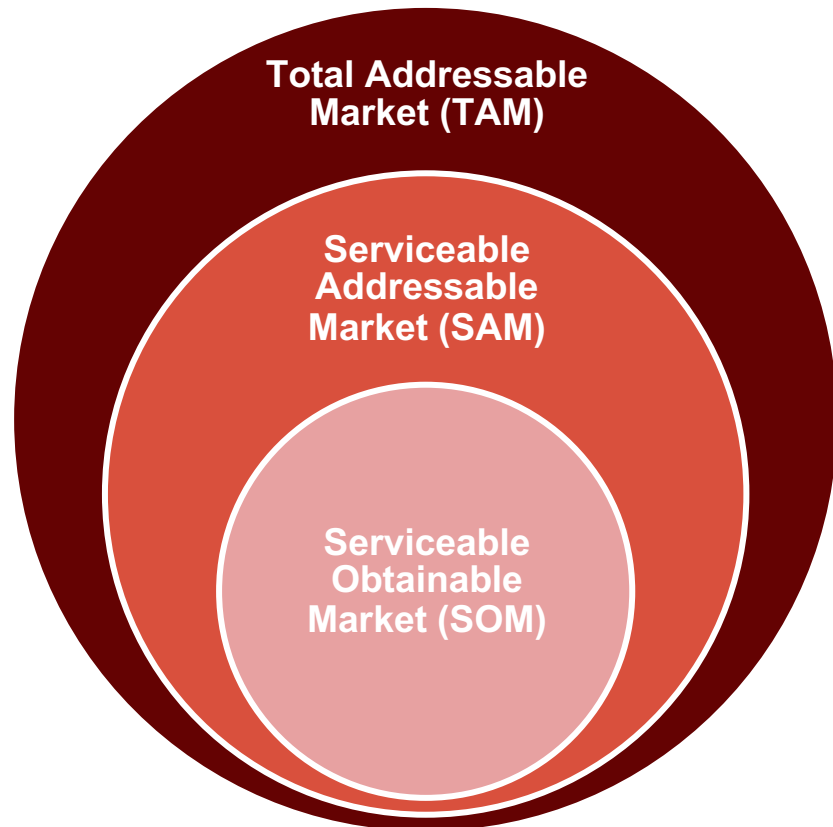


Market Sizing



Market Sizing

Market sizing quantifies the total rev. opportunity and provides a waypoint for assessing product market fit



TAM describes the total revenue opportunity for a product/service

SAM describes the sub-markets of the TAM addressed by a product

SOM describes how much of the SAM can be captured in the short/mid term

Market Sizing Methodology

There are multiple ways to develop a Market Sizing estimate, e.g.,

Top-down sizing

Start by building a macro view of the market, then break it down into a relevant chunk, e.g.*:

5M companies * **\$5K** average contract value = **\$25B** TAM
\$25B * **20%** of companies in target geography = **\$5B** SAM

Bottom-up sizing

Start with the individual customer and pricing information then extrapolate from there, e.g.*:

250K potential customers * **\$5K** average contract value = **\$1.3B** TAM

External research reports

Leverage industry research report providers such as IDC, Forrester, or Gartner to estimate the size of a specific market

**Illustrative metrics*

Market Sizing – Bottom-Up Example

We estimate that the total addressable market is \$1.5B+ today based on the company's existing pricing structure. We believe pricing will increase over time and also note that eCommerce is expected to double in 5 years

Rev Stream 1	# Potential Customers	250,000	<i>SMB stores on Shopify, WooCommerce, Magento, BigCommerce</i>
	Average Price / Month	\$500	<i>Avg from company projection model</i>
	MRR	\$125,000,000	
	ARR	\$1,500,000,000	

Rev Stream 2	# Potential Customers	250,000*	
	Addl 100 Shipments	1	<i>Assumes each customer has 1 overage shipment charge</i>
	Average Price / Addl 100 Shipments	\$10	<i>Avg from company pricing model</i>
	Monthly Variable Revenue	\$2,500,000	
	Annual Variable Revenue	\$30,000,000	

Total Monthly Revenue	\$127,500,000
Total Annual Revenue	\$1,530,000,000

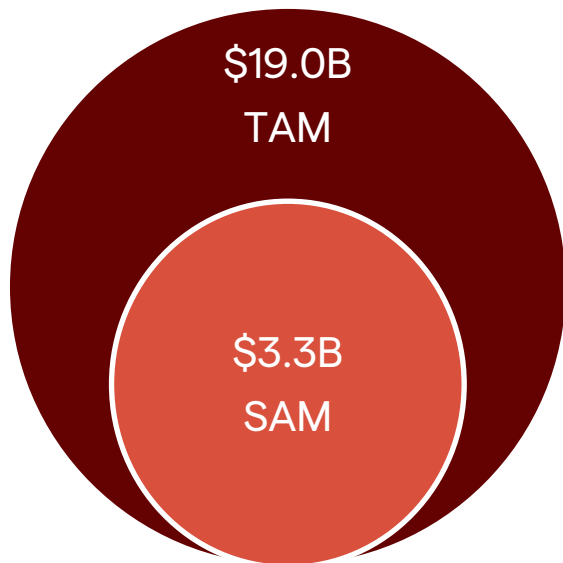


* Assuming 0 customers pay overage shipment charges, the company's total monthly revenue is \$125M and total annual revenue is still \$1.5B

Market Sizing – Top-Down Example

The company's initial target market includes eCommerce retailers that use Shopify, WooCommerce, Magento, and BigCommerce. Based on data from Hosting Tribunal, there are 3.8 million companies using these four platforms.

Using the company's average annual contract value of \$5,000, the TAM is ~\$19 billion for the company. Assuming the U.S. accounts for 17.2% of the companies on the 4 platforms, the service addressable market is \$3.3B for the company



3.8M companies on 4 platforms x \$5,000 Average Contract Value

654k* U.S. companies on 4 platforms x \$5,000 Average Contract Value

* U.S. accounted for 17.2% of total eCommerce market in 2019



Market Sizing Resources



Articles

- [TAM Methodology: An Explanation and Example of Total Addressable Market Analysis](#)
- [Sizing Up: Market Sizing for Your Business](#)



Videos / Podcasts

- [Startups: Know Your Competitive Landscape and Market Sizing \(Stephanie Palmeri from SoftTech VC\)](#)



Valuations

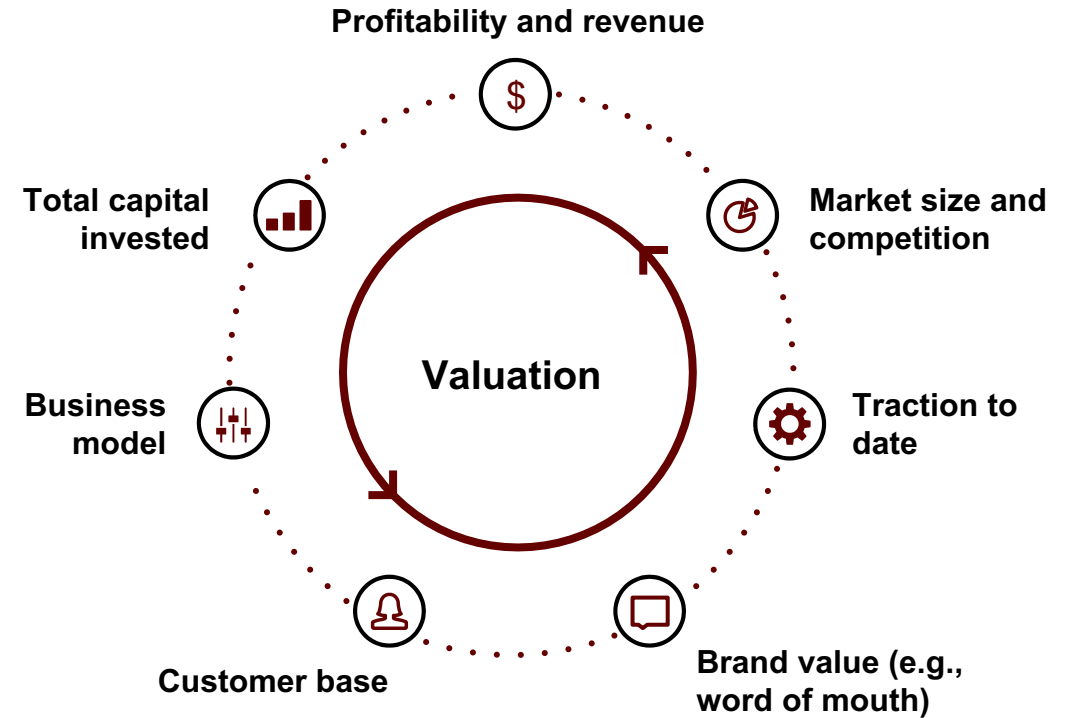


Valuation

There are several popular valuation methods used by investors, e.g.,

Method	Description	Relevant stage	Level of speculation
Berkus / Scorecard Method	Investor attributes value based on presence of certain qualitative and quantitative criteria (e.g., sound idea)	Seed (pre-rev)	High
VC Method	Investor assigns expected ROI (e.g., 50x) and exit value (e.g., \$100M) to initial investment (e.g., \$2M) to determine valuation	Seed - Series A (pre-rev)	High
Market Multiple	Investor multiplies startup annual revenue by average enterprise value / revenue (EV/Rev) ratio of publicly traded comparables (e.g., \$125M revenue * 8.0 EV/Rev ratio = \$1B valuation)	Series B onwards (post-rev)	Low - Med

Many factors may affect a startup's valuation, particularly at early stages



Valuations are important as they inform the equity (% ownership) a founder has to give up in exchange for an investment (\$)



Valuation Resources



Articles

- [HCP Fund Returner blog post](#)
- [How Do VCs Value a Company?](#)
- [Startup Valuation — The Ultimate Guide to Value Startups 2022](#)
- [Pre-Money vs. Post-Money: What's the Difference?](#)
- [What's your SaaS Company Worth?](#)
- [Venture Capital Deal Algebra](#)



Videos / Podcasts

- [Raising Money and Valuing Startups \(a16z\)](#)



Term Sheets & Financing



Financing

Term Sheets

A term sheet is a non-binding legal agreement between an investor and investee that **describes the terms and conditions of the investment**

Generally, term sheets will define: a company's valuation, the distribution of equity among founders, investors, and employees, voting rights, and governance structures for key decisions (e.g., company sale)

Capitalization Tables

A cap table **documents ownership percentages for all shareholders in each round of investment**, so that all parties are aware of how much of the company they own

Terms you may see in a cap table include: common and preferred shares, employee options / employee stock ownership plan, dilution percentage, and convertible notes

Financing Options

The following financing instruments all defer a company's valuation to a future date, allowing early stage companies to secure funding when it is still difficult to assess their value:

SAFEs: Simple Agreements for Future Equities provide founders with an investment in exchange for the right to convert the investment to equity at a future funding event (usually at a discount); SAFEs are generally quicker and cheaper to execute than convertible notes as they do not bear interest / maturity dates, and require less documentation

Convertible notes: Convertible notes provide an interest bearing loan to founders, which convert into shares during a future funding event (usually at a discount)

KISS: Keep it Simple Securities are similar to SAFEs, but (among other differences) are considered more investor friendly as they preserve investor interests during company sale and any future funding events



What is a Term Sheet?

The complement to valuation is the term sheet. The term sheet sets a pre- and post-money value on 100% of a startup's equity.

Term sheet provides guidance on and defines the following:

- How equity will be valued
- How that equity will be distributed between founders, investors, and employees (options pool)
- The decision-making rights associated with equity
- Key issues in governance

Due Diligence

Formal investor review of current status and progress

Term Sheet Negotiation

The conditions under which an investor will invest, including pre-money EV, shareholding, and governance

Legal Documents

The subscription agreement and changes to articles of association/ statuses

The Term Sheet is a non-binding document that bridges due diligence and legal documentation. It allows founders, investors, and other parties (lawyers, staff, etc.) to understand how the investment will be structured and managed

Cap Table

A capitalization table (or cap table) provides an analysis of a company's percentages of ownership, equity dilution, and value of equity in each round of investment by founders, investors, and other owners

Name	Pre-Financing			
	Common Stock	Options	Total Shares	% Fully Diluted
Founder A	2,000,000		2,000,000	44.4%
Founder B	1,600,000		1,600,000	35.6%
Employee A		80,000	80,000	1.8%
Employee B		40,000	40,000	0.9%
Investor A			0	0.0%
Investor B			0	0.0%
Remaining Options Pool		780,000	780,000	17.3%
Total	3,600,000	900,000	4,500,000	
% Ownership	80.0%	20.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Post-Financing		
Seed Preferred	Total Shares	% Fully Diluted
	2,000,000	40.0%
	1,600,000	32.0%
	80,000	1.6%
	40,000	0.8%
250,000	250,000	5.0%
250,000	250,000	5.0%
	780,000	15.6%
500,000	5,000,000	
10.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Assume each share = \$1



Financing Resources



Articles

- [Understanding Venture Capital Term Sheets](#)
- [Term Sheet Overview: Guide to Understanding and Negotiating Term Sheets](#)
- [Negotiating term sheets: focus on what's important](#)
- [Y Combinator Term Sheet Template](#)
- [Cap Table 101](#)
- [Cap Tables: The Startup Founder's Guide](#)
- [Cap Table Template](#)
- [SAFE vs. KISS, the evolution of the convertible note](#)
- [Anatomy of SAFE](#)
- [Venture Debt Overview](#)
- [To Follow-on or Not to Follow-on, Part 2 of Unlearnings from a VC-Turned-LP](#)
- [Reserves](#)



Videos / Podcasts

- [The Economics of Term Sheets, Cap Tables, and Payoff Matrices](#)
- [The Art of the Term Sheet with Scott Yaphe \(ABS Ventures\)](#)
- [Term Sheet Negotiations](#)
- [Negotiating to Reach a Fair Term Sheet with Carl Showalter \(Opus Capital\)](#)
- [Cap Table 101: Understanding Dilution](#)
- [Convertible Notes, Equity and Startup Funding Explained](#)
- [Seed Funding: Jeff Clavier and John Lee](#)
- [The Decision Process of a Venture Capitalist](#)



Venture Capital Exits



VC Exit Overview

1

What is it?

- An exit strategy is a plan that is executed by an investor, trader, venture capitalist, or business owner to liquidate a position in a financial asset or dispose of tangible business assets

2

What are the reasons for an Exit?

- Reasons for a VC Exit include but are not limited to:
 - ✓ An exit strategy may also be executed when an investment has met its profit objective
 - ✓ An exit strategy may be executed to exit a non-performing investment or close an unprofitable business
 - ✓ Significant change in market conditions due to a catastrophic event
 - ✓ Legal reasons, such as estate planning, liability lawsuits or a divorce
 - ✓ Business owner/investor is retiring and wants to cash out

3

When is the best time for a VC Exit?

- There is no best time for a VC exit and there are many factors that affect it, but the main goal is to maximize ROI
- On average a VC will hold on to an investment for 8.2 years and will target a ~30% IRR



VC Exits

Common types of VC exits include

- 1** | **Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A)** by public companies or other startups
- 2** | **An Initial Public Offering (IPO)** to issue publicly traded shares
- 3** | **Management Buy Outs (MBO)** that sell the VC investment share back to the startup

On average, a VC will hold on to an investment for 7-8 years and will target a 30% rate of return; M&A is the most common type of exit for venture-backed startups

A successful exit may look different from fund to fund

	<u>Fund A</u>	<u>Fund B</u>
Fund Size	\$50M	\$500M
	÷	÷
Target Exit Ownership	10%	20%
	=	=
Exit Needed to Return Fund	\$500M	\$2.5B

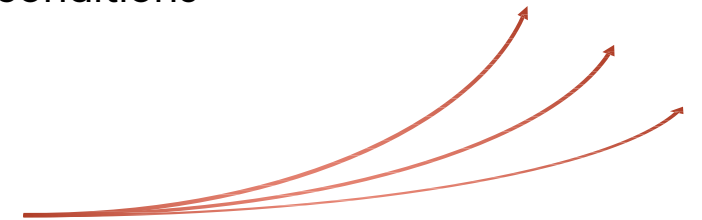
The way a VC thinks about “returning the fund” will also be influenced by other factors beyond fund size, such as ownership targets, check sizes, number of investments, and follow-ons

Why are exits important?

Ultimately, **exits are about money**

An exit is a plan that investors leverage in order to liquidate a position in their asset (startup) - this can be in order to cash out on a return, or to recoup funds

Identifying the right time to exit is more of an art than a science - it will depend on many factors such as traction and macroeconomic conditions



VC Exits Resources



Articles

- [#OpenLP Series: Which investments generate the greatest value in venture: Consumer or Enterprise?](#)
- [Meaningful VC Exits](#)
- [VC Exit Model Template](#)
- [Exit strategies for venture capital funds - a peek behind the scenes](#)
- [Long Live the Tech IPO](#)
- [IPO vs M&A](#)
- [The meteoric rise of US unicorns in 2021](#)
- [The Global Unicorn Club](#)



Videos / Podcasts

- [Byron Deeter, Partner at Bessemer Venture Partners: 10 Laws of Building a Unicorn](#)
- [Scott Sandell: The Current State of Silicon Valley and Unicorns](#)



Fund Operations



Fund Operations: Portfolio Management & Construction

Portfolio Management

Portfolio management is how investors analyze information, make decisions, and commit resources **to improve and protect the value of their investments**



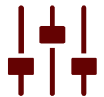
Portfolio Monitoring

Sitting on company's Board of Directors, reviewing key financial statements, and informal mentorship



Company Analysis

Overseeing key metrics (e.g., operating expenses, sales pipeline) and tracking cash flow



Decision Making

Leveraging pattern recognition and performance of other deals to support with strategic decisions



Portfolio Operations

Introducing founders to other funders, leading recruitment and hiring, and sourcing exit transactions



Portfolio Construction

Two popular, but competing, VC portfolio construction philosophies are the **Conviction and Diversification Models**

Conviction Model

Description: VC fund maintains a smaller portfolio, with higher % ownership in each investment

Fund Strategy: VC fund typically acts as lead investors (resulting in increased hands on time with portfolio companies) and reserves capital to preserve ownership % during follow-on rounds, particularly for companies that are "winning"

Diversification Model

Description: VC fund maintains a larger portfolio, with lower % ownership in each investment

Fund Strategy: VC fund does not typically act as lead investors, which results in lower ownership than in a Conviction Model, but also preserves capital for 1) a larger portfolio of companies and 2) a potentially greater volume of follow-on rounds

Portfolio Management: Portfolio Monitoring

PORTFOLIO MONITORING



- 1 Board Representation**
 - Most VCs receive 1 and sometimes 2 seats on the company's Board of Directors
 - Board members have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that the company is being managed in the best interest of all stakeholders
- 2 Investor Information Provisions**
 - Through information provisions, investors are entitled to receive interim financial statements, annual budgets or forecasts and completed audited financial statements
- 3 Additional Informal Communication**
 - VCs regularly call, email and visit many of their respective CEOs and other senior managers
 - GPs and deal teams are responsible for monitoring investments
- 4 Weekly Partner Meetings**
 - Many VCs hold weekly meetings for each partner to discuss his/her investments
- 5 Off-Sites/ Portfolio Reviews**
 - VCs will perform quarterly, semi-annual, or annual in-depth review of every portfolio company
 - Reviews are used to assess portfolio risk and determine future allocations

Portfolio Management: Company Analysis

COMPANY ANALYSIS



1
Company Information
(Focus is dependent on stage)

	Early Stage (Pre-Revenue)	Early Revenue	Close to Profitable/ Profitable
Financial Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operating expenses Cash burn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operating expenses Cash burn Revenue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revenue Gross margin Operating expenses Cash
Business Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product development Additions to the team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product development Customer input on product features Team Sales pipeline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sales pipeline Bookings Team Marketing plan

2
Focus on Cash

- Investors monitor factors to determine impact on cash flow
 - How much cash is made
 - How quickly cash is lost
 - When does company expect to stop losing cash

3
Focus on Vectors

- Focus on overall trends – variances are expected in early-stage companies and key is to understand what went wrong and what changes are needed

Portfolio Management: Venture Capital Decision Making

VENTURE CAPITAL DECISION MAKING



1

Past Experience

- Monitoring portfolio companies is like looking at art:

“You look at a lot of art, some is good, some is ok, and some is bad. At some point after seeing enough art, something clicks and you start to appreciate why certain art is good and why certain art is bad”

2

Pattern Matching

- Portfolio activity can determine if issue facing one company is affecting others of similar stage/sector
- Performance of comparables outside portfolio is helpful
- Knowledge of past performance serves as reference for VCs to challenge strategies / growth assumptions

Portfolio Management: Portfolio Company Operations

PORTFOLIO COMPANY OPERATIONS



- 1 Financing or Exit Transactions**
 - VC firms can make introductions to lead investors for future rounds of financing and are active throughout the IPO process
 - VC firms have relationships with commercial banks for when portfolio companies require debt financing
- 2 Strategic Advice**
 - Investors leverage their experience as investors in and operators of similar businesses to provide portfolio companies strategic advice
- 3 Teambuilding / Recruiting**
 - Most firms take a very active role in helping to recruit and build out portfolio company senior management teams – including recruiting and interviewing prospective new hires
- 4 Leveraging Contacts**
 - VCs leverage their contacts for negotiating contracts on behalf of their portfolio companies, sourcing exit transactions, assisting in business development, and supporting sales
- 5 Crises Management**
 - VCs offer varying levels of support to their portfolio companies
 - Investors that negotiate more favorable deal structure do so because of their value-add strength

Portfolio Construction: Conviction vs. Diversification

There are various portfolio construction models used in the U.S. venture capital market. Two are described below.

Conviction Model

Overview: Revolves around a small, concentrated portfolio of startup investments. This strategy pushes a fund to own as much of a company as it can
(today's market: 10 – 15 startups)

Fund Strategy: Funds often act as lead investors with their initial investments. As company matures and raises additional capital, fund partners look to use their pro rata to maintain as high a percentage of ownership as possible

Key Components: GPs are very hands on with their companies. Because of the heavy time commitment to each company, conviction model funds are constrained in the number of investments they can make

Considerations: Large investors may come in at a later round and insist on buying the bulk of that round

Diversification Model

Overview: Revolves around making numerous investments across many companies (usually 30+). The idea is that a large diversified portfolio will give the fund higher chances of picking “winners.” These funds may also have more options for follow-on and exits.
(today's market 50 – 100 startups)

Fund Strategy: Do not act as lead investors because they make too many investments to carry the workload and time requirements of a lead. Overall ownership percentage may be lower than with conviction models

Key Components: GPs generally do not take board seats. Value-add may be more reactive or may be more focused in a particular form of advice or networks. GPs spend most of their time sourcing and vetting investments

Considerations:

- Funds have to make difficult decisions in terms for follow-on investments.
- Fund size can creep up: too many small checks, means less ownership in any one company to meet return targets

Portfolio Construction: Hybrid Approaches

Venture studios and accelerators offer two hybrid approaches to portfolio construction

Venture Studio

Form of conviction strategy in which the fund builds business internally in hopes to spin out with high ownership down the road

Accelerators

Diversification Strategy Hybrid: accelerators invest in many different startups over time

Conviction Strategy Hybrid: accelerators can have small class or cohort, in which managers are very hands-on

Others:

- There are accelerators that invest at the earliest of stages
- There are accelerators that are used to source deal flow for a larger fund

Portfolio Construction: Key Considerations

There are several considerations that should be made when constructing a portfolio.

How should funds think about portfolio construction?

Investments:

An example portfolio breakdown:

- Each fund may have 45-50 investments
- Only 1 or 2 companies in each fund will return the entire fund
- Only 6 – 8 companies will have a fund level return (i.e. 25%+ the cost of the fund)

Investment Strategy:

- Lead rounds and take on the most risk early on in terms of market size, market timing and product → successful companies may not be considered successful early on
- Culture of a fund is key – there should be security to embrace risk; the fund should focus on outperformance at the fund level, not on individual partner performance

How should funds think about initial vs. reinvestment

Initial Investment:

- Goal is to support great founders sourced through network/portfolio companies and support them through companies' entire lifecycles
- After investment – track good data on quality of hiring, data on product, and data on the market

Reinvestment:

- If there is excitement around data collected post-initial investment and excitement around ability of startup to raise downstream capital → reinvest



**Source: 20VC interview with Adam D'Augelli (partner at True Ventures)*

Fund Operations Resources



Articles

- [Note on Venture Capital Portfolio Management](#)
- [Venture capital portfolios: diversification versus conviction investing](#)



Videos / Podcasts

- [20VC: How to Think Through Portfolio Construction](#)
- [20VC: Haystack's Semil Shah on Whether Founders Are Bypassing Seed Funds in Favour Of Less Dilutive Multi-Stage Funds, How Fund Strategy Changes With Fund Scaling & Why The Hardest Challenge is Price Discipline](#)
- [Chris Douvos: Limited Partners and Fund of Funds](#)




The Rise of VC Platform




Platform

VC Platform roles are non-investing roles that enable competitive advantage by driving critical services, such as



Talent

Leading talent recruitment and placement of new hires within portfolio companies



Business Development

Supporting with customer acquisition and key analyses (e.g., projections, unit economics)




Community & Network

Fostering founder connections with operators, funders, and other third parties



Marketing & PR

Enhancing founder messaging, and crafting VC podcasts newsletter, thought pieces, etc.



Operations

Scaling platform infrastructure to ensure seamless onboarding of new founders

Driving post-investment value is a critical function of the Platform role and can be a major contributor to deal quality / flow

Platform Resources



Articles

- [VC platform: the shadow task force behind investors' war for founders](#)
- [A Tool to Build & Benchmark Your VC Platform Strategy](#)
- [The VC Community Honeycomb: Identifying and Prioritizing Your Firm's Community](#)
- [Ten-thousand better decisions: Building a network around "network effects"](#)
- [Why Head Of Platform Continues To Be One Of The Most Important Roles At A VC Firm](#)
- [Paths into Venture Capital: Decoding the VC Platform role](#)



Additional HCP Resources



Additional HCP Resources



Harlem Capital Reports and Articles

- [2021 Diverse Founder Report](#)
- [2021 Latam Women Founders Report](#)
- [Who are the diverse founders in Web3?](#)
- [How are Black & Latina Women Investors Breaking into VC?](#)
- [How To Be Recession Ready](#)
- [Harlem Capital's Vision for Web3](#)
- [Harlem Capital's Web3 Primer](#)
- [Rising 305 Black & Latino Founders](#)
- [Power 250 Black & LatinX Venture Capitalist](#)
- [Pace Setters - 300 Female Founder](#)



Other Harlem Capital Firm Resources

- [HCP Medium](#)
- [HCP Newsletter](#)
- [HCP Twitter](#)
- [More Equity Podcast](#)

Team Twitter Accounts

- [Brandon Bryant](#)
- [Gabby Cazeau](#)
- [Henri Pierre-Jacques](#)
- [Jarrid Tingle](#)
- [Melody Hahm](#)
- [Nicole DeTommaso](#)
- [Tonna Obaze](#)

Let's change the face of entrepreneurship, together.

