Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Factsheet

Updated: 4-20-22

Mission

To provide students transformative experiences through entrepreneurship. We strive to enable the next generation’s new ventures by utilizing world-class academic education, industry-leading experiential training, and venture mentorship, to work with the entire campus to equip our students, alumni, and faculty with the support they need to discover the entrepreneurial mindset and launch new businesses.

Get Involved

1. Stop by the Blackstone LaunchPad.
2. Sign up for our email newsletter and follow us on social media.
3. Participate in a program or competition.
4. Attend a workshop or networking event.
5. Take a class, or get a degree.
6. Apply for office space at the Venture Development Center.

About the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship is a nationally ranked center for student entrepreneurship and innovation at The University of Texas at Dallas and an interdisciplinary division of the Naveen Jindal School of Management. The first programs were offered in 2006. Today, the institute provides opportunities for hundreds of students, faculty, and alumni to learn about entrepreneurship and innovation. Programs include workshops, networking events, pitch competitions, venture support, innovation programs, scholarships, community outreach and more. All programs are open to students from any academic major or background. The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship also manages the Venture Development Center, a 20,000 sq.ft incubation space for students, alumni, and faculty seeking to bring their scientific and technical discoveries to market, and commercialize groundbreaking UT Dallas research, in partnership with the Office of Research and Innovation. Learn more at innovation.utdallas.edu.
About Blackstone LaunchPad

The Blackstone LaunchPad network makes entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills accessible and relevant for all college students to help them build thriving companies and careers. Through the network (made possible by a grant) we get to work with higher education institutions to deliver proven startup resources, get access to a global network of mentors and advisors, and offer unique virtual and physical convening opportunities so our college students can go further, faster. Our students learn by doing, gaining knowledge and critical skills to help them succeed as founders or contributors to the innovation economy. LaunchPad’s ever-expanding network encompasses campuses with predominantly underrepresented populations. Learn more at innovation.utdallas.edu/blackstone-launchpad

About the Venture Development Center

The Venture Development Center (VDC) is a leading incubator designed to help students, faculty, and alumni commercialize their ideas and inventions. It does this through targeted, one-to-one support, enabling ventures to identify and build relationships with the key industry partners, investors, entrepreneurs, and others to help them succeed. The VDC offers 20,000 square-feet of state-of-the-art dedicated office, lab, and meeting space, as well as shared business services and equipment. We help companies build out their teams, protect their Intellectual Property (IP), and connect with expert advisors. We work to get minimum viable products (MVPs) into customers’ hands and prove a viable, scalable business model. For startups, we help founders identify investor options, write, and rehearse their company pitch, and navigate funding terms and other questions. For researchers and inventors seeking industry connections for translational research and licensing, we help identify partners, make introductions, and identify commercialization paths, including licensing agreements, IP assignments, and other contracting alternatives.

General Highlights

- The University of Texas at Dallas is ranked **No. 10 in graduate entrepreneurship** by The Princeton Review.
- The University of Texas at Dallas is ranked **No. 16 among the best schools for entrepreneurship** by Bloomberg Businessweek.
- U.S. News and World Report ranked Texas the **No. 1 state to start a business in 2021**
• Milken Institute ranked the University of Texas System the **No. 13 university for technology commercialization** in 2017.
• The University of Texas at Dallas opened the **Blackstone LaunchPad** facility in April 2017. The building is the new home for student entrepreneurs and innovators.
• The Institute and related programs provided **more than $231,000 in grants and prizes** to support student startups and projects during the 2020-21 academic year.
• The Institute and related programs provided **more than $27,000 in scholarships** during the 2020-21 academic year.
• Two UT Dallas companies have **appeared on ABC’s “Shark Tank.”** iLumi, which earned a $350,000 investment from Mark Cuban and Foot Cardigan which declined an investment.
• **Acquisitions** – CerSci Therapeutics (2020); SURVIVR (2021); Adaptive3D (2021); Zabo (2021)

**In the News**

• “Moving beyond the shakiest phases of kitchen-table startup to viable company takes vision, hard work and luck. That luck for University of Texas at Dallas students and alumni comes in the form of the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.” — **Dallas Innovates** (2018)
• “A work environment that sets the tone for new entrepreneurs to entice and develop daring ideas,” — **BC Commercial** (2017)
• Find more news coverage here: [https://innovation.utdallas.edu/news/](https://innovation.utdallas.edu/news/)

**Testimonials**

• “We consider ourselves the top of the funnel for new business ideas, and through both our academic and startup programs, we serve the UT Dallas community with the education, resources and tools they need to successfully launch startups,” — **Jeremy Vickers**, **former executive director, Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship**
• “I went to UT Dallas specifically for the entrepreneurship classes I knew would be offered to me.”— **Tim Reazor MBA’18, founder of Fifth & Cherry**
• “Our founders were entrepreneurs and our growth as an institution is a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit that they imprinted on our institutional DNA.” **Rafael Martin, VP, Chief of Staff, UT Dallas**

**Annual Princeton Review Rankings**
• 2022 (ranking year, released the year before) – Ranked 24 undergraduate, 11 graduate
• 2021 – Ranked 18 undergraduate, 10 graduate
• 2020 – Ranked 13 undergraduate, 15 graduate
• 2019 – Ranked 11 undergraduate, 23 graduate
• 2018 – Ranked 19 graduate
• 2017 – Ranked 22 graduate

Program Descriptions

The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship provides many programs and engagement opportunities for students and faculty at The University of Texas at Dallas. Below are the programs available. Find links and more information here: innovation.utdallas.edu/programs-and-partnerships.

Programs/Partnerships

• Blackstone LaunchPad
  o Developed as part of the Blackstone Charitable Foundation’s Entrepreneurship Initiative, this global network enables participants to access mentoring, grow their networks, and access resources to accelerate the success of their businesses.
• Capital Factory Partnership Program
  o Select student/alumni founders can gain access to free co-working memberships at Capital Factory with additional perks such as members-only tech events, conference rooms, and a valuable network of over 200 tech mentors.
• CometX Accelerator
  o 8-week program helps early stage student led companies on everything from feasibility, product development, customer engagement, team development, and more.
• GalXc Accelerator
  o 8-week program, exclusively for female founders, that provides education, training, networking and mentoring to a cohort of women. Participants develop skills and competencies to become effective business leaders and founders of high-achieving startups.
• Innovate(her)
• An award-winning a day-long conference that equips middle school girls with science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) skills for higher education and future careers.

• Mentorship Services
  o Receive direct, hands-on mentoring from leading Dallas entrepreneurs and investors. Our mentors consist of CEOs, venture capitalists, angel investors, and attorneys who have both foundational expertise and startup experience.

• Startup Internship and Career Fair
  o Motivated students interested in working/interning/doing a project for a startup can network with startup founders and discover opportunities to work with an early-stage company to help them ramp up fast. Opportunities can be summer or school year paid internships, short-term projects, and/or full-time positions.

• UT Dallas Seed Fund
  o Award-winning university fund exclusively for university-affiliated founders. Early-stage businesses with inventions, discoveries, products or services that have achieved proof of concept (or a prototype) and are ready for commercial product development are encouraged to apply to the fund.

• Women’s Summit
  o Annual summit where Dallas-area women entrepreneurs gather on campus to share their lessons learnt, offer guidance, and talk through their careers with university students.

Competitions

• Big Idea Competition
  o Annual pitch competition that brings the best undergraduate and graduate students together from all disciplines, alongside top research faculty and alumni to pitch the most innovative startups in front of their peers and a panel of esteemed judges for cash scholarship awards.

• UTDesign Startup Challenge
  o Leveraging the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science’s UTDesign senior capstone course, selected ventures can receive $15,000 of engineering services over one of two semesters, a technical mentor, business coaches, and $5,000 cash to grow their business.
• **Classes, Degrees and Certificates** – Take a deep dive by getting a major, minor or certificate in entrepreneurship at the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

• **Master of Innovation and Entrepreneurship** – A specialized graduate degree program for founders committed to launching their startup company aided by curriculum, mentoring, potential funding, and scholarships.

• **Undergraduate Concentration in Innovation and Entrepreneurship** – Students receive a solid foundation in the management disciplines essential to innovation with specific focus on the tools, techniques and skills required to develop and lead product, service, and business innovation.

**Outreach**

• **Co-work** – Take advantage of the many opportunities and areas in the LaunchPad to work together and collaborate.

• **Entrepreneurship Club** – Join our community of founders, collaborators and bootstrappers.

**Follow Us**

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• Twitter – twitter.com/innovationutd

• LinkedIn – linkedin.com/company/innovationutd

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**Learn More**

• Go to innovation.utdallas.edu

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS