Entrepreneurship

AS A CAREER PATH WORKSHOP

UCONN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

◈ **CLIMATEHAVEN**

UCONN CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

UCONN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM & TCS IP SBIR/STTR OPPS.

CURRICULAR PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR F1 INTL. STUDENTS

RESOURCES AT UCONN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

OPPORTUNITIES AT UCONN CCEI

OPPORTUNITIES AT CLIMATE HAVEN

UCONN TCS TECHNOLOGY INCUBATION PROGRAM (TIP)

UConn & ClimateHaven
TCS Resources & SBIR/STTR Funding

Michael A. Invernale, PhD

Senior Licensing Manager, Physical Sciences

April 25, 2025

UCONN | **RESEARCH**

Technology Commercialization Services (TCS)

UCONN TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION SERVICES

Technology Incubation Program (TIP)

By coupling UConn's world-class research resources, facilities, and business support services to a network of experienced investors and entrepreneurs, UConn's technology incubation program (TIP) helps launch startups ready to transform their respective markets.

Venture Development (VD)

UConn innovators have developed technologies that are at the heart of vibrant, growing startups. Technology Commercialization Services can help faculty, students, and staff launch and grow businesses based on their discoveries or innovative ideas.

TCS Home Page: Tech Transfer, Licensing

Submit an Invention Disclosure

IP Management Team

Idea + Team + Support = Startup Success

START UP GUIDE

Technology Commercialization Services (TCS)

Services All Along the Innovation Continuum -- *Lab to Market*

Research

Ideation

Identification of Intellectual Property (IP)

Industry Exposure

IP Protection

Market Validation

Entrepreneurial Education

Proof of Concept Support

Startup Advice and Creation

Commercialization Funding

Technology Licensing

Product

innovation.uconn.edu

Collaboration & Partnerships:

Faculty & Students

Technology Transfer

Venture Development

Technology Incubation

SRA, License, or Start-up

Technology Transfer, Licensing, and Beyond

- Licenses
- Options
- Inter-institutional Agreements (IIA)
- Non-Disclosure (NDA) / Confidentiality Agreements (CDA)
- Material Evaluation Agreements (MEA)
- Material Transfer Agreements (MTA)
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Letter Agreement
- Amendments
- Data Transfer and/or Use Agreements

Know-How
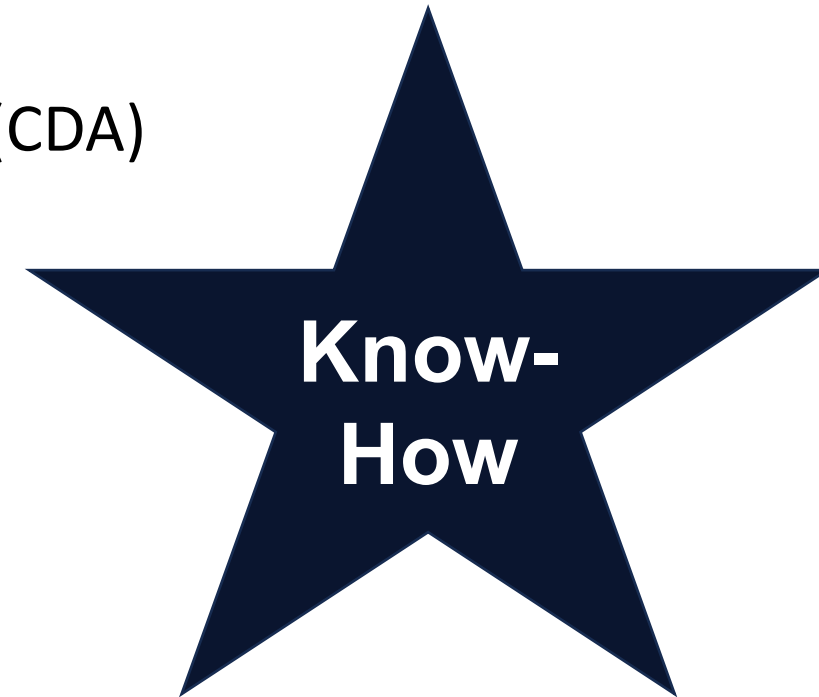
What is the SBIR/STTR Program?

A $4 Billion+ Federal Funding Program that supports **small businesses** to:
- Stimulate **technological innovation** to
- Develop **products** with **commercial merit**
- Create jobs

SBIR

Small Business Innovation Research

STTR

Small Business Technology Transfer

SBIR/STTR Eligibility Cheat Sheet

"Small Business" Criteria for Submission

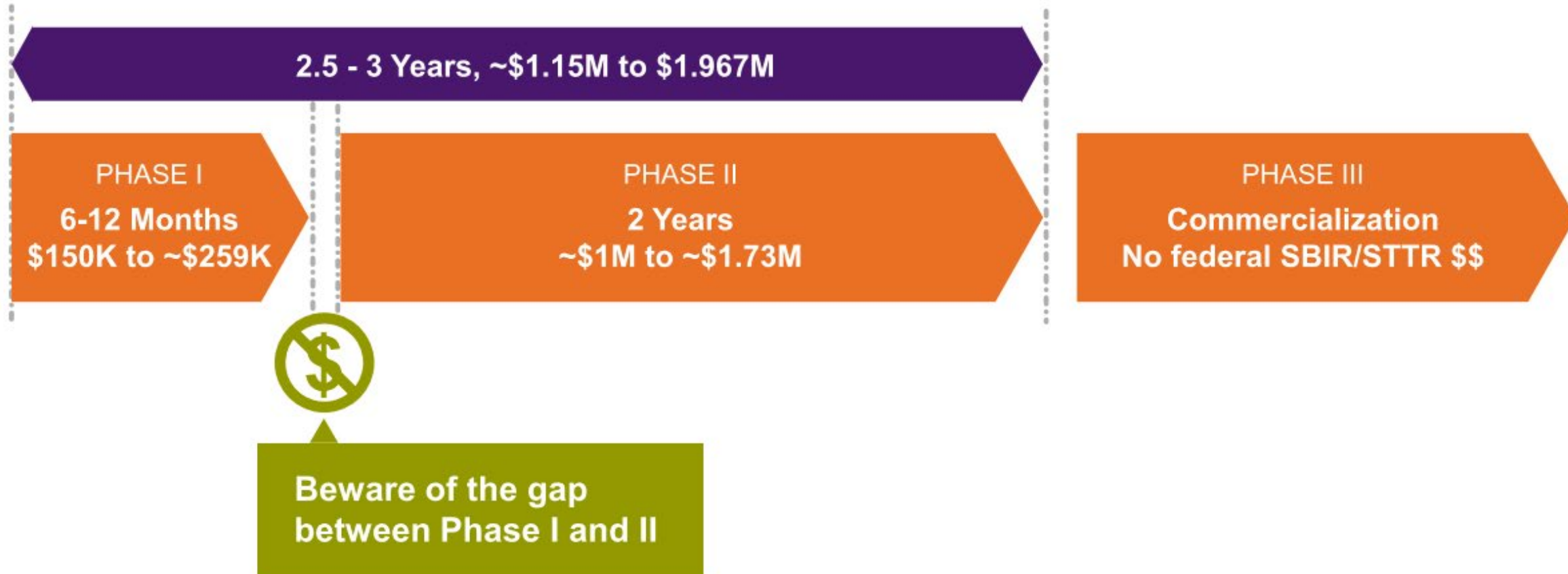---

1) Organized **for profit**, with a place of business **located in the United States**

2) **More than 50% Owned** and controlled by one or more individuals who are **citizens or permanent resident aliens** of the United States, or by other small business concerns that are each more than 50% owned and controlled by one or more individuals who are citizens or permanent resident aliens of the United States; and

3) **Fewer than 500 employees**, including affiliates

STTR Differences in Required Effort:
- 40% by Business (located in US)
- 30% by School/CRO/FFRDC (nonprofit, located in US)
- 30% by Either Party
  - PI Can be a University (etc.) Employee (not NSF)
  - Business/University (etc.) IP Agreement

THE BASICS OF SBIR: 3 PHASES

2.5 - 3 Years, ~$1.15M to $1.967M

PHASE I
6-12 Months
$150K to ~$259K

PHASE II
2 Years
~$1M to ~$1.73M

PHASE III
Commercialization
No federal SBIR/STTR $$

Beware of the gap
between Phase I and II

AGENDA

- F-1 Visa Restrictions on Employment
- Current Environment for International Students
- DHS Guidance for Students
- Other options for F-1 visa holders
- Resources

Current Environment

- Current environment and risks of any perceived violation of status.
- Resume
- Visa Application
- Customs and Border Protection
- Tax Return
- Change of Status

F1 Student Employment

During Studies

- When classes are in session, students are only allowed to "work" on-campus at UConn, for UConn. Otherwise, they need authorization

- Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

- Pre-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT)

DHS Guidance

<u>Study in the States</u>

- "Because starting your own business is work, students need to apply for pre-completion OPT"
  - o Pre-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT)
  - o Work up to 20 hours week (on and off campus employment hours combined)

https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/international-students-and-entrepreneurship

UConn Solutions

The University also runs entrepreneurial programs related to the University's curriculum. If you are an F-1 student who starts a business in the context of a UConn entrepreneurial program, you may qualify for [Curricular Practical Training](). Students on F-1 visas who participate in the following programs must apply for CPT prior to participation in the program:

- Third Bridge Grant Program
- Accelerate UConn
- Summer Fellowship

Consult your ISSS International Adviser

F-1 Visa Options - CPT

- <u>Educational Internships/Training Opportunities</u>
- Work = Course Work
- Eligibility Restrictions =
  - Required for all Students
  - Required for Course Credit
  - Cooperative Agreement
- Job Offer is Required

Authorized by ISSS

2-week Processing

No fee to apply

But fee course fees apply if no GA (summer)

UConn restrictions on GA workload

F-1 Visa Options – OPT/STEM

- OPT = Work permit to work in your major field

- 12-month EAD for all students (Self-employment is allowed)

- 24-month Extension for all STEM grads with E-Verify Employer (work with outside attorney to determine eligibility if self-owned company)

Other Visa Types

- H-1B
  - Specialty Occupation up to 6 years – Employer Files
- L-1/L-2 EAD
  - Intra-Company Transfer – max 7 years, employer files
- O-1
  - Extraordinary ability or achievement. 3 yrs and extensions
- E-3
  - Specialty Occupation from Australia.

Employment Based Categories

EB-1

EB-2

Consult with an immigration attorney

Resources Continued

- https://international.global.uconn.edu/
  - ➢ Immigration
  - ➢ Employment
  - ➢ CPT, OPT, STEM OPT Extension
- https://international.global.uconn.edu/
  - ➢ Resources
  - ➢ Living in the U.S.
  - ➢ Financial, Legal, SCAM assistance

USCIS.gov

https://career.uconn.edu/-affinity community

- Navigating Internship and Job Panel

-Career Fairs

-Handshake

The Entrepreneurship Hub

College of Engineering

Leila Daneshmandi, PhD

April 2025

The eHub actively supports technology entrepreneurship

- Established to foster technology entrepreneurship across UConn.

- Promotes exchange of ideas, collaborations, and partnerships within UConn's tech community.

- Focus on technological innovations in HealthTech, GreenTech, Advanced Materials, Electronics, EdTech, Software, and AI.

- Supports entrepreneurship, from ideation and conceptualization to startup launch and scaling.

Courses

Courses Overview

Foundational	Intermediary	Advanced

Entrepreneurial Skills

1 credit

Technology Innovation & Entrepreneurship I

3 credits

→

Technology Innovation & Entrepreneurship II

3 credits

→

Technology Entrepreneurship: Startup Strategy

3 credits

Startup Consulting

1-6 credits

Innovation Entrepreneurship

3 credits

Innovation for Defense

3 credits
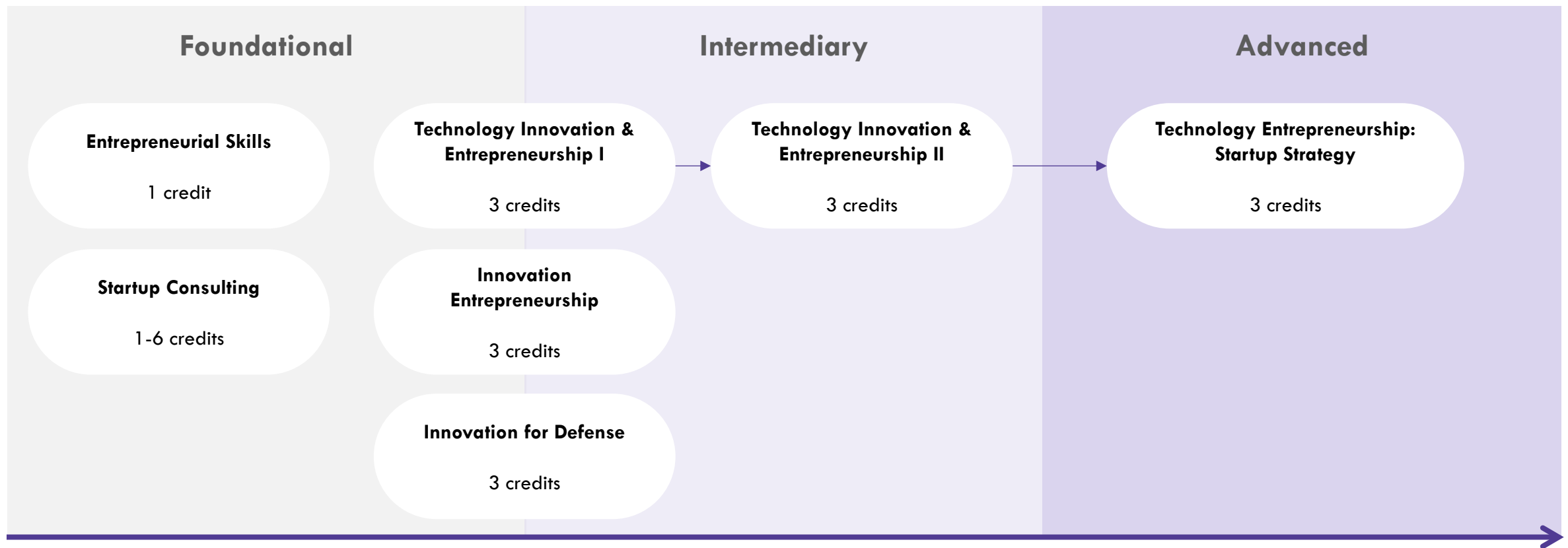
Courses Overview

Offered in Fall

	Technology Innovation & Entrepreneurship I
	Technology Entrepreneurship: Startup Strategy
	Innovation for Defense
	Startup Consulting

Offered in Spring

	Technology Innovation & Entrepreneurship II
	Innovation Entrepreneurship
	Entrepreneurial Skills
	Startup Consulting

Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship I

A 3-credit experiential project-based course that brings together multi-disciplinary student teams from Engineering, Business, and Fine Arts to develop viable technology-based startups.

Instructor(s):   Leila Daneshmandi, PhD
                   Sam Nanayakkara, MBA

Offered: Fall, Mon, 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Instruction Mode: in person

Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship II

A 3-credit experiential project-based course that brings together multi-disciplinary student teams from Engineering, Business, and Fine Arts to develop viable technology-based startups.

Instructor(s):   Leila Daneshmandi, PhD

                   Sam Nanayakkara, MBA

Offered: Spring, Mon, 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Instruction Mode: in person

Technology Entrepreneurship: Startup Strategy

A 3-credit experiential project-based course that brings together multi-disciplinary student teams from Engineering, Business, and Fine Arts to develop viable technology-based startups.

Instructor(s):   Leila Daneshmandi, PhD

Kevin Gardiner, MBA

Offered: Fall

Instruction Mode: hybrid

ENGR 5300-004

TECHNOLOGY ENTREPRENEURSHIP: STARTUP STRATEGY

For technology-enabled high-growth startups

LEARN

Product and Business Models
Go-to-Market Strategy
Pitching to Investors
Competitor Analysis
Pricing Strategies
Financial Models
Valuations

Instructors:
Kevin Gardiner, MBA
Leila Daneshmandi, PhD | **Fall 2023** | **3 credits**

For more information, contact leila@uconn.edu

Innovation for Defense

Sponsored by the DoD and part of the Hacking for Defense ecosystem, students will work in teams over the semester to solve real-life problems sourced from across DoD agencies. Teams will identify, prototype, and tests solutions in response to military and DoD priority areas.

Instructor(s):   Alexander Grey, PhD

                            Lisa McAdam Donegan

Offered: Fall, Thurs, 11:00 am – 1:30 pm

Instruction Mode: in person

Innovation Entrepreneurship

A 3-credit course that focuses on push innovation for science-based startups, in which students are encouraged to form venture teams and conduct extensive customer discovery for their research-based innovations, utilizing the lean launchpad methodology

Instructor(s): Shiri Dori-Hacohen, PhD

Offered: Spring, Tue/Thurs, 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Instruction Mode: in person

Startup Consulting

A 3-credit experiential project-based course that brings together multi-disciplinary student teams from Engineering, Business, and Fine Arts to develop viable technology-based startups.

Instructor(s): Leila Daneshmandi, PhD

Offered: Fall and Spring

Instruction Mode: hybrid

Entrepreneurial Skills

A 1-credit professional development course for all graduate students in the School of Engineering to train in entrepreneurial skills including creative, critical, and strategic thinking, problem solving and decision making, big picture thinking, communication and presentation, financial literacy, branding, and future of work.

Instructor: Leila Daneshmandi, PhD

Offered: Spring, Tuesdays, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Instruction Mode: online

ENGR 5300-006
Entrepreneurial Skills Course

Open to all Engineering graduate students

Take a 1 credit course to learn entrepreneurial skills that are not covered in traditional STEM coursework.

SPRING 2022
Tuesdays 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

▶ ONLINE

Instructor:
Dr. Leila Daneshmandi

With guest speakers from the entrepreneurship space

For more information, contact leila@uconn.edu

Learn

Creative thinking

Problem solving

Ideation

Communication

Financial literacy

Branding

Future of work

User experience

Technology Innovation & Entrepreneurship Pitch Day

Programs

The Entrepreneurship Fellowship Program

A framework of carefully designated **courses, programs,** and **activities** that progressively train STEM graduate students in entrepreneurial and leadership skills.

Program Structure:

- Year-long
- Cohort-based
- Curricular and co-curricular program
- Experiential learning
- Peer-to-peer learning and mentorship
- Funding opportunities

Entrepreneurship Fellows Cohort AY 2024-2025

The Entrepreneurship Fellowship Program

Module 1 - Fall			Module 2 - Spring			Module 3 - Summer		
Coursework	Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship I		Coursework	Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship II		Experiential Entrepreneurial Summer Experience		
				Innovation Entrepreneurship				
University Pitch Competition			State/National Pitch Competition					
			NSF I-Corps					
Prototyping Grant			Prototyping Grant			Prototyping Grant		
Orientation	Socialization	Socialization	All Team Meeting	Socialization	Socialization	All Team Meeting	Socialization	Socialization	All Team Meeting
Assessment			Assessment			Assessment			Assessment

Entrepreneurship Fellows Cohort AY 2024 - 2025

Md. Zakir Hossain
2nd-Year Ph.D. Student
Computer Science Engineering

Md. Safaet Hossain Sujan
2nd-Year Ph.D. Student
Health Promotion Sciences

Nooshin Farashaei
3rd-Year Masters Student
Fine Arts & Digital Media Design

Nicholas Nguyen
2nd-Year Ph.D. Student
Mechanical Engineering

Alaa Selim
Ph.D. Candidate
Electrical & Computer Engineering
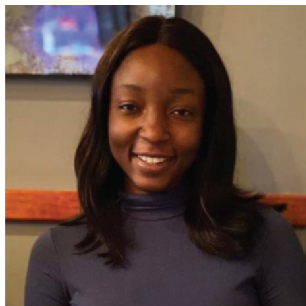
Adaeze Maduako
4th-Year Ph.D. Student
Chemical Engineering
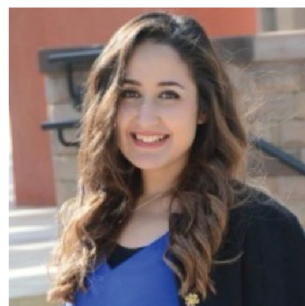
Fatma Elshishiny
4th-Year Ph.D. Student
Biomedical Engineering

Aidan Kierans
3rd-Year Ph.D. Student
Computer Science Engineering

Mohammad Osat
1st-Year Ph.D. Student
Biomolecular Engineering

Soroush Vahedi
Ph.D. Candidate
Electrical Engineering

Startup Ideas

PowerBid

An app that lets solar homeowners sell excess energy to neighbors, unlocking new revenue through energy trading, subscriptions, and grid partnerships.

POWERBID

Trade Clean, Earn Green

Flexapy
Home Physical Therapy

Goldilocks

A user-friendly smart shower system to streamline elder care.

Goldilocks

SmarThyCheck

Smart thyroid assessment

SmarThyCheck

A digital health tool that helps providers detect and manage thyroid disorders early by combining patient screening data with smart diagnostic technology.

Flexapy

A multi-language mobile application that guides patients to complete at-home physical therapy exercises through gamified AI motion-tracking modules.

OptiEnerX
Stay Powered ..... Stay Productive

OptiEnerX

Adaptive Charging using RLHF technology and smart energy management.

Safety Assurance Index

A nonprofit advancing open-source safety standards for general-purpose AI by addressing gaps in standardization, auditing, and implementation.

Safety Assurance Index

AgriOptima

SaaS platform that cuts water use by up to 30% with API-based irrigation optimization and real-time dashboard insights.

Achievements & Milestones

Turning Innovation into Action: Key Outcomes
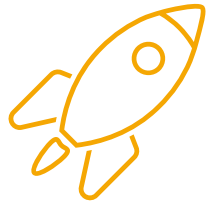
VENTURE LAUNCHES

7 Startup Ideas Launched

These 7 startups emerged from ideation to implementation through mentorship, prototyping, and pitch sessions within the program.

FUNDING SECURED

4 Founder Teams Secured Funding or Investment

Support with pitch decks, grant applications, and accelerator introductions helped 4 teams of founders raise early-stage capital.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

6 Presentations at National Conferences

6 Fellows represented UConn at entrepreneurship and innovation conferences.

National Science Foundation

Pitch Competitions

UCONN

CONNECTICUT CENTER
FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND INNOVATION

ccei.uconn.edu

MISSION

At CCEI, we aim to empower entrepreneurs and innovators, create a vibrant startup ecosystem, and contribute to economic development in Connecticut. We strive to provide the necessary resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities to help entrepreneurs build sustainable businesses and make a positive impact on society. Our commitment to fostering a culture of collaboration and knowledge exchange further enhances the foundation for success in our vibrant startup community at CCEI.

INITIATIVES

CCEI supports students, faculty, and alumni as they are innovating and creating solutions to some of the world's greatest problems. We connect students with opportunities to learn and engage in entrepreneurship and know that these experiences will be a catalyst to building the future they dream of. For alumni, we are here to support their passions no matter where their journey takes them.

AUDIENCES WE SERVE

Community 11%
Alumni 11%
Faculty/Staff 13%
Graduate Students 30%
Undergraduate Students 35%
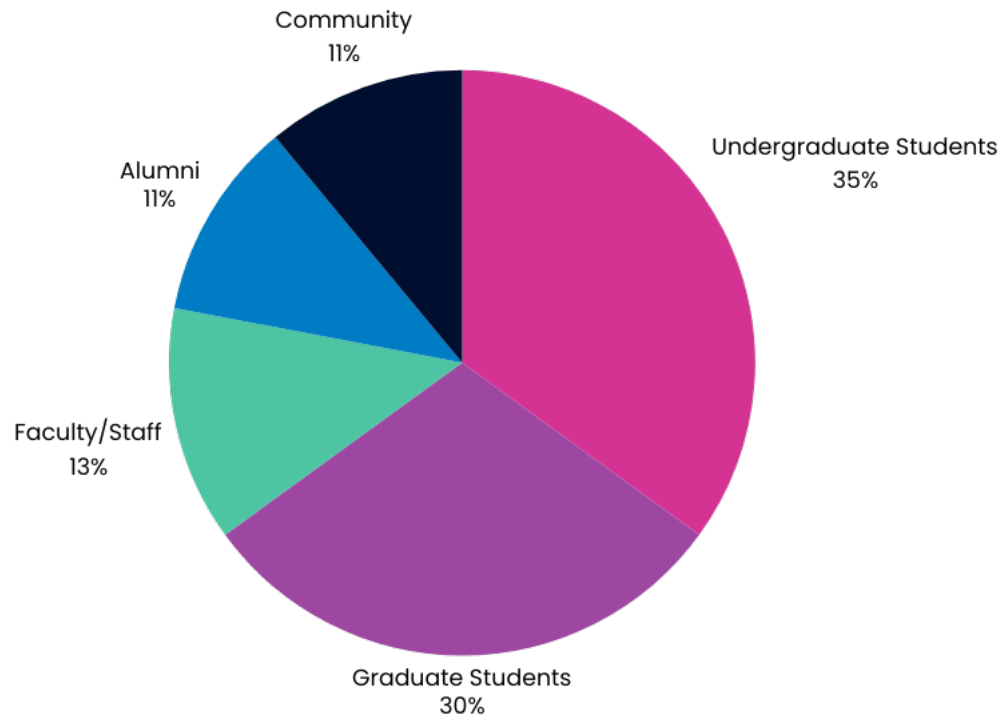
Undergraduates

- Get Seeded
- Traction Workshops
- Founder's Lounge
- Summer Fellowship Accelerator
- Wolff New Venture Competition
- Student Ambassadors
- Build Hartford

Faculty/Staff

- Accelerate UConn: NSF I-Corps
- Summer Fellowship Accelerator
- Wolff New Venture Competition

Alumni

- Traction Workshops
- Accelerate UConn: NSF I-Corps
- Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans
- Summer Fellowship Accelerator
- Wolff New Venture Competition

Graduate Students

- Get Seeded
- Traction Workshops
- Founder's Lounge
- Accelerate UConn: NSF I-Corps
- Summer Fellowship Accelerator
- Wolff New Venture Competition
- Build Hartford

Community

- Accelerate UConn: NSF I-Corps
- Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans
- Entrepreneurial Leadership Program
- The Collaboratory
- Mentor Network

BY THE NUMBERS

$2.3M+

PROVIDED IN VENTURE FUNDING

$1.7M

PROVIDED IN SCHOLARSHIP & INTERNSHIP FUNDS

$496M+

RAISED IN FOLLOW-ON FUNDING BY CCEI PROGRAM ALUMNI

1500+

ENTREPRENEURS SUPPORTED

*since 2015

LOCATIONS

GRADUATE BUSINESS LEARNING CENTER
100 CONSTITUTION PLAZA, SUITE 301
HARTFORD, CT

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
2100 HILLSIDE ROAD, SUITE 121
STORRS, CT

Get Seeded Pitch Nights

Fun Fact:
The founders of SedMed met at a Get Seeded Pitch Night in 2019!

Open to: Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Occurs: Monthly in Fall and Spring semesters

Get Seeded provides UConn students across all schools the opportunity to pitch their business ideas a live virtual audience who then votes on which ideas are funded. Students that are selected to pitch have an opportunity to earn up to $1,000 in seed funding for their idea as well as support from other students who may be interested in joining their business venture. Get Seeded is also open to the public and is a great way to network and connect!

Program Stats:

| 33 Pitch Nights | 330+ Ideas Supported | 200 Teams Pitched | $128K in Funding Provided |

*since 2018

Process (5-6 Pitch Night Per Year):

Students Apply → Selected to pitch → 5 pitches per pitch night → Audience Votes → $1st place: $1k / 2nd place: $750 / 3rd place: $500 → 5 pitches selected → **Get Seeded Demo Day** 1st place: $5k / 2nd place: $2.5k / 3rd place: $1k

Program Contact:

Michaela Hartl, michaela.hartl@uconn.edu

ccei.uconn.edu/getseeded

Traction Workshops

Open to: Undergraduate Students, Graduate Students and Alumni

Occurs: Bi-weekly in Fall and Spring semesters

Traction Workshops are a unique opportunity to help aspiring entrepreneurs and early-stage startups move their ideas forward. Open to any UConn student, this series of virtual workshops provides participants with hands-on guidance in developing a strong foundation of entrepreneurship knowledge. Whether you have a concept in its earliest stages—or no idea at all, these workshops aim to empower you to learn about entrepreneurship on your own terms.

Participants will benefit from expert-led sessions that cover essential startup topics, including value proposition creation, customer discovery, creating an impactful pitch deck, and business model development.

TRACTION WORKSHOP

RAISING SMART MONEY

POWERED BY:

connecticut **innovations**

APRIL 22, 2025
6:30-7:30 PM
VIRTUAL

Traction Workshops

64 Workshops

730+ Attendees

*since 2020

Workshop Topics:

- Problem/Solution Fit
- The Business Model
- From Concept to Product
- Pitch Deck 101
- The Revenue Model
- Startup Fundraising

Program Contact:

Michaela Hartl, michaela.hartl@uconn.edu

ccei.uconn.edu/traction

The Founder's Lounge

Open to: Undergraduate and Graduate Students

Occurs: Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters

At The Founder's Lounge, CCEI offers an environment where entrepreneurs can collaborate, create, and advertise. The space provides: locked storage, the display of accepted startups and their logos, ample room to meet with cofounders/teammates, and a private meeting space available to reserve.

The Founder's Lounge is located in Storrs during the academic year, and in Hartford during the summer. All undergraduate and graduate students working on a business are eligible, with five startups accepted each semester.

Program Stats:

2 Locations

17 Startups Incubated

*since 2023

Applications now open for Fall 2025!

Currently Incubating:

MUD RAT · MOGSki AUTHENTIC · ReBalance · STYLISTIC · ANA BIO

Accelerate UConn: NSF I-Corps Program

Open to: Graduate Students, Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Community

Occurs: 4 week program held 4x per year: 2 spring, 1 summer, 1 fall

Accelerate UConn is UConn's National Science Foundation Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Program. Its mission is to catalyze entrepreneurial teams whose technology concepts are likely candidates for commercialization. Participating teams will receive an introduction to the most critical elements of the I-Corps Curriculum and Lean Launchpad methodology. With the support of Accelerate UConn, teams will learn first-hand about entrepreneurship and explore the transition of their ideas, devices, processes, new scientific discoveries or other intellectual activities into the marketplace. In 2024, UConn joined the NSF's Northeast Region Hub.

NSF I-Corps Hub
Northeast Region

Program Stats:

31 Cohorts

284 Startup Teams Trained

670+ Entrepreneurs Trained

$740K in Funding Provided

*since 2015

Program Contact:

Alycia Chrosniak, alycia.chrosniak@uconn.edu

ccei.uconn.edu/accelerate-uconn

Summer Fellowship Accelerator

Open to: Undergraduate and Graduate Students, Faculty, Staff and Alumni

Occurs: Annually, 8 weeks in June and July

Summer Fellowship is UConn's startup accelerator. This immersive entrepreneurial experience open to anyone affiliated with UConn. Summer Fellowship is CCEI's flagship program and has prepared startups to launch their company, generate revenue, raise funding (grants, investments, etc.), and be accepted into next step opportunities such as incubators and accelerator programs.

The top ten startups from across the University are selected to participate in the Summer Fellowship experience. This program takes place three days a week over eight weeks, where participants develop the skills needed to bring new products, services, and technologies to market. Each team receives one-on-one coaching and mentorship from industry experts and experienced entrepreneurs. Teams are provided with pro bono legal and accounting services to help with initial business setup and support.

Program Stats:

10 Cohorts

100 Startups Launched

$1.5M in Funding Provided

*since 2022

Program Contact:
Alycia Chrosniak, alycia.chrosniak@uconn.edu

🌐 **ccei.uconn.edu/summer-fellowship**

Wolff New Venture Competition

9 Events

$335K in Funding Awarded

*since 2016

Open to: Students, Faculty, Staff and Alumni

Occurs: 1 day, annually in October

The Wolff New Venture Competition features live pitches by the top startups coming out of UConn each year. The legwork for the competition begins in March, where 10 startups are hand-selected by an independent panel to participate in the CCEI Summer Fellowship Program. Here, CCEI works to strengthen the support for the university's top entrepreneurial teams and take them beyond concepts and towards market readiness.

After this eight-week accelerator, the teams present their final pitches, and the top startups are selected to compete in the Wolff New Venture Competition; chosen on a basis of venture viability and value-added to the market. A panel of venture experts then awards over $115,000 in prizes!

Program Contact:
Alycia Chrosniak, alycia.chrosniak@uconn.edu

ccei.uconn.edu/wolff-new-venture-competition

CCEI STARTUPS

PHOENIX TAILINGS

Founded by scientists, entrepreneurs & engineers, Phoenix Tailings creates sustainably produced metals and raw materials, recycled from mining waste.
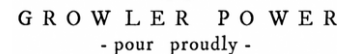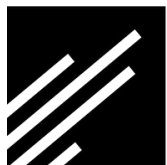
CCEI PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

- Accelerate UConn: NSF I-Corps Program 2019
- Summer Fellowship Accelerator 2019
- Wolff New Venture Competition winner 2019

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

- Raised a $43 million Series B in 2024 led by BMW and Yamaha Motor
- Closed a sales contract for the 3 years of production with a magnet manufacturer supplying global auto brands
- Building a $13 million facility in New Hampshire, that can produce 200 metric tons of rare earths annually and should open by June 2025

VERADERMICS

Veradermics, Inc. is a medical dermatology company advancing first-in-class therapeutics that address real-world patient needs in under-innovated dermatology markets.

CCEI PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

- Get Seeded Pitch Nights 2019
- Accelerate UConn: NSF I-Corps Program 2020
- Summer Fellowship Accelerator 2020
- Wolff New Venture Competition 2020

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

- 2024 Forbes 30 Under 30 in Healthcare
- Closed a $75 million Series B in December 2024
- Initiated Phase 2 / 3 trial for hair loss in 2025
- Five novel product candidates in pipeline

Program Indication	MOA Delivery	PRE-IND	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
VDPHL Androgenetic Alopecia	Confidential MOA Oral Tablet				
VDMN Common Warts	Candida Antigen Extract Immunotherapy Dissolvable Microarray				
VDAA Alopecia Areata	Topical Contact Immunotherapy				
VDAD Atopic Dermatitis	Novel Oral Immunomodulator				
VDMC Molluscum Contagiosum	Topical New Chemical Entity Antiviral				

PROVELOCITYBAT
PROVELOCITYBAT.COM

The ProVelocity Bat is the most advanced training product on the market, uniquely designed to improve bat speed, swing mechanics, and hand-eye coordination all in one swing. Capable of hitting live pitches, its unique design provides immediate audible feedback, allowing players to hear and feel their swing getting faster.
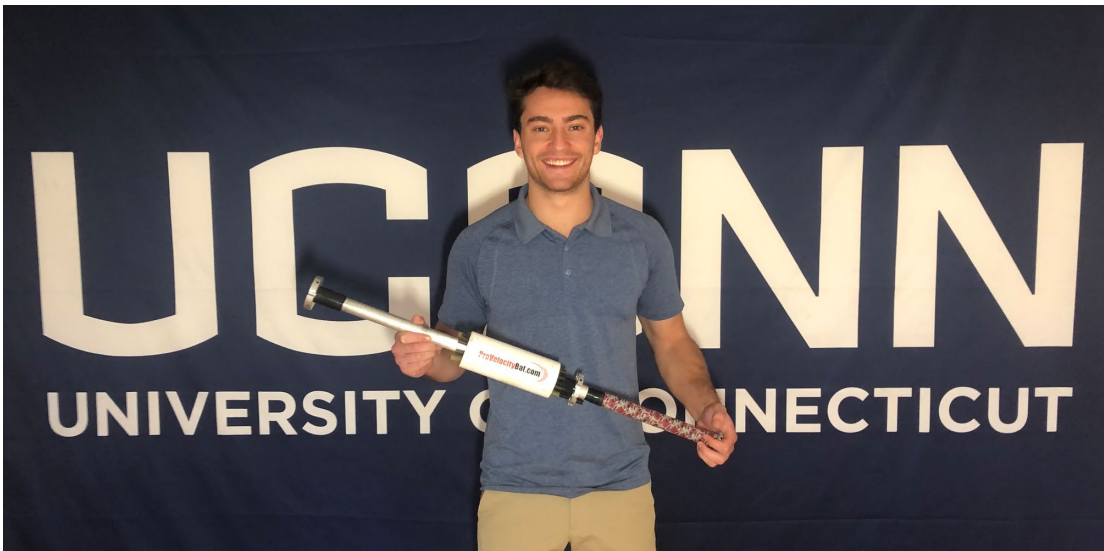
CCEI PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

- Summer Fellowship Accelerator 2021
- Wolff New Venture Competition winner 2021

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

- Have made over $5.5 million in revenue
- Sold to nearly every Major League Baseball organization in 2024
- Added softball and cricket products to their lineup
- Sold to roughly 30 countries worldwide

BARREL LOCK
Lock in the barrel at the end to create a traditional heavy bat.

SLIDING BARREL
Patented Dynamic Inertia Technology. Designed to increase strength while improving swing mechanics.

LATCH PLATE
Engage resistance bands to preset bat speeds ranging from little league to major league.

SHAFT
Reinforced aircraft aluminum allows hitting against live pitching.

RESISTANCE BANDS
Get stronger over time by adding resistance to the sliding barrel. Receive immediate audible feedback on every swing.

GRIP TAPE
Long lasting, comfortable, high friction grip tape.

CLIMATEHAVEN

A platform for startups building breakthrough solutions in energy and climate resilience

INCUBATOR

Flexible and responsive to the needs of scaling startups: prototyping, 24/7 co-working space, and fully-equipped maker space

STRATEGIC GUIDANCE

Intensive programming and 1:1 guidance dialed to the needs of founders, covering all aspects of climate tech entrepreneurship

COMMUNITY

Access to critical professional services and scaling resources, seasoned executives-in-residence (EIRs) and an extensive network of mentors

CAPITAL CONNECTOR

Targeted support and access to the investment and funding necessary for their businesses to expand and commercialize

ClimateHaven
Community

2023

2025

GET INVOLVED AT CLIMATEHAVEN

Apply to build your startup at ClimateHaven

Sign up for our newsletter

UConn's Technology Incubation Program (TIP)

A premier hub for high-growth startups, offering direct access to UConn's cutting-edge research and innovation ecosystem

Steve Criss, MPA
Technology Incubation Administrator

April 25, 2025

For more info:
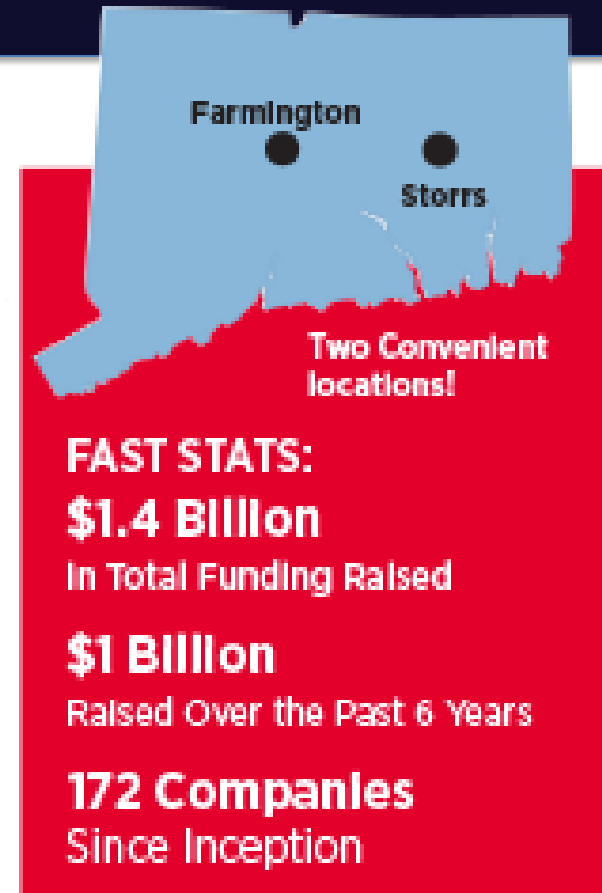Innovation.uconn.edu/technology-incubation-program
steve.criss@uconn.edu

UCONN

What is TIP?

- CT's leading university-affiliated startup incubator designed to support the growth and development of early-stage technology startups.

- Provides entrepreneurs with the resources, mentorship, and infrastructure needed to bring their ideas to life and scale their businesses.

Why TIP Matters?
We partner with entrepreneurs to leverage University assets to drive innovation and economic growth in CT.

Farmington

Storrs

Two Convenient locations!

FAST STATS:
$1.4 Billion
In Total Funding Raised

$1 Billion
Raised Over the Past 6 Years

172 Companies
Since Inception

What TIP offers

1. **State-of-the-Art Facilities & Flexible Leasing**
   Move-in-ready lab and office space, including vivarium/shared equipment, designed to support diverse startup needs.

2. **Comprehensive Business & Technical Support**
   Dedicated program team, expert Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIRs), and world-class faculty mentors to accelerate growth.

3. **Strategic Funding & Partnership Resources**
   Direct connections to investors, grant-writing support, and curated introductions to legal, regulatory, and business service providers.

UConn TIP's collaborative ecosystem connected neighboring start-ups, Arome Science and Feel Good Lab, to sign a distribution agreement leveraging their respective strengths, and know-how

How TIP works

The UConn TIP program supports startups through multiple phases of growth, each focused on key milestones and funding strategies

Phase 1: Joining TIP
- Build strategic plan & milestones
- Setup company and operations
- Funding focus on grant awards
- Sample milestones: pre-clinical testing, product market fit, customer pilot contracts

Phase 2: Building
- Build initial team
- Opportunity to diversify funding (grants, angels, seed)
- Sample milestones: stable manufacturing, customer pilot launch, device FDA trial

TIP Program

Phase 4: Graduation Prep
- Investor discussions and capital raise
- Management team and identify new space
- Sample milestones: Trial protocol, full commercial launch

Phase 3: Planning VC capital raise
- Build investor relationships
- Create company board or advisory council
- Sample milestones: IND prep, new products, initial customers
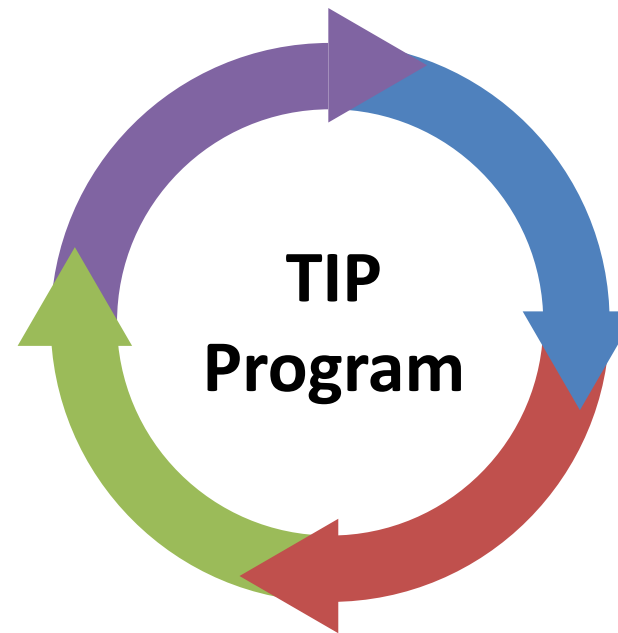
Explore Innovation or Launch Your Own Startup!

TIP Innovation Fellowship

- Paid 10-week summer research with UConn-affiliated startups (STEM & Business)

- Mentorship from experienced entrepreneurs

- Weekly seminars & networking events

- Available at Storrs & Farmington

- Open to undergrad & grad students (with stipend)

Student Entrepreneurs

- Got a startup idea? Apply for a 1-year free probationary period

- Access TIP resources to grow your venture

- Prepare to officially join TIP after one year

Perfect for students seeking hands-on startup experience or building their own business!

Laron Burrows's work at UConn has focused on revolutionizing ammonia production with a new reactor that reduces both costs and energy consumption. Burrows, a Ph.D. student in Chemical Engineering, founded Andros Innovations at UConn TIP.