



# DEMPSEY STARTUP COMPETITION

**Dare to take the next step!**  
Develop a venture from idea to launch  
More than \$80,000 in prizes

**Learn more at [startup.uw.edu](http://startup.uw.edu)**



# DEMPSEY STARTUP COMPETITION

The Dempsey Startup Competition is the University of Washington's annual business plan competition for college student across the region. By participating, students receive a real-world experience developing a venture from idea to launch, while practicing the dynamics of venture creation including the formation of a founding team, writing a business plan, and presenting to investors. In fact, many class projects become the basis for startup companies through the competition process!

## WHAT IS YOUR IDEA?

Students can compete with any idea across any industry—consumer product, tech, environmental, health, or non-profit—get ready to launch it here!

- \$1.54 million in prize money awarded to 167 student companies over past 22 years
- 5,190 student participants over that same time period
- 400+ entrepreneurs and investors served as judges, advisors, and mentors in 2019

## WHO CAN ENTER?

The Dempsey Startup Competition is open to all students attending a college or university in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska or British Columbia.



## HOW TO PREPARE

- Sign up for the Buerk Center's weekly newsletter to stay up to date on Team Formation events, workshops, application parties, and more!
- View past examples of competition entries at [startup.uw.edu](http://startup.uw.edu).
- Visit our Startup Resources webpage to access additional information.
- UW students can enroll in the ENTRE 440/540 Business Plan Practicum each Winter Quarter.
- Watch recordings of past sessions of the Business Plan Practicum on our website along with blogs recapping the topics and discussion.

QUESTIONS? E-MAIL SARAH STUDER AT [SSTUDER@UW.EDU](mailto:sstuder@uw.edu)

### ○ APPLY!

Enter the competition by submitting your team information and Executive Summary.

### ○ ROUND 1: Screening Round

200+ judges review entries and select 36 teams to advance.

### ○ ROUND 2: Investment Round

Top 36 teams exhibit in tradeshow-style event.

### ○ ROUND 3: Coaching Round

Non-elimination round for Sweet 16 to practice with coaches.

### ○ SWEET SIXTEEN and FINAL ROUND

Sweet 16 teams deliver a 12-15 page business plan and 15-minute pitch to a panel of judges. Four teams are selected for a final pitch to a seven-judge panel and live audience.

## FOSTER

Buerk Center for Entrepreneurship