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
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.
- 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

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.