

Women in Entrepreneurial Leadership (WEL)

ENTREP 579 E/F

**Tuesdays,
6 to 9:20pm
October 4th to
November 1st**

“NOT EVERYONE’S

AMBITIONS WILL BE

WORLD

DOMINATION OR

CARNEGIE HALL,

BUT WE SHOULD BE

DRIVEN BEYOND

WHAT WE KNOW

AND FEEL SAFE

DOING.”

– Stacy Abrams

Given the speed of change, entrepreneurial leaders are needed now more than ever. Stories of technological disruption, innovations changing our society, new accelerators, new incubators, new unicorns, and venture capital are seemingly daily headlines. Also in the headlines, and our social feeds, are Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and Mark Zuckerberg. Silicon Valley is portrayed as both the birthplace and playground of the entrepreneur. The PNW is also a hot area.

Entrepreneurship is sexier than ever, and one might assume, we are in the midst of an entrepreneurial boom – one in which success is swift and profitable. The reality is much different. Data shows that the [entrepreneurship rate has nearly halved since the 1970s](#). Simultaneously, the percentage of startups that are profitable when they list on the stock market is at its lowest point since the dotcom bubble of the 1990s despite the average startup today remaining private twice as long as was the norm in the past.

Pulling back the façade even further, one finds that women and minorities are largely left out – or face more challenges than their white male counterparts. In 2019, companies with all-female founding teams received [just 2.8% of all venture capital funding](#). Further, [female-only founders raise less of a proportion of funding than male/female co-founded teams across funding rounds](#) (seed through series C+).

[Minorities receive even less funding](#). Just one percent of venture-backed founders are black, Latino founders makeup 1.8% of those receiving funding, while Middle Easterners total 2.8%. Asians make up 17.7% of venture-backed founders.

During this course, we will explore the entrepreneurial ecosystem including founding something, joining an early-stage company, investing, becoming an entrepreneur through acquisition or being an intrapreneur in a large organization. The ecosystem needs more diversity

Learn skills

The entrepreneurial ecosystem is broader than many think. It also has its own vocabulary (TAM! Series A, and more). You’ll learn to rapidly build a business canvas which will help you assess ideas. We’ll delve into unique elements for women.

Build a network.

Entrepreneurial ecosystems are different from corporate. Guest speakers will be a node into key areas like founders, investors, fast growing companies, search fund leaders and intrapreneurial roles within large companies.

Take risks + reflect

This course is immersive and hands on. You’ll be trying different parts of the entrepreneurial ecosystem on and reflecting on what you like. You’ll learn tools for evaluating risk. Coming out of this class you will have a good idea of which entrepreneurial path to pursue.