



Veterans Entrepreneurship Program

May 3— May 10, 2014
 The University of Florida
 Gainesville, Florida



Cost

The VEP is free to veterans who are selected for the program. Instruction, materials, travel expenses, lodging and meals for the Phase II Bootcamp will be provided at no cost to each delegate. The costs of the VEP are underwritten by sponsors and private donors, with operations and program development provided by the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Florida.

Eligibility

VEP targets veterans who meet the following three requirements:

- (1) Have separated from active duty service (or are currently in the administrative process of separating) with an honorable discharge
- (2) (a) Are identified as disabled by the Veteran’s Administration or Dept. of Defense based on a “service connected” disability (or)
 - (b) Are “service distinguished” based on exemplary military conduct
- (3) Demonstrate an intense interest in entrepreneurship and small business ownership/management

How to Apply

The VEP has a selective application process that reflects the unique opportunity and valuable resources being offered to eligible veterans as part of this entrepreneurial education initiative. Successful candidates will demonstrate a strong interest in entrepreneurship and venture creation, the motivation to own and operate a business, and a high likelihood of active participation and completion of the entire VEP program.

For more information, contact:
 The Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation
 (352) 273-0330
 vep@warrington.ufl.edu

Applications are available online at:

www.Warrington.ufl.edu/centers/cej/VEP

University of Florida

The University of Florida (UF) is a major, public, comprehensive, land-grant, research university. The state’s oldest and most comprehensive university, UF is among the nation’s most academically diverse public universities. UF has a long history of established programs in international education, research and service. It is one of only 17 public, land-grant universities that belongs to the Association of American Universities.

Warrington College of Business

The Warrington College of Business Administration is one of the world’s top-rated business programs, recognized for excellence by U.S. News & World Report, The Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, The Economist, and Fortune. As part of a Research 1 institution, Warrington is dedicated to a substantial research agenda, in addition to its teaching mission, from the undergraduate to the doctoral level. Warrington educates future business leaders using teaching methods that provides opportunities for development of leadership, interpersonal and total management skills; promoting mastery of business functional areas; and fostering the habits and attitudes that constitute a solid research and work ethic.

Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

The Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI) was created to teach, coach and inspire students to be entrepreneurial in their lives. The Center provides the tools and experiences necessary to creatively pursue new opportunities and innovations in the start-up, social, and corporate venture arenas. Through courses, degree programs and co-curricular programming, CEI currently serves more than 2,000 students per year.

A young man who does not have what it takes to perform military service is not likely to have what it takes to make a living. — John F. Kennedy

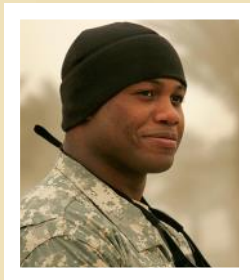


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Presented by the University of Florida

In Partnership with Oklahoma State University
 & The University of Tennessee Chattanooga

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A Unique Entrepreneurship Program for America's Heroes

The Veterans Entrepreneurship Program (VEP)

provides a rigorous entrepreneurial learning and development opportunity for service disabled veterans and those who have uniquely distinguished themselves in the military. It is designed for veterans who are interested in starting a venture as a means to financial independence or that have an existing business that they would like to grow profitability.

The evidence suggests a strong association between military service and new venture success, and veterans tend to be more likely than non-veterans to start businesses. However, there is also evidence to suggest that the barriers to entry are higher and access to quality entrepreneurial training programs are more limited for veterans with service-related disabilities. To support these men and women who have paid such a dear price for our freedom, the VEP helps make the transition from military life to the entrepreneurial world a successful one.

The VEP offers a unique, highly innovative training program built around hands-on learning, personalized interaction, and exposure to inspiring role models. Our razor-sharp purpose is to foster the creation of successful, profitable ventures owned by vets. A team of world-class faculty, distinguished entrepreneurs, and subject matter experts work closely with delegates, providing a challenging, interactive and informative experience. The program provides opportunities to develop entrepreneurial ideas while also learning leading edge concepts, tools and frameworks for growing a business. Most importantly, VEP participants will learn how to apply these principles and tools to current or potential businesses.

Entrepreneurship is the ultimate form of empowerment. It is the opportunity to create something from nothing — to be the owner of one's dreams.

VEP Specifics

At the heart of the VEP is an intense, eight-day training program at the University of Florida. It will cover topical modules comprising the critical areas of success for new and early stage ventures. These eight days are preceded by a five-week self study component and are then followed by an eight-month mentorship period and online peer-to-peer networking. This integrated model— a three phase program covering the key elements of successful entrepreneurship— offers an innovative and effective combination of focused, practical training in venture creation and growth, accompanied by a support structure for graduates of the program.

VEP Phase I: Concept Development and Self Study / March 24, —April 26, 2014

Over the initial five-week period, delegates will participate in a self-study curriculum developed for the VEP, facilitated by an online discussion and assessment module, which will be moderated by entrepreneurship faculty. This phase enables delegates to work on development of business concepts and prepare for the Bootcamp to be held at the University of Florida campus in May. Those with existing businesses will work on understanding and shaping relevant business issues

VEP Phase II: VEP Bootcamp/ May 3–10, 2014

Like a military bootcamp, this eight-day residency in Gainesville, FL is intense, rigorous and demanding. It is an opportunity for hands-on learning and interaction with faculty, guest entrepreneurs, business experts and peer delegates. The bootcamp exposes VEP participants to the “nuts and bolts” of business ownership through experiential workshops and lessons from world-class faculty representing nationally ranked programs around the country.

VEP Phase III: Mentoring and Venture Development/ May 2014—January 1, 2015

Delegates are provided with 8 months of ongoing mentorship from entrepreneurs and subject matter experts and online peer-to-peer networking. This phase of the VEP will enable delegates to get feedback specific to their ventures and offer extended hands-on learning that is critical to success.

Sample Topical Modules Include:

- *Business Concepts — how do I know if my idea is a viable one?*
- *Business Plans — do I need one and how do I develop something that actually helps my business?*
- *Funding — how much money do I really need, and how do I get it?*
- *Marketing — What is the best way to define and reach my market, and how do I get the answers?*
- *Accounting — what do I really need to know about the numbers and how do I use that information to make smarter decisions?*
- *Operations — What are the keys to service delivery, cost controls, dealing with suppliers, using the internet and other things that make the business work?*
- *Human Resources — what about employees, and the challenges of hiring, firing outsourcing and staffing?*
- *Legal Issues — when should I hire a lawyer and how do I ask the right questions?*
- *....and much more!*



VEP Schedule at UF

December 1, 2013—February 20, 2014

Applications are accepted for VEP. All applications must be received by midnight on February 20, 2014 to be considered.

March 1, 2014

Applicants are notified of admission or rejection on a rolling basis, with final notification to all applicants by this date.

March 24 2014—April 26, 2014

Phase I— Self Study and Business Concept/ Issues Development

May 3, 2014– May 10, 2014

Phase II—VEP Entrepreneurs' Bootcamp—delegates arrive in Gainesville on May 3 and depart on May 10th

May 19, 2014—January 1, 2015

Phase III—Follow on Mentoring and Business Development Support, Online Peer to Peer Networking

Never give in — never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.

—Winston Churchill

