University of California, Berkeley

Lester Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

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Entrepreneurship @ Haas

Entrepreneurship is the culmination of opportunity recognition, leadership and execution. At U.C. we focus on immersing our energized entrepreneurs in intensive experiential learning situations where hands-on experience extends and enhances the academic rigor.

Lester Center

At the Lester Center we create a living entrepreneurship laboratory. We believe that extending U.C. Berkeley’s superb engineering and sciences into viable commercial ventures is a great learning opportunity for all involved. Leveraging the natural organizational talent of the business school students, we create opportunities for the business, science and engineering students to collaborate and experiment in creating new ventures.
Key Audience: Students
Undergraduates: 120  Graduates: 730

Number of Faculty
Regular and Adjunct: 30

Number of Courses Offered: 16
Outreach

Berkeley Entrepreneurs Forum
Focused on bringing the best and the brightest to campus
–Benefiting the Haas School and its students
–UC and its emerging enterprises
–Mixing of our scientific and business communities

Lifetime Achievement Award
Recognizes outstanding entrepreneurial leaders. We identify exemplars of entrepreneurship whose success can teach future generations by the example they set.

Fellows of the Lester Center
Successful bay area entrepreneurs who act as leader, mentors and educators for the Haas students, holding scheduled office hours, during their one-year appointment.
Business Plan Competitions

Global Social Venture Competition (GSVC)
- Measuring Social AND Economic returns
- Over 100 Executive Summaries submitted, 65 business plans from over 40 schools around the world participated in the competition.

UC Berkeley Business Plan Competition
- Focus on UC Berkeley innovations
- 58 Executive Summaries, 25 business plans

Other Business Plan Competition Successes
- Plans recognized at the Carrot Capital, MBA Jungle, USF International Business Plan Competition, Purdue Life Sciences Business Plan Competition, Stanford Innovator’s Challenge.
Experiential Learning

Curriculum
Entrepreneurship course (gateway course)
Managing New Product Development
These course provide opportunities for students to create business plans and products.

Venture Capital Program
A combination of curriculum, fellowship opportunities, competitions and access to venture capitalists in the bay area create a strong venture capital following.

Internships (PEL, Mayfield)
The Lester Center administers a series of grants that allow it to subsidize selected students who are working at small, start-up firms.

Berkeley Entrepreneurship Laboratory (BEL)
The Lab is designed to provide office space and advanced telecommunications capabilities to promising new ventures that have progressed beyond initial planning.