



Entrepreneurship

Solving the world's problems through innovation

The University of Maryland's College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS) graduates have been successful in many different career fields. Many of our students go on to start their own businesses immediately after graduation or later on. If you are interested in exploring your entrepreneurial side, use the resources below to get started.

Leading Centers at the University of Maryland who offer individual support, events, and courses.



[Blog](#) highlights events and opportunities.

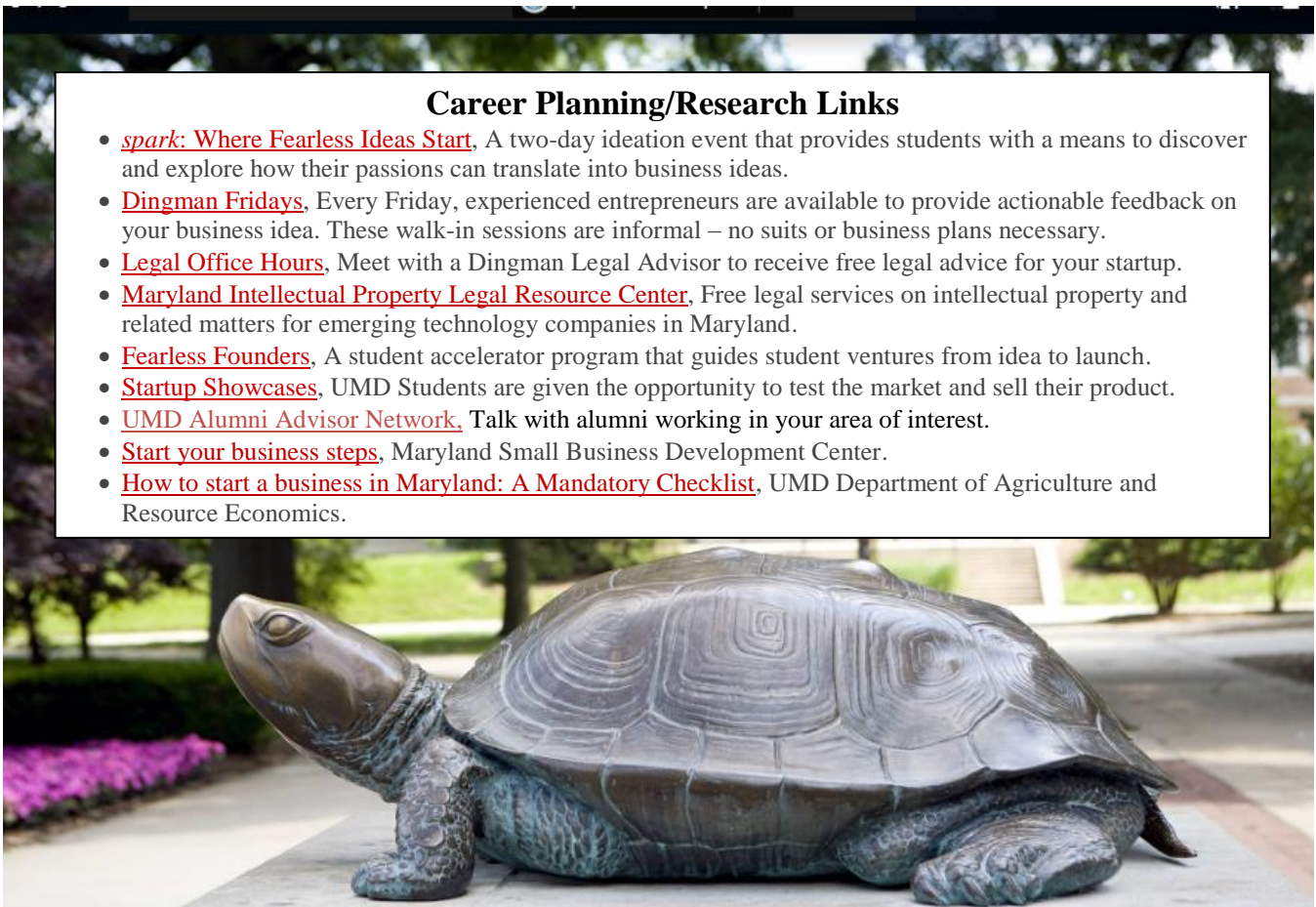
Mtech has built a comprehensive entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem at the University of Maryland. Its programs arm top students from around the world with the knowledge of how to successfully launch companies and guide aspiring and existing entrepreneurs through the entire lifecycle of launching and maintaining technology-based ventures.



AIE was launched by UMD President Wallace Loh in 2013 and charged with engaging all 35,000+ of our students in innovation & entrepreneurship (I&E) experiences to prepare them to tackle the world's toughest problems. We're solving that problem by allowing students to do both through I&E experiences embedded directly in the core curriculum so that exploring their entrepreneurial passions actually moves them closer to graduation rather than farther away from it.

Career Planning/Research Links

- [spark: Where Fearless Ideas Start](#), A two-day ideation event that provides students with a means to discover and explore how their passions can translate into business ideas.
- [Dingman Fridays](#), Every Friday, experienced entrepreneurs are available to provide actionable feedback on your business idea. These walk-in sessions are informal – no suits or business plans necessary.
- [Legal Office Hours](#), Meet with a Dingman Legal Advisor to receive free legal advice for your startup.
- [Maryland Intellectual Property Legal Resource Center](#), Free legal services on intellectual property and related matters for emerging technology companies in Maryland.
- [Fearless Founders](#), A student accelerator program that guides student ventures from idea to launch.
- [Startup Showcases](#), UMD Students are given the opportunity to test the market and sell their product.
- [UMD Alumni Advisor Network](#), Talk with alumni working in your area of interest.
- [Start your business steps](#), Maryland Small Business Development Center.
- [How to start a business in Maryland: A Mandatory Checklist](#), UMD Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics.





Skills Needed to be an Entrepreneur

- Financial management.
- Marketing, sales and customer service
- Communication
- Negotiation
- Leadership
- Project management
- Delegation
- Time management
- Problem solving
- Networking

Gain Skills Through Coursework

Consider these minors if you are interested in learning more about entrepreneurship (open to all majors):

- [Innovation and Entrepreneurship Minor](#)
- [General Business Minor](#)
- [Real Estate Development Minor](#)
- [Technology Entrepreneurship Minor](#)

Or register for one class to gain exposure. These classes are open to non-business majors and helpful to anyone planning to start their own business:

- Foundations of Accounting for Non Business Majors (BMGT 210)
- How Do Innovators Think? (BMGT 289B)
- Entrepreneurial Thinking for Non-Business Majors: How Not to Miss Great Opportunities Your Life Throws at You (BMGT 289E)
- Marketing Principles and Organization (BMGT 350)
- [Additional options](#)
- UMD Undergraduate [Innovation & Entrepreneurship Courses](#)

Challenges/Competitions/Programs: Test your skills

- [ACC Clean Energy Challenge](#), an exclusive business plan competition for universities.
- [The Do Good Challenge](#), is a year-long effort that engages over a thousand students across campus and partners with numerous colleges, schools, and programs.
- [Hillman Entrepreneur](#), UMD program for students who have an entrepreneurial mindset and who have already demonstrated real-life business experiences or who have ideas that show promise for future entrepreneurial endeavors are encouraged to join this unique program.
- [Cupid's Cup](#), promotes student entrepreneurship through the Cupid's Cup entrepreneurship competition
- [Maryland Innovate 4 Health Challenge](#), founded on the belief that we can achieve a healthier world through more effective use of information. The opportunity exists to use new systems and processes to prevent, diagnose, treat, and research disease.
- [VentureAccelerator](#), application based program guides its client investors from idea to scalable early stage company through a process designed to maximize the prospects for success as quickly as possible. Mtech program.

Connect and Grow Your Network

Use these sample opportunities to meet professionals in your field of interest to learn about the field, establish new networking contacts, and conduct [informational interviews](#). You are in a great location! [Entrepreneur Magazine](#) ranked Baltimore, MD 5th for being one of the best cities for minority owned businesses.

Sample Engagement Opportunities

- [Connect with BSOS alumni](#) to conduct informational interviews
- Join the UMD enTERPreneur campus club
- [Entrepreneur Office Hours](#), for regional entrepreneurs with bio- or tech-based startups or ideas, held in College Park and Baltimore each month, organized through Mtech.



- [Listen to Bootstrapped](#), a Dingman Center Podcast for founders, investors and serial entrepreneurs.
- [Innovation & Entrepreneurship news](#), UMD
- [Start up Shell](#), attend events on campus to network, learn a new skill, etc. Startup Shell is the student-run co-working space and incubator at the University of Maryland. We foster entrepreneurship through collaboration.
- [Terp Startup Lab](#), new technology incubation program for University of Maryland faculty, students, and regional entrepreneurs who need a space to work. Mtech program.
- [Event Calendar](#), UMD University Career Center of employers and panelist visiting campus

Social Media

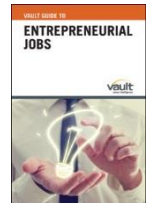
- Join [LinkedIn groups](#)
- [UMD College of Behavioral and Social Sciences](#) LinkedIn group, connect with other BSOS alumni
- [Tips for using LinkedIn](#) to make industry specific connections

Regional Opportunities:

- [1776 Challenge Cup](#), A global competition for the world's most promising startups tackling complex, regulated challenges to share their vision on a global stage, engage with industry leaders, and win grand prizes. Location: Washington, DC (usually in May)
- [Bitcamp](#), place for exploration. You will have 36 hours to delve into your curiosities, learn something new, and make something awesome. With world-class mentors and hundreds of fellow campers, you're in for an amazing time.
- [MAVA TechBUZZ](#), premier event where early-stage entrepreneurs and active investors come together to see the best and brightest, to connect with one another, and to celebrate the strength of the startup scene in our region. With a foundation of more than 300 alumni companies, TechBUZZ is industry approved and widely respected as one of the most sought after start-up pitch stages on the East Coast. (usually in June)
- **DC Startup & Tech Expo 2017**, There will be thousands of attendees representing tech companies, influencers, press, investors, and some of the best startups in the region. Admission is free and you'll have the opportunity to see over 100 startups pitch their businesses. (usually in June)
- [DC I-Corps](#), Real-world, hands-on training on how to successfully incorporate innovations into successful products and licensing opportunities
- [The Red Bull Amaphiko Academy](#), is a launchpad for social entrepreneurs. Participants receive mentorship, as well as the practical skills and tools needed to take their projects to the next level. Have to apply. August 11, 2017 in Baltimore.
- [DC Link Tank](#), find citywide events, organizations and people engaging on topics that matter to you
- [Online Events Calendar](#), Maryland's Premier highlights regional events
- [Meetup](#), locate people in your area with similar interests or within your industry of interest

Additional Resources

- [Vault Guides](#), download 100's of industry guides to learn about different fields. Start with the [Guide to Entrepreneurial Jobs](#). (Note- users who are not logged in to UMD Vault Campus will first be prompted to log in. Use your Careers4Terps account for easiest access.)
- [Lynda.com](#), offers 100's of business training videos to quickly brush up on an old skill or to learn a new one. Free access for UMD students.



Sample Businesses Started

Review the list below of BSOS graduates who reported starting a business or organization (reported through the Graduation Survey, administered by the University Career Center & The Preside4nt's Promise).

2016

- K. Sultana, LLC, a company that produces breathable, functional scarves with sales supporting women's economic empowerment initiatives.

2015

- Baku Beverages, a company that creates and sells Kenyan-style teas.
- Deverro, an organization that helps fund start-up companies.
- Javazen, a health-oriented beverage company.
- Milestone Federal Solutions, a lobbying organization that assists local government, non-profits and manufacturers to engage with policy makers in the federal government.
- Redspread, a company that simplifies software development through managed infrastructure and other services.
- XVI Concierge, a company that provides luxury concierge and lifestyle management services.



2014

- Eyefull, a phone application that enables customers to view pictures of restaurant meals when selecting a restaurant.
- Food Recovery Network, a non-profit organization that recovers surplus unsold food from college dining halls and donates it to organizations that feed the homeless and hungry.
- Syrian-American Network for Aid and Development, a non-profit organization focused on aiding Syrians affected by the conflict in Syria and the broader region.



University Career Center
& The President's Promise

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

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