THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS | Crews Center for Entrepreneurship

IMAGINEU APPLICATION

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The ImagineU Summer Entrepreneurship Accelerator program is a unique, immersive and intensive 8-week entrepreneurial experience in which students learn and live the early stages of their entrepreneurship journey. During the program, students will identify problems at the intersections of their passion, experience and knowledge, and will start a company with other students around the most compelling and feasible opportunities identified in the early stages of the program.

DATES AND DEADLINES

- Application Close: Wednesday, March 31, 2027
- Interview Invitations Sent: March 1 – April 2, 2027
- Interview Window: March 1-April 9, 2027
- Final Decisions Due: Friday, April 16, 2027
- Participant Commitment Deadline: Friday, April 30, 2027
- Orientation (Virtual): Monday, May 10, 2027
- Program Start Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2027
- Program End Date: Friday, July 23, 2027

Applications are due by March 31, 2027, at 11:59PM. The program is competitive; we don't recommend waiting until the last minute to apply. We're not looking for people that want a backup plan. We are looking for motivated students that are serious about experiencing real-world entrepreneurship and understand they are going to start a viable business venture during this program.

TIME COMMITMENT

Program Dates: June 1 – July 23, 2027

Commitment: 25 hours per week (Core activities 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Monday–Friday)

2 absences will result in departure from the ImagineU program. Missing a portion of day counts as missing 1 day.

ELIGIBILITY

STUDENT STATUS

The ImagineU Summer Accelerator is an interdisciplinary program. To be eligible for this program, you must be a University of Memphis student within a qualifying major and be pursuing one of the following three academic paths for Summer 2027. Students must be graduating in May 2028 or later. Transfer students are accepted based on acceptance to the University of Memphis. Incoming graduate students accepted based on their acceptance into a University of Memphis graduate program.

ACADEMIC TRACK:

- ❑ **Capstone Track**: I am enrolled in a senior capstone, independent studies, or thesis course that will be completed/supported during this program.

- ❑ **Internship Track**: I am seeking or have secured internship credits through my department for this 8-week immersion.
- ❑ **Mellon Foundation Track**: I am a current College of Arts and Sciences Mellon Foundation grant participant/fellow.

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EXAMPLE WEEK:

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00 AM	Cohort Stand-up	Workshop	Case Study	Guest Speaker: Technical Speaker	Peer Review
11:00 AM	Weekly Topic Lecture	Lab Demo	Founder Mastermind Session	Workshop	Peer Review
12:00 PM	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 PM	Lab: Venture Research & Data Collection	Lab	Lab	Lab	Finalizing Weekly Progress Report.
2:00 PM	Office Hours	Office Hours	Mentor Sessions	Office Hours	Weekly Wrap

Application QR Code:



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IMAGINEU SAMPLE APPLICATION

The following document was created to help support completing the online application. The online application cannot be saved. Entrepreneurship requires commitment, some tolerance for taking chances, and a strong work ethic. If your intent is to just provide the minimum possible information as answers to this form, this program is probably not a good fit for you. Take your time and answer thoughtfully, this application is scored against other applicants' submissions.

Application

1) Name
2) Email Address
3) Phone Number
4) When do you expect to graduate?
5) What's your major or degree program?
6) Current GPA as of Fall 2026
7) Expected Graduation Date
8) Upload Current Resume/CV

Eligibility and Academics

9) To be eligible for this program, you must be an active University of Memphis student and/or student within a qualifying major and be pursuing one of the following three academic paths for Summer 2027. Please select your track:
    a) **Capstone Track**: I am enrolled in a senior capstone or thesis course that will be completed/supported during this program. Course # and Details
    b) **Internship Track**: I am seeking or have secured internship credits through my department for this 8-week immersion. Course # and Details
    c) **Mellon Foundation Track**: I am a current College of Arts and Sciences Mellon Foundation grant participant/fellow. Major Selection Required.
    d) Not seeking academic credit. General Program Cohort enrollment
10) What faculty or staff member at your institution will provide a reference for you? You should get permission from this faculty/staff member to serve as a reference. We WILL contact them about you. When we contact them, if they don't know they were listed as a reference, we'll remove you from consideration for the program.
11) What is your referring faculty member's email address? This should be an email from the school at which they are employed- not their personal email address.

About You

12) Tell us a little about yourself (~300 words) Some things you can talk about: Do you have previous startup or entrepreneurial experience (not required, don't panic!)? Why are you interested in this program? What benefit do you bring to this program? How would this program impact you? Why should we select you?
13) Elaborate on what skills you have and how you will use and develop them during this summer experience (200-300 words)
14) Based on your field of study or interest, identify a problem you are passionate about solving. (We want to get an idea of what piques your interest. What is something you would be interested in building a startup around? This is not required, but gives us some insight into your entrepreneurial potential and aspirations.)
15) What do you most hope to gain from this summer experience? What impact will it have on you? (150-400 words)

ImagineU Terms and Conditions

16) By submitting this application, I, (Name), agree if selected:

a) To commit at least 20 hours per week to the program. I understand that ImagineU activities will take place from 10am to 3pm Monday through Friday each week.
b) Not to arrange other employment or vacation time during the program period without prior approval of the ImagineU director. 2 missed dates will result in automatic release from the program.
c) I understand that tardiness and/or failure to attend sessions and otherwise participate fully will result in termination from the program.