

# Women's Entrepreneurship Program

## Frequently Asked Questions



### What is the Women's Entrepreneurship Program?

The Women's Entrepreneurship Program (WEP) was initiated by the Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron (ABIA) and The University of Akron (UA) to shape and build the strengths and capabilities of woman entrepreneurs. The program, which brings together individuals with technology expertise in the biomedical and/or alternative energy sectors and individuals with the drive and entrepreneurial spirit to launch a business, will be offered at The University of Akron College of Business Administration for three credit-hours, starting the spring 2012 semester.

### What are the goals of the program?

The Women's Entrepreneurship Program was designed to increase the number of woman entrepreneurs in the biomedical and alternative energy fields, and to increase the overall level of free enterprise taking place in Akron.

### What are the qualifications for joining the program?

In order to participate in the 2012 Women's Entrepreneurship Program, you must be an individual with technology expertise in the biomedical and/or alternative energy sectors or have the drive and entrepreneurial spirit to launch a technology company within 18 - 24 months. Applications submitted individually or as teams will be accepted.

### Is the program for women only?

No, the program is open to both men and women; however, over 50% of the class will consist of woman entrepreneurs.

### Is the program limited to UA students?

No, the program is not limited to UA students. It is open to all second year MBA candidates, and to any individual with technology expertise in the biomedical or alternative energy sectors.

### What makes this program different from other entrepreneurship programs?

While many programs exist for entrepreneurs looking for a start, this program offers a multitude of unique opportunities for those involved. Unlike other programs, the WEP at UA focuses specifically on those enterprises relating to the biomedical and/or alternative energy sectors. Additionally, curriculum of the WEP at UA includes several differentiating features including, but not limited to:

- **Special Teams Focus:** The WEP is made up of teams of two individuals, pairing business expertise with scientific design and development knowledge.
- **Mentoring:** Each WEP team will receive guidance through each step of the commercialization process by a Mentoring Board composed of successful regional entrepreneurs and industry professionals. The interactions will increase the likelihood of successful commercialization of the team's technology, as well as provide access to valuable industry networks.
- **Business Plan Development:** WEP teams will develop a clearly defined business plan, which will be submitted into highly competitive business plan competitions nationwide.
- **Networking:** Networking events will include guest speaker presentations followed by question-and-answer sessions and networking breaks. In addition to WEP participants, other entrepreneurs from the community and those interested in starting a business, will be in attendance.
- **FastTrac TechVenture program:** The FastTrac® TechVenture™ program is used as a guide during the course. Through comprehensive, real-world exercises, FastTrac® TechVenture™ guides students through the intricacies of forming a technology or life science company through its modules that consist of facilitated discussions, lectures by guest speakers and coaching sessions.

### How can I get involved?

To register for the Women's Entrepreneurship Program, submit an application, resume and three references to [entrepreneurs@abiakron.org](mailto:entrepreneurs@abiakron.org). Application Forms are available for download at [www.abiakron.org/WEP/resources](http://www.abiakron.org/WEP/resources).

### How can I learn more?

To learn more about the Women's Entrepreneurship Program, visit [www.abiakron.org/WEP](http://www.abiakron.org/WEP) or direct questions to [entrepreneurs@abiakron.org](mailto:entrepreneurs@abiakron.org)

### What is the Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron?

The Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron (ABIA) -- a unique collaboration between Akron Children's Hospital, Akron General Medical Center, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), Summa Health System and The University of Akron -- is focused on patient-centered innovation at the intersection of biomaterials and medicine. ABIA aspires to be a global leader in discovering, developing and commercializing biomaterial solutions for patients with orthopaedic and wound healing needs, and nationally distinct in improving health outcomes of the medically underserved, and in the use of simulation technologies to improve the education of the healthcare team.

To learn more about ABIA, visit [www.abiakron.org](http://www.abiakron.org).