



Baylor University

HANKAMER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
New Venture Competition

Official Guidebook

Updated 07/01/2025

Baylor New Venture Competition
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<https://hankamer.baylor.edu/baugh-center/new-venture>

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I. General Competition Information

Important Dates

Item	Date
2026 Baylor New Venture Competition Opens for Applications	August 1, 2025
Executive Summary & Proof of Student Status Submission Deadline	October 1, 2025, 11:59 pm CST
Announcement of Top 50	November 17, 2025
Confirmation of Legal Entity Formation from Competition Teams	January 19, 2026, 11:59 pm CST
Business Plan Submission Deadline	January 19, 2026, 11:59 pm CST
Announcement of Finalists	February 27, 2026
Mentor Connected to Each Finalist Competition Team	February 27, 2026
Presentation Style Coaching Sessions	March 27, 2026
Feedback Sessions	March 27, 2026
Business Plan Competition Finals	March 28, 2026
Awards & Elevator Pitch Competition	March 28, 2026

Introduction

The Baylor New Venture Competition is a multi-round business plan and elevator pitch competition hosted by the Baugh Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise at Baylor University. Underwritten by an anonymous gift to Baylor University and the Hankamer School of Business, the competition promotes student entrepreneurship by showcasing **student created, managed, and owned ventures**. Student entrepreneurs from across the globe are offered expert feedback, coaching, and a prize package of cash and crucial in-kind business support services to launch and grow their ventures. The competition is open to all undergraduate or graduate students and recently graduated alumni from accredited not-for-profit 4-year universities.

Business Plan Competition

The Business Plan Competition is a multi-round team competition culminating on the Baylor University campus where student teams present their new ventures in a traditional slideshow format to a panel of expert judges. Grand Prizes are awarded to the top three student teams.

NVC Elevator Pitch Competition

The Elevator Pitch Competition is a team competition where students from each team will have the opportunity to present their new venture in an elevator-pitch format to a live audience. The audience will choose the best pitches and prizes will be awarded to the top three teams.

Confidentiality and Intellectual Property

All submitted information is deemed the property of the participating teams. All Baylor New Venture Competition judges and staff are working professionals and investors who routinely evaluate business plans and understand the need for confidentiality. However, they do not sign any non-disclosure agreements to participate in this competition. Teams are strongly encouraged NOT to provide any specifics or details that are considered to be intellectual property or the key to intellectual property. There will be no penalty in judging when a question or issue is not fully addressed because of concerns over confidentiality. In addition, YouNoodle, the competition platform, has its own confidentiality policies. Teams should review those when agreeing to use YouNoodle.

II. Business Plan Competition Rules

Team Rules

Competition student teams must:

- Be currently composed of 2-4 currently enrolled students (undergraduate or graduate) or recently graduated alumni (must have graduated within the previous 18 months of the executive summary submission deadline) from an accredited not-for-profit 4-year university anywhere in the world. However, each competition team must have a minimum of one member who is a currently enrolled full-time student according to the standards of the student's university. "Current" refers to the date of submission of the executive summary.
- Designate one person on the team to be the team lead. This team member will be the only point of contact with the Baylor New Venture Competition.
- Submit documentation verifying their status as students or recently graduated alumni at the point of submission of the executive summary. **National Student Clearinghouse verification is the preferred method of authentication.** Non-students may be involved with the company outside of the competition but may not be a part of the competition team (i.e., may not present or answer questions for the team). Submit as a PDF file as **BNVC_CompanyName_UniversityName_Status.pdf**.
- Have "C-Level" roles within the company (i.e., Founder, Co-Founder, President, CEO, CFO, CMO etc.)
- Have fundamental, **current** equity-holding positions within the company and, on January 19, 2026, the team must provide evidence of **current**, aggregate equity ownership positions within the company of no less than 25% of the fully diluted capitalization table.
- Have formed a legal entity for the team's business at the point the team reaches the business plan submission round of the competition. A **current fully-diluted** capitalization table must be submitted at this point and attested by each competition team member. Please save as file name: **BNVC_CompanyName_UniversityName_Cap.pdf**.

- If there are any changes to equity distribution during the course of the competition, a new fully-diluted capitalization table, attested by all competition members, must be submitted to newventurecomp@baylor.edu within 48 hours of the change.
- Be composed of students who are members of only one current Baylor New Venture Competition team. **Non-finalist competition teams are eligible to participate in future Baylor New Venture Competitions.**
- If selected as finalists, a team must confirm acceptance as a Top Ten one month prior to competition. Attending competition team members must confirm attendance and team composition no later than 2 weeks prior to the competition days on campus at Baylor University. Failure to confirm team members or subsequent changes/additions/subtractions in team composition after this 2-week mark may result in team disqualification.
- In the event that a team fails to honor their commitment to participate in the on-campus competition, their school (or other affiliated entity) may be ineligible from competing in the future. This decision will be at the discretion of the Rules Committee.
- Confirmed finalist teams must be complete and present during the entire competition period and at the time of the prize presentations in order to be eligible for prizes. Teams may not add or substitute presenting team members during the Final Rounds and NVC Elevator Pitch Competition.

Business Rules

All competition student team businesses must:

- Be for-profit, early stage, and potentially at the point of asking for investment capital. This does not include buy-outs, entity expansions, real estate ventures, funds, franchise purchases, not-for-profits, and spin-outs. Businesses must not be subsidiaries or recapitalizations. Prior to the business plan submission deadline on January 19, 2026, the company's total capitalization must not exceed \$250,000. Capitalization includes SAFE notes, traditional equity, debt and convertible notes. Grants, prize money are not included in this 250k limit. Sole proprietorships and single member LLCs are not eligible.
- If the technology/product is developed by a university, the team must provide proof of rights to license or a technology license agreement option in one of the following forms:
 - A signed full license agreement
 - A signed option agreement
 - A confirmatory letter to exercise dominion and control over the IP
 - A letter stating faculty assignment of the IP
- Submit proof of establishment of a legal entity no later than the deadline for submission of the round-2 business plan, January 19, 2026. Each competition team will be required to provide a W-9, W-8BEN-E or other country-appropriate tax documentation for their legal business entity at the point of submission of their business plan. Please upload as

BNVC_CompanyName_UniversityName_Tax.pdf. A **current** capitalization table must be submitted with the business plan and signed by each competition team member. If there are any changes to equity sharing arrangements during the course of the competition, a new capitalization table, attested by all competition members, must be submitted to newventurecomp@baylor.edu within 48 hours of the change.

Competition Rules

The first two rounds of the Baylor New Venture Competition will take place online and involve the submission of documentation through YouNoodle. The final rounds will take place at Baylor University and consist of live presentations. All documents and presentations must be in English and reference the US dollar.

Online Documentation

Executive Summaries

- For Round 1, all entering competition teams will submit a two-page executive summary through YouNoodle. Judging will take place and the top 50 companies will advance to Round 2 and be invited to submit a full 10-page business plan.
- All submitted work must be the original work of competition team members or appropriately licensed work of others. Any submission that does not meet these requirements may be eliminated from the competition.
- Executive Summaries must adhere to the following format:
 - Uploaded as: **BNVC_CompanyName_UniversityName_Exec.pdf**
 - May be single or double spaced
 - Must have at least .75" margins on all four sides
 - Must be submitted in **PDF** format through YouNoodle
 - Must be no longer than 2 pages after conversion to PDF
 - Must be in at least a 10-point font after conversion to PDF
- Executive Summaries must include the following data points. Additional data points not listed below can be provided within the length guidelines.
 - One Sentence Summary
 - Overview of Business
 - Problem Solved
 - Product or Services Offered
 - Market Overview
 - Business Model
 - Customers or Prospective Customers
 - Sales & Marketing Strategy
 - Competitive Environment
 - Management Team
 - Capital Needed
 - Contact Info for the Team Leader

Note: Be sure to list contact information that includes a phone number and **permanent, non-school affiliated, email address** that is checked at least daily. Please refrain from submitting a school email address as this is often not a permanent address. Double-check that the provided information is correct. This contact information will be used to communicate important information relating to the Baylor New Venture Competition.

- Scoring Criteria
 - Quality of the Idea 20%
 - Viability and Scalability of Model/Strategy 20%
 - Market Attractiveness and Exit Potential 20%
 - Quality of Written Work 10%
 - Investor Interest Level 30%

Each judge will provide a numeric score for each of the criteria sections above for each executive summary submission that they review.

Judges are also encouraged to provide comments for each of the criteria sections for each executive summary submission that they review. The purpose of this feedback is to provide an educational opportunity for the competition team. The feedback is not part of the competition scoring of the executive summaries but may influence the judge's ranking decisions.

Please note: All submission deadlines are final. Late applications cannot be accepted, and deadline extensions cannot be granted for any reason. The Baylor New Venture Competition staff encourages each team to submit their application early so that any technical difficulties can be resolved before the deadline. All dates and times specified for competition deadlines are Central Standard Time.

Business Plans

- For Round 2, the top 50 companies will submit their full ten-page business plans through YouNoodle. Another round of judging will take place and determine the 10 finalist teams who will be invited to present their companies in-person on Baylor University's campus.
- All submitted work must be the original work of competition team members or appropriately licensed work of others. Any submission that does not meet these requirements will be eliminated from the competition.
- Business Plans must adhere to the following format:
 - Uploaded as: **BNVC_CompanyName_UniversityName_Plan.pdf**
 - May be single or double spaced
 - Must have at least .75" margins on all four sides
 - Must be submitted in PDF format through YouNoodle
 - Must be no longer than 10 pages after conversion to PDF Title/Cover Page and Table of Contents do not count toward the 10- page limit. The 2-page executive summary *does* count towards the 10-page limit.

- Can include up to 10 pages of appendices after the 10 business plan pages
- Must delineate clearly between end of business plan pages and beginning of appendix pages (if applicable)
- Must include page numbers on document
- Must be in at least a 10-point font after conversion to PDF
- Business Plans must follow the outline described below. The Title/Cover Page and Table of Contents do not count as part of the 10 business plan pages.
 - Title/Cover Page (Does not count toward the 10 business plan pages)
 - Table of Contents (Does not count toward the 10 business plan pages)
 - Executive Summary (Revised after initial submission)
 - Business Mission and Vision
 - Business Description
 - Market Analysis
 - Description of Products & Services
 - Organization & Management
 - Marketing & Sales Strategy
 - Financials (Must have at least a detailed 5-year projected income statement)
 - Appendices (Up to 10 pages of appendices)
- Scoring Criteria

• Quality of the Idea	20%
• Viability and Scalability of Model/Strategy	20%
• Market Attractiveness and Exit Potential	20%
• Quality of Written Work	10%
• Financial Projections	10%
• Investor Interest Level	20%

Each judge will provide a numeric score for each of the criteria sections above for each business plan submission that they review.

Judges are also encouraged to provide feedback comments for each of the sections for each business plan submission that they review. The purpose of this feedback is to provide an educational opportunity for the competition team. The feedback is not part of the competition scoring of the plans but may influence the judge's scoring and ranking decisions.

Please note: All submission deadlines are final. Late submissions cannot be accepted and deadline extensions cannot be granted for any reason. The Baylor New Venture Competition staff encourages each team to submit their applications early so that any technical difficulties may be resolved before the deadline. All dates and times specified for competition deadlines are Central Standard Times.

On Campus Competition

Feedback Sessions

- All finalist competition teams will take part in mandatory Feedback Sessions on Friday

afternoon of the on-campus competition period. These sessions will not be scored or ranked and will be casual in nature. Finalist competition teams will give a 10-minute pitch to Feedback Session coaches. The coaches will then have approximately 30 minutes to ask questions, discuss, give advice, and allow finalist competition teams to ask questions of the coaches. This feedback may then be used to craft and revise finalist team presentations prior to the Finals on Saturday.

Business Showcase

- As an additional networking opportunity, finalist teams are invited to have a booth. Prior to the finals, finalist teams need to indicate the type of exhibit that will be used for the planning of the best placement and sight lines in the exhibit space (i.e. backdrop size or tabletop collateral, etc.) Each booth comes with (1) 5-foot draped table and (2) chairs. Items may not be affixed to or leaned on a wall. Teams are encouraged to participate as this is a chance to showcase venture to potential investors, fellow entrepreneurs, Baylor students and the community. Maximum exhibit dimensions are approximately 6 feet wide and 3 feet deep.

Final Rounds

- Finals will take place on Saturday of the on-campus competition period. Presentation order of the competition finalist teams will be determined randomly. Up to 5 finalist teams will present in the morning and up to 5 will present in the afternoon. Finals judges will be sequestered for lunch. For the Finals, all competition team members must be present on stage and have a speaking part. All presentations must be the original work of the presenting team members. Presentations must be PowerPoints, in PowerPoint file format, and must be **PC-compatible**. Other formats, such as Prezi or Google Slides, are not allowed. Please name file as **BNVC_CompanyName_UniversityName_Live.ppt**. No more than 2 minutes of video content may be included as a part of the live pitch presentation. Presentations must run no longer than 10 minutes followed by 10 minutes of judge Q&A.

Final Rounds Presentation Judging Criteria

- **Situation Analysis**
 - Demonstrated knowledge of business space
 - Performed and presented research and analysis of industry landscape
 - Team has proven they know what they're getting into
- **Market Opportunity**
 - Market and target customer identified
 - Offering addresses a clearly identified pain/need in a compelling way
 - Market would welcome this company
- **Business Model**
 - Company showed clear and effective means of making money
 - Model is sustainable; attractive margins, cash flow, and value creation
 - Critical risks have been identified and addressed
- **Competition**
 - Competitors clearly identified
 - Company is distinctive/offering is unique
 - Competitive advantage identified and is sustainable/defendable
- **Go-to-Market Strategy**
 - Sales and marketing strategy is developed, believed to be effective
 - Distribution channels identified
 - Plans for getting product/service into customers' hands made clear
- **Management Team**
 - Team was knowledgeable (operations, industry, key issues, etc.)
 - Team seemed capable of executing their presented plans/strategies
 - Team showed confidence, passion, enthusiasm, professionalism
- **Financials**
 - Financial plan presented, including projected income statement
 - Team demonstrated clear understanding of finances and key metrics
 - Assumptions were presented, and were reasonable and substantiated
- **Investment Potential**
 - Risk/reward ratio is attractive
 - Scalability potential is high
 - Reasonable likelihood of success, including good return on investment
- **Effectiveness of Q&A Answers**
 - Content of answers was satisfactory
 - Answers directly addressed the question asked
 - Team was able to think on their feet
- **Overall Presentation Effectiveness**
 - Presentation included all necessary topics
 - All topics were clearly explained; presentation was sharp, persuasive
 - Story was compelling

Final Rounds Presentation Scoring and Feedback

- For each presentation, judges will complete a scorecard and an Investment Allocation Sheet. The scorecard will comprise 90% of the final score and the Investment Allocation will comprise 10% of the final score.
- Each judge will provide a numeric score for each of the sections above and enter those scores on a scorecard with a 1-7 scale for each criterion. The best score possible will be 70.
- Each judge will also fill out an investment allocation sheet. Each judge will divide \$100,000 among presenting teams as if the judges were making real investment decisions. However, the investment allocation sheet is for scoring purposes only and does not constitute judges' willingness or intent to make a real investment of any kind.
- Dollar amounts should be allocated in \$10,000 increments. It is acceptable to allocate \$0 or to allocate the total \$100,000 to one finalist team.
- Each judge is also encouraged to provide feedback comments for each presentation that they view. The purpose of this feedback is to provide an educational opportunity for the competition team. The feedback is not part of the competition scoring but may influence the judge's scoring decisions. Judge feedback comments will be emailed to the finalist teams' contact person after the competition.

III. Elevator Pitch Competition Rules

The Elevator Pitch Competition will take place on Saturday evening. Only the 10 finalist teams from the Baylor New Venture Competition will be eligible to participate in the Elevator Pitch Competition. The audience will judge the Elevator Pitch Competition.

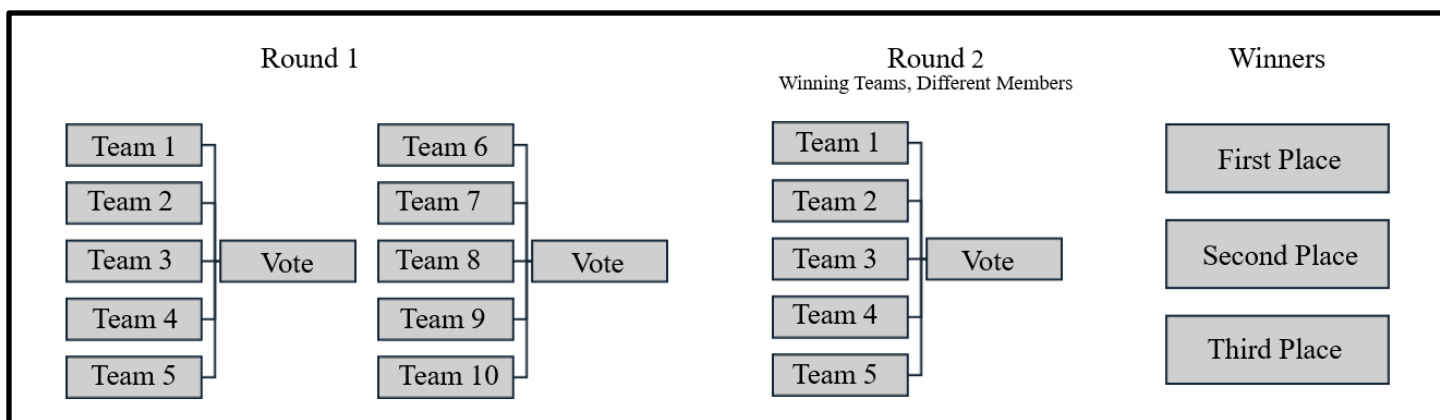
Rules and Criteria

- Pitches must be no longer than 90 seconds. Pitches will be hard stopped at the 90 second mark. Time begins when the presenter begins speaking.
- No visual aids, index cards, slides or props of **any** kind, including wearables and logos, may be used during the pitch.
- There will be no question-and-answer period following the pitches.
- Presenter must be physically present and give the elevator pitch live, in person. The winners must also be present to claim their prizes.
- Presenters will be scheduled to present in random order.
- There are no specific requirements for the content of the elevator pitches. Contestants should consider the overall presentation including content, delivery, and audience impact.

- Contestants are encouraged to present a compelling pitch in such a way that clearly presents the problem that they are solving and their competitive advantage.
- There will be no guarantee of confidentiality; presenters are encouraged to avoid speaking about topics or items that should remain confidential.
- In the case of a tie, a second vote will take place including only the tied teams.

Format

During Round 1, there will be two brackets of five pitches each. After each 5th pitch, the audience will vote. During Round 2, a different team member from the top 5 teams from Round 1 will pitch. The top 3 will win cash awards.



IV. Additional Competition Rules

Competition Board

The Baylor New Venture Competition is overseen by a Board of Advisors comprised of Kendall Artz, Bruce Ballengee, Bob Knorr, Preston Marshall, and Hall T. Martin.

Use of Mentors and Faculty

Faculty and outside advisors and Baylor-assigned mentors:

- Cannot be part of the competition team.
- Should not directly participate in the writing, direct editing, or specific development of any part of the submission.
- Can provide advice and insights into the development of the business plan, presentation coaching, and other general education interactions.

Note: Interaction with Baylor-assigned mentors is not required but is encouraged for the best learning opportunity.

Rules Committee and Rules Violations

- Questions about the rules or guidelines should be addressed to newventurecomp@baylor.edu for clarification.
- Rule violation concerns must be submitted in writing to the competition Rules Committee detailing the purported violation, competition team(s) involved, and competition team(s) reporting the purported violation.
- False violation reports are a violation. Sanctioning will be authorized by the Rules Committee if deemed appropriate.
- The Rules Committee is comprised of a Baylor faculty member, Baylor student representative, and third member selected by the manager of the Baylor New Venture Competition.
- The Rules Committee has final authority in deciding if a violation occurred and will assess a penalty for the violation if deemed appropriate. The Rules Committee can disqualify a team or team member, increase cumulative ranking scores (decreasing overall ranking), change rankings, advise judges of a violation and allow them to consider the fact in their rankings, remove prize eligibility, disqualify a team or University from future competitions, or simply dismiss a purported violation.
- The Competition Board has final jurisdiction on all recommendations of the Rules Committee.

Special Situations

If a competition team needs to request approval for a special situation or exception to these rules and guidelines, the team point of contact person should submit in writing a formal proposal explaining the situation or request to newventurecomp@baylor.edu. The proposal should be emailed as a PDF attachment. For any proposal, competition teams should allow at least 1 week for consideration and response. The Rules Committee will review all proposals and deliver a response through the director of the Baylor New Venture Competition.

Teams are not making or soliciting offers as part of their participation in the competition. Any financial relationships that result from networking at the competition may only commence after the competition events.

Spirit of the Competition

The spirit of the Baylor New Venture Competition is that current undergraduate or graduate students both originate and lead the startup idea. Teams not aligned with this vision or not working towards this end may be disqualified (i.e., an existing company run by non-students cannot recruit students only to become eligible for the competition). The Baylor New Venture Competition Rules Committee reserves the right to review companies and competition teams on a case-by-case basis and make eligibility decisions. Teams that are unsure of their eligibility should contact the director of the Baylor New Venture Competition at newventurecomp@baylor.edu. Competitors who promote illegal, illicit, unethical, immoral, or other types of activities which may be considered unworthy of association with the Baylor New Venture Competition or Baylor University may be disqualified.

Prize Payments

Cash prizes for the Baylor New Venture Competition will be awarded and paid to the legal business entity. In-kind awards may be subject to taxation and are the sole responsibility of the entity to which the awards are distributed. Each competition team will be required to provide a W-9, W-8BEN-E or other country-appropriate tax documentation for their legal business entity at the point of submission of their business plan. Foreign entity applicants need to contact the director of the Baylor New Venture Competition at newventurecomp@baylor.edu to get exact requirements.

Annual Follow-Up Questionnaire to Finalist Teams

All finalist teams will be expected to fill out an annual follow-up questionnaire that will speak to the status of their business at the time of and in the years following the Baylor New Venture Competition.

Important Notes: The Baylor New Venture Competition has the final decision on which teams are selected to compete and reserves the right to include or exclude any teams for any reasons. All decisions are final. Questions should be addressed to newventurecomp@baylor.edu.

Appendix

Tentative 2026 Competition Prize Packages

Receive valuable feedback on your business venture BEFORE you compete with your peers for substantial monetary awards and vital support services to boost your venture's launch.

Monetary and in-kind awards will be given to each team that makes it to the final round of the competition. Possible awards are as follow:

Business Plan Competition First Place

- \$50,000 Cash
- 1 Year of Free Unlimited Web Hosting with SSL provided by [Enspir Solutions, LLC](#)
- Opportunity to present to the [Baylor Angel Network](#)
- [TEN Capital Fundraise Package](#) featuring document templates, resource lists, terms sheets dataroom checklists, metrics, and more for preparing your fundraise with accredited investors.
- 5 hours marketing/public relations/strategic planning/ promotion services from [Fletcher Consulting Public Relations](#)
- 6 hours of free IP legal services to prepare a U.S. Provisional Patent Application for the recipient team by Austin technology law firm [Hunt Pennington Kumar & Dula](#)
- 2 one-hour sessions covering Business Plan / Market Review and Fundraising /Term Sheet guidance provided by [Lavni Ventures](#)
- Complimentary QuickBooks Online Plus 12-month trial licenses provided by [Intuit Quickbooks](#)
- Complimentary vouchers to take either the QuickBooks User Certification exam or The Entrepreneurship and Small Business (ESB) exam for each student provided by Intuit Quickbooks
- Complimentary Professional QuickBooks ProAdvisor accountant virtual session on “Getting Your Company Setup” within your QuickBooks Online licenses Provided by Intuit Quickbooks
- Advisors receive complimentary, non-expiring QuickBooks Online Accountant cloud software provided by Intuit Quickbooks
- Presentation Signage provided by [Sticker Universe](#)

Second Place

- \$25,000 Cash
- 1 Year of Free Unlimited Web Hosting with SSL provided by [Enspir Solutions, LLC](#)
- IP Protection & Trademark Consulting offered by [HULSEY PC](#)
- TEN Capital Fundraise Package featuring document templates, resource lists, terms sheets dataroom checklists, metrics, and more for preparing your fundraise with accredited investors.
- 5 hours marketing/public relations/strategic planning/ promotion services from [Fletcher Consulting Public Relations](#)
- Complimentary QuickBooks Online Plus 12-month trial licenses provided by [Intuit Quickbooks](#)
- Complimentary vouchers to take either the QuickBooks User Certification exam or The Entrepreneurship and Small Business (ESB) exam for each student provided by Intuit

Quickbooks

- Complimentary Professional QuickBooks ProAdvisor accountant virtual session on “Getting Your Company Setup” within your QuickBooks Online licenses provided by Intuit Quickbooks
- Advisors receive complimentary, non-expiring QuickBooks Online Accountant cloud software provided by Intuit Quickbooks
- Presentation Signage provided by [Sticker Universe](#)

Third Place

- \$10,000 Cash
- 1 Year of Free Unlimited Web Hosting with SSL provided by [Enspir Solutions, LLC](#)
- IP Protection & Trademark Consulting offered by [HULSEY PC](#)
- TEN Capital Fundraise Package featuring document templates, resource lists, terms sheets dataroom checklists, metrics, and more for preparing your fundraise with accredited investors.
- 5 hours marketing/public relations/strategic planning/ promotion services from [Fletcher Consulting Public Relations](#)
- Advisors receive complimentary, non-expiring QuickBooks Online Accountant cloud software
- Complimentary QuickBooks Online Plus 12-month trial licenses provided by [Intuit Quickbooks](#)
- Complimentary vouchers to take either the QuickBooks User Certification exam or The Entrepreneurship and Small Business (ESB) exam for each student
- Complimentary Professional QuickBooks ProAdvisor accountant virtual session on “Getting Your Company Setup” within your QuickBooks Online licenses
- Presentation Signage provided by [Sticker Universe](#)

Honorable Mention (4th - 10th)

- \$1,500 Cash
- 1 Year of Free Unlimited Web Hosting with SSL provided by [Enspir Solutions, LLC](#)
- TEN Capital Fundraise Package featuring document templates, resource lists, terms sheets dataroom checklists, metrics, and more for preparing your fundraise with accredited investors.
- Advisors receive complimentary, non-expiring QuickBooks Online Accountant cloud software
- Complimentary QuickBooks Online Plus 12-month trial licenses
- Presentation Signage provided by [Sticker Universe](#)

Top-50 Competitors

- AWS In-Kind | \$1,000 in AWS Credits valid for 2 years (up to \$100,000 as startup matures)
- AWS In-Kind | 1 year AWS Business Support (up to \$1,500)
- AWS In-Kind | 80 Credits for Self-Paced Labs
- 50 stickers with business logo provided by [Sticker Universe](#)

Lavni Ventures’s Choice

- 2 One-Hour sessions covering Business Plan / Market Review and Fundraising /Term Sheet guidance provided by [Lavni Ventures](#)

Baylor Angel Network Analysts' Choice

- Up to 4 hours of free pitch deck consultation by the Baylor Angel Network Student Analyst team

NVC Elevator Pitch Awards

- 1st Place - \$1,500 Cash
- 2nd Place - \$1,000 Cash
- 3rd Place - \$500 Cash

Campus Wide Student Pitch Competition

- Two Best Pitches - \$2,000

Schedule of Events

Below is the tentative schedule for the Baylor New Venture Competition 2026. Please note that while attendance is complimentary, all events require advance registration.

Friday, March 27, 2026

<u>Time</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>
8:00 am - 11:45 am	Individual Presentation Coaching Sessions	Foster 211, 222, 311, 322 (Student Teams Only)
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Check In	Atrium Near Foster 143/144
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Welcome Lunch (Mandatory for Teams)	Foster 143/144
1:45 pm - 4:35 pm	Feedback Sessions (Mandatory for Teams)	Foster 302, 303, 314, 316
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Campuswide Student Pitch Competition and Dinner	Foster 250

Saturday, March 28, 2026

<u>Time</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Location</u>
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Check In & Breakfast	Foster 143-144 Finals Judges in Foster 211
9:10 am - 9:20 am	Welcome & Judge Instructions	McClinton Auditorium 240
9:30 am - 11:20 am	Morning Finals	McClinton Auditorium 240

11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Lunch Break	Foster 143-144 Finals Judges in Foster 211
12:40 pm - 1:50 pm	Afternoon Finals	McClinton Auditorium 240
1:50 pm - 2:10 pm	Break	Foster, Turner Mezzanine
2:20 pm - 4:00 pm	Afternoon Finals	McClinton Auditorium 240
4:10 pm - 4:40 pm	Finals Judges' Meeting	Foster 211 (Finals Judges Only)
4:15 pm - 5:15 pm	Business Showcase	Foster, Turner Mezzanine
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Awards & Elevator Pitch Competition	Foster 250

Resources

- **Business Plan Guide**

If you aren't sure where to begin when writing your business plan, we have provided a guide document to help get you started. You may choose to use or not use any of the information in this document. As long as your plan meets the guidelines set forth in the Official Guidelines document, your plan will be eligible for the competition. Following this document does not guarantee a higher placement in the rankings, it is for educational purposes only.

- **Example Executive Summary and Business Plan**

We provided the Executive Summary and Business Plan of the 2019 3rd place winners. This is not meant to be an example of what "exactly" to do, but to give an idea of what your submission could look like.

These materials are posted for illustrative and example purposes only and may not be entered into the competition or used for any sort of business activity. Any activity involving the use of these materials, or the intellectual property contained within is strictly prohibited.

- **Judging Criteria**

This document outlines the criteria that judges will use during the live presentation portions of the competition.

Past New Venture Competition Winners

2025

- **First Place and \$50,000:** Morgan Kerfeld, Charlie Childs, Don Sobell, Intero Biosystems, University of Michigan
- **Second Place and \$25,000:** Shantanu Jha, Dilyara Sharipova, Boston Quantum, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
- **Third Place and \$10,000:** Sandhya Tikku, Oriol Cuxart, SinuStim, Johns Hopkins University

2024

- **First Place and \$50,000:** Dana Biechele-Speziale, Selahaddin Gumus, ATOMICS – Brown University
- **Second Place and \$25,000:** Vincent Reitingner, Simon Sharples, BioLegacy – Seattle University
- **Third Place and \$10,000:** Avanthika Ramesh, Abhisri Ramesh, MediMint – George Washington University

2023

- **First Place and \$50,000:** Morgan Kerfeld, Steven Bleau, Telo, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities
- **Second Place and \$25,000:** Joshua Devier, Sreenivas Eadara, Maya Zhang, Joshua Zhou, MagGenix, Johns Hopkins University
- **Third Place and \$10,000:** Connor Crawford, Frank Regal, Pike Robotics, University of Texas, Austin

2022

- **First place and \$50,000:** Adam Butchy, Utkars Jain, Michael Leasure, Heart Input Output, University of Pittsburgh
- **Second place and \$25,000:** Lauren Le Page, Lucas Vining, Ichosia Biotechnology, George Washington University
- **Third place and \$10,000:** Derek Marchant & Clark Yuan, Candelytics, MIT

2021

- **First place and \$50,000:** Gavin Buchanan and Andrew Aertker, PatchRx, Trinity University
- **Second place and \$25,000:** Robert Hatcher and Amber Parker, Aurign, Georgia State University
- **Third place and \$10,000:** Dina Yamaleyeva and Andres Tello, LiRA, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

2019

- **First place and \$50,000:** Renee Owen and Caleb Carr, Vita Inclinata Technologies, Seattle University
- **Second place and \$25,000:** Michael Chisholm, Nha Ha, and Nicholas Chisholm, Feros Freight Innovations, University of Oregon
- **Third place and \$10,000:** Brooks Robison and Rabecca Wiseman, Contraire, Oklahoma State University

2018

- **First place and \$50,000:** Jared Greer, Flavia Araujo, Michael Dunavant, Lapovations, LLC, University of Arkansas
- **Second place and \$25,000:** Danish Dhamani, Paritosh Gupta, Orai ([Forbes 30 Under 30](#)), Drexel University
- **Third place and \$10,000:** Ahmed Zobi, Hugo Salas, Derek Banyard, Syntr Health Technologies, University of California, Irvine

2017

- **First place and \$60,000:** Tony Bova and Jeff Beegle, Grow Bioplastics, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

- **Second place and \$35,000:** Haley Kurtz and Kevin Keith, MITO Material Solutions, Oklahoma State University
- **Third place and \$20,000:** Kristina Loftus and Mathew Loftus, RHOBACK Activewear, University of Virginia

2016

- **First place and \$50,000:** Brandon Sweeney and Blake Teipel, TriFusion Devices, Texas A&M University
- **Second place and \$25,000:** Wesley Barnett, Molly Frank, Erica Newsome, Justin Prater, Rhizofeed, University of Pikeville
- **Third place and \$15,000:** Angela Cross and William Cross III, Vasocorp, University of West Georgia
- **Dell Award and \$12,500:** Brandon Eidson, Jonathan Philip, Alex Wakefield, Parking Grid Technologies, Auburn University

2015

- **First place and \$30,000:** Chase Kaczmarek and Victoria Lee, Wheel Shields, University of Maryland
- **Second place and \$15,000:** Chris Holly, Torri Olanski, Jared Beale, and Nick Brannon, Zeolytic, University of Houston
- **Third place and \$7,500:** Kedar Pai, Chris Timmons, and Rohita Mal, Plasma Bionics LLC, Oklahoma State University

2014

- **First place and \$25,000:** Susan Tran, Bobby Jacobs, Casey McNeil, and Cassandra Hoang, REECycle, University of Houston
- **Second place and \$10,000:** John Lewandowski and Mark Lewandowski, Disease Diagnostic Group, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- **Third place and \$5,000:** Matt Hinson, Alejandro Jacobo, Adrian Avendano, and Trevor Marimira, Rollout, University of Texas at Dallas

2013

- **First place and \$25,000:** Austin Barnes and Charlie Gasmire, Vendevor, Baylor University
- **Second place and \$10,000:** Alexander Stimpson and Dmitry Kozachenok, Cryoocyte, Inc., Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- **Third place and \$5,000:** Molly Johnson and Brooke Bettis, Sneeze4, Texas Christian University

2012

- **First place and \$15,000:** Shelby Burford and Cole Chapman, ACTS Peanut Butter, Baylor University
- **Second place and \$5,000:** James Gorman and Brian Lovin, LaunchBox, Baylor University
- **Third place and \$2,500:** Jake Russell and Luke Russell, Bear Threads, Baylor University

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply to the New Venture Competition?

The competition is open to students all around the world. Create an account through the submission site, complete the questionnaire, and upload your executive summary. Once your executive summary and student status verification are successfully uploaded, consider yourself entered! Watch [this video for the info session](#) from the 2021 Competition.

Who is judging the competition?

We have assembled an eclectic mix of judges from a wide range of backgrounds, including angel investors; venture capitalists; successful serial entrepreneurs; executive business professionals from the banking, legal, IT, industrial, healthcare, and professional services industries; and leading academics in entrepreneurship, management, and other areas of business.

Will I receive help from a mentor?

Yes. All 10 finalist teams will be assigned a mentor to work with for the weeks leading up to the final presentations.

Can I enter an idea by myself, as a one-person team?

No. Competition teams must consist of 2-4 team members that have **fundamental, current equity-holding positions** within the company and, on January 19, 2026, the team must provide evidence of current, aggregate equity ownership positions within the company of no less than 25% of the fully diluted capitalization table. We encourage teams as this increases the potential for success for the venture.

I am graduating soon/have graduated recently. Am I still eligible to participate?

Yes. As long as you have graduated May 2024 or later you will be eligible to participate.

If our team is a finalist, will we receive reimbursement of travel expenses?

Although we will not be reimbursing for travel expenses, all finalist businesses are guaranteed to receive a minimum of \$1,500 Honorable Mention cash award.

Can I bring my friends and family to attend the competition?

Absolutely. Please have them register their attendance online. Visit our Attend the Competition page to register your attendance.

Have another question that isn't answered here? Email newventurecomp@baylor.edu to get in touch!

For updates on the Baylor New Venture Competition, see our [website](#) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).