

Tiger Tank Application

The Tiger Tank competition creates an opportunity for students to present their business venture idea in an environment that celebrates new venture creation, entrepreneurial thinking and the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Similar to ABC's hit show, "Shark Tank," students attend a series of preparation workshops and individual coaching sessions introducing an entrepreneurial idea to solve a significant market challenge. Finalists pitch ideas on stage before judges and a public audience to win a share of the \$10,000 prize pool.

This program creates an opportunity for students to present their business venture idea in an environment that celebrates new venture creation, entrepreneurial thinking and the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Not only are students granted this platform to showcase their talent and passions, but they are awarded cash prizes and certificates of participation based on the merits of their ideas and presentations.

Entrepreneurs do not give up equity in their company to receive this funding. The following are required documents for submission for the Catalyst Seed Fund.

Competition Details

Presentation

Participating students will make a 3-5 minute pitch of their idea to a panel of judges. At a minimum, the presentation must include an introduction, a clear description of the problem being solved, the solution proposed, unique value propositions, and revenue streams. Judges may ask questions; answers must be limited to 1 minute.

Use of presentation slides is permitted. Props or prototypes may be used and are encouraged. No props, prototypes, or other materials may be distributed once the presentation begins.

Awards

6 winners will be selected to receive the following awards:

Tiger Tank General Track

First Place:	\$2,500 cash
Second Place:	\$1,500 cash

Note: The Executive Committee of the UofM Tiger Tank Idea Competition reserves the right to update these rules at any time. Every attempt will be made to notify participants of any modification to this document.

Third Place:	\$1,000 cash
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Cordell Jackson Venture Track

First Place:	\$2,500 cash
Second Place:	\$1,500 cash
Third Place:	\$1,000 cash

Eligibility

Student Status

The competition is for all students currently enrolled at the University of Memphis. Undergraduate students must be actively enrolled as a full-time student at the time of the competition. Graduate students must be registered and active in a masters or doctorate program at the time of the competition.

Teams

There is no limit on the number of students or non-students on the founding team, but only three students may present in the competition. Presenters must meet student enrollment eligibility requirements, be a founding member of the venture, and a member of the venture's management team. Interdisciplinary teams are recommended. Teams may include any number of graduate or undergraduate students. Non-students may be members of the management team and may participate in planning the venture, but only students meeting enrollment requirements may present and answer questions from the judges.

Final Decision on Eligibility

The Director of the Crews Center for Entrepreneurship reserves all rights and will have final say in determining which teams are eligible to compete in the Tiger Tank Pitch Competition and reserves the right to exclude any team for any reason.

Judges

The judge panel will consist of a minimum of three judges. Judges will be independent and not employed by the University of Memphis or the Crews Center for Entrepreneurship. Judging criteria for the pitch competition will be provided to all teams submitting valid applications for the competition.

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Changes to Competition Rules

Rules and awards are subject to change at the discretion of the Director of the Crews Center for Entrepreneurship at any time. Changes and/or interpretations of these rules may be made, even though they may appear to be in conflict with previously published information. The Director has the right to interpret these rules according to his/her judgement.

Intellectual Property

By submitting an application, teams acknowledge they own any intellectual property rights that exist or may be developed from their idea. The idea and concepts must be the original work of the individual or teams making the pitch.

Resources

All students at the University of Memphis have full access to the Crews Center for Entrepreneurship. The Crews Center provides resources, space, training, and advising/mentoring services to assist entrepreneurs with business model development, ideation, business model validation, and more.

Individual office hours and pitch workshops will be conducted at the Crews Center to assist in preparing for the competition.

Questions

For questions or additional information about the Crews Center Pitch Competition or the Crews Center for Entrepreneurship, please contact crewscenter@memphis.edu.

Important Dates

Application Deadline: April 4, 2025

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Sample Application Questionnaire

*The following document was created to support completing the online application.
The online application cannot be saved.*

The following is required for applying to the Tiger Tank Competition:

1. Application (available at memphis.edu/crews)
 - a. Submit Business Summary and Proposal
 - b. Submit Budget/ Use of Funds
2. Meet with Crews Center for Entrepreneurship Director, Whitney Hardy
3. Attend 2 out of 3 Pitch Prep workshops with Crews Center for Entrepreneurship and The Center for Writing and Communication

Application (subject to change)

- Name
- Team Members Names
- Email Address
- Business Name
- Business Website and/or Social Media
- Short description of business (10 words max)
- What industry/industries does your idea represent?
 - Consumer Products
 - Medical Device
 - Education
 - Family Business
 - Logistics/ Transportation
 - Engineering
 - Fashion/Textile Innovation
 - Food and Beverage
 - Sustainability/Energy
 - Social Venture/Social Enterprise/B-Corp
 - Art/ Creative
 - Music (*Cordell Jackson Venture Track*)
 - Technology/App Development
 - Gaming Development
 - Agriculture

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- Animal and Pet
- Other

Business Summary and Proposal

Upload one of the following documents:

- Completed business model canvas
- Pitch Deck
- Business Summary or Proposal

The Business Summary and Proposal can be presented as a slide deck, pdf, or document.

Tip: Your uploaded document should include:

- Business Name
- Business Team Bio
- Describe your entrepreneurial idea/ business in one sentence
- Provide a business summary of your business concept/ idea? What problem are you working to solve and who are you solving it for? (50 words max)
- What is your value proposition? What can you uniquely do that no one else can? How is your solution, perspective, or approach different than what other businesses do? (100 words max)
- What are key achievements and actions have you completed for your business?
- What social or economic value do you hope to create with your business?
- What do you hope to achieve with the use of funds from winning Tiger Tank prize funds?

Additional Items

Upload other documents below.

- Upload: Completed business model canvas
- Upload: Pitch deck
- Upload: Portfolio, Product Images, etc.
- Tip: For video or links, create a document with a still image and a link to the video host

Funding Request/ Use of Funds

- Expected timing of use of funds
- Total \$ Request

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Item	Description/Use of Funds/Investment Need	\$USD
		Total Cost

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