ImagineU Application

Program Overview

The ImagineU Summer Entrepreneurship Accelerator program is a unique, immersive and intensive **12-week entrepreneurial experience** in which students learn and live the early-stages of their entrepreneurship journey. This program emphasizes diversity and inclusion. In order to make the experience accessible to all, the **program pays participating students up to a $3,000 stipend**. 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 & Deadlines

Dates: May 18 - August 8, 2025

The program begins on May 18, 2025, and runs through August 8, 2025. Approximately 1-2 weeks before the start of the program, there is an orientation event to give everyone an opportunity to meet other students participating in the program and provide details on how to prepare for Day 1.

Applications Deadline: March 2, 2025

Applications are due by March 2, 2025. 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 a real-world entrepreneurship and understand they are going to start a company during this program.

Eligibility

Student Status

The ImagineU Summer Accelerator is an interdisciplinary program. We welcome students from all majors and academic interests. As long as you have a minimum of one summer (Summer 2025) semester left before graduating from the University of Memphis, you are eligible to apply.

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

- Name
- Email Address
- Phone Number

- What College or Institution do you attend?
  - Christian Brothers University
  - Southwest Tennessee Community College
  - University of Memphis (Main Campus)
  - University of Memphis (Lambuth)
  - Visible School of Music
  - LITE Memphis
  - Other
- When do you expect to graduate?
- What's your major or degree program?
- Do you have any schedule conflicts during the program dates (May 18 - August 8)?
  Please disclose if there are any work, vacation, or other scheduled things that might prevent you from showing up for program events and work hours.
  - Yes
  - No
- 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.
- 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.
- 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?
- Elaborate on what skills you have and how you will use and develop them during this summer experience (200-300 words)

- Tell us about an experience you've had working in a group. What did you learn from the experience? (200-400 words)
  Hint: this is important. Don't blow off the answer and think carefully about the message you want to send us with your response.

- Do you have a problem you are motivated to solve? If so, tell us about it and why you are motivated to solve it. If you have a startup idea, this is where you pitch it to us.
  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.

- What is the biggest risk you've ever taken? (150-400 words) What was the result?
  Hint. This is also important. If you've never taken a risk, be prepared to tell us why you haven't.

- Tell us about a time you failed and how you handled it (150-400 words)
  Also important. Entrepreneurs fail frequently. This program is no exception. Put some thought into this.

- What do you most hope to gain from this summer experience? What impact will it have on you? (150-400 words)

- Optional: Create a short video (5 minutes or less) introducing yourself, why you want to be in this program, any entrepreneurial experience you have (it's not required), any special skills you have, and why you think we should select you for the program.
  At what URL can we find your video?

ImagineU Terms and Conditions

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

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.

Not to arrange other employment or vacation time during the program period without prior approval of the ImagineU director.

I understand that tardiness and/or failure to attend sessions and otherwise participate fully will result in decreased compensation or termination from the program.