The Nathan M. Bisk College of Business values innovation, diversity, ethics and leadership as the cornerstones of a 21st century business education. The entrepreneurship program teaches students to identify needs in the marketplace and develop innovative solutions to meet them. Entrepreneurship students learn to understand the interactive nature of creating value—a skill essential for helping startups and corporations gain competitive advantages in the market.

Why Entrepreneurship at Florida Tech?
The most unique aspect of the entrepreneurship program is that students take the first steps toward launching a new business in their freshman year. During their first semester, students learn the theoretical concepts and foundations of entrepreneurship. In their second, students build a living, breathing venture, working in teams to conceptualize, develop, design, market and run a revenue-generating business. Another strength of Florida Tech’s entrepreneurship program is its faculty. All of the professors teaching entrepreneurship are entrepreneurs. They understand the challenges in raising capital, hiring employees, commercializing new technologies and providing services. They aren’t just teaching entrepreneurship—they are doing it themselves.

The Practicum Difference
Most entrepreneurship majors do not take internships—they make internships. The program allows its seniors to work in the Student Business Incubator on their own businesses for course credit. The experience combines curriculum, facilities and expertise to fully immerse students in a semester long Lean LaunchPad program. This “bootcamp” pushes students to speak to customers, vendors and strategic partners as they gather resources, develop business models and launch their businesses.
Entrepreneurship

When profitable opportunities are identified in the market, entrepreneurs take action to innovate and create value—typically resulting in the launch of a new business, product or service.

Excitement and Collaboration

As an entrepreneur, you deal with uncertainty, thrills, massive success and sometimes failure. As an entrepreneurship student at Florida Tech, the experience is very similar—though it all takes place within a safe and supportive learning environment. The culture in the entrepreneurship program is one of passion and collaboration. Students freely share marketing ideas, channel-building strategies and professional networks. This, combined with faculty who are committed to helping students become successful entrepreneurs, makes for a unique and exciting place for students to launch their businesses.

Real Venture Creation

Entrepreneurship students have many opportunities to not just learn but actually participate in new business development. Florida Tech’s student business incubator, which launched 12 new student-owned businesses in 2012–13, brings students from all fields together with faculty mentors with the common goal of turning ideas into revenue streams. The incubator hosts regular student business hack-a-thons, which allow cross-disciplinary collaboration among students as they solve real corporate problems in education, health care, military and communications. An annual Startup Weekend—during which students work with each other as well as members of the greater Florida business community to launch a business in 48 hours—is sponsored and hosted by Florida Tech. Other programs include a sponsored business plan competition, fundraising pitch sessions and consulting projects.

A Future of Possibility

Upon completion of an entrepreneurship degree, students understand the interactive mechanisms between all business functions and have several career options. Because they have experienced new venture creation as part of their curriculum, graduates may opt for a career as an independent business owner upon graduation. Graduates are also well positioned for positions at established companies. Armed with a macro-level view of how businesses run, entrepreneurship graduates are highly prized by firms that understand the need for constant innovation and how it interacts with all other business functions. Florida Tech alumni are well equipped to make strategic decisions and initiate new corporate innovation from within.

FastTrack MBA and MSIE

Nathan M. Bisk College of Business students are eligible for entrance into Florida Tech’s FastTrack MBA and MSIE programs. Students must maintain a 3.25 cumulative GPA and complete 95 credits in order to be accepted into the programs.

M.S. in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (MSIE)

Students can pursue an interdisciplinary M.S. degree to develop and bring to life a marketable concept or invention. Students gain real-world experience in innovation and commercialization of new products and technologies. Working in teams, students experience pitching a business proposal to investors and funding sources. FastTrack program and graduate scholarships are available.

Global Perspective

The Nathan M. Bisk College of Business is internationally focused—from business strategy to cultural awareness. Students learn alongside their international peers both on campus and through virtual teams bringing together students from around the globe using Cloud and Web technologies. Students have an opportunity to study abroad through programs to areas such as Spain, the Netherlands and Oxford, England.