



Entrepreneurship 101 2014/2015 Course Syllabus

Location: MaRS Centre, Auditorium, 101 College Street, Toronto

Class hours: Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Email: entrepreneurship101@marsdd.com

Website: marsdd.com/ent101

A. About MaRS

MaRS is where science, technology and social entrepreneurs find the help they need. It is where all kinds of people meet to spark new ideas, and where a global reputation for innovation is being earned one success story at a time. Key to these success stories are our clients—the entrepreneurs and innovators we serve—and our employees who support them.

B. Course description

Entrepreneurship 101 is MaRS's flagship free weekly lecture series featuring key topics related to starting a successful business. It is aimed at social innovators, technology and life sciences researchers and trainees. Topics include funding your business, marketing, recruiting, protecting intellectual property, and more.

The course culminates in a business-plan pitch competition called the *Up-Start! Competition*, in which selected participants compete for a \$15,000 prize.

C. Organization

Every Wednesday night, from September to May, topics are presented in lecture format by entrepreneurs and industry experts. Audience members have the opportunity to ask questions. Lectures are free of charge and participants can attend as many as they wish.

Each lecture is also available via webcast live on Wednesday nights, or on-demand through our archive. Links to the webcasts are located on the *Entrepreneurship 101* page on the MaRS website.

During the course, regular “Meet the Entrepreneurs” sessions are held involving a moderated panel of startup entrepreneurs from different sectors discussing the challenges and opportunities they face. These lectures run from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. and are followed by a networking reception.

“Lived It” lectures offer an opportunity to hear first-hand about building an innovative company from people who have seen it and done it, and to ask them questions.

D. Course objectives

1. Equip entrepreneurs with the tools and inspiration they need to start and grow a successful business.
2. Provide opportunities for networking and community building among entrepreneurs.
3. Advocate the importance of innovation in technology and its role as an economic driver.

4. Build a culture of entrepreneurship in Ontario.

E. *Up-Start! Competition*

The *Up-Start! Competition* is a pitch competition open to *Entrepreneurship 101* participants. Individuals, or teams of individuals, must give a ten-minute presentation on a business idea. A prize of \$15,000 will be awarded for the top business plan.

For more information, including rules and eligibility, visit marsdd.com/upstart.

F. Course certificate

Participants who have attended 60% of the lectures, in person or through the live or archived webcasts, will be issued a certificate of completion at the end of the course. MaRS staff will track live attendance for each participant electronically, and webcast attendance will be recorded digitally. Attendance must be verified at each lecture by checking in through the electronic system provided. Attendance must also be completed within the course year (September 24, 2014 to May 6, 2015).

G. Course topics

Entrepreneurship 101 follows five modules:

1. **Map Your Journey:** Introduces the basics of starting a business by explaining different types of business structures and legal and tax considerations, and how to test your idea
2. **Model:** Describes how to organize your business, and how to protect your ideas and communicate them to others
3. **Market:** Defines the process of identifying your target market, preparing to enter the marketplace and communicating value to your customers
4. **Management:** Outlines a company's organizational structure, how to recruit and manage talent and how to organize your finances
5. **Money:** Addresses various financing methods available to startups, including how to prepare a good investor pitch

H. Book list

The Art of the Start by Guy Kawasaki

Rework by Jason Fried and David Heinemeier Hansson

Demand: Creating What People Love Before They Know They Want It by Adrian J. Slywotzky with Karl Weber

The Lean Startup: How Today's Entrepreneurs Use Continuous Innovation to Create Radically Successful Businesses by Eric Ries

The Innovator's Dilemma: The Revolutionary Book That Will Change the Way You Do Business by Clayton M. Christensen

Running Lean: Iterate From Plan A to a Plan That Works by Ash Maurya

Positioning: The Battle for Your Mind by Al Ries and Jack Trout

Crush It! Why Now is the Time to Cash In on Your Passion by Gary Vaynerchuk

The Startup Owner's Manual: The Step-by-Step Guide for Building a Great Company by Steve Blank and Bob Dorf

Venture Deals by Brad Feld and Jason Mendelson

Lean Analytics by Alistair Croll and Benjamin Yoskovitz