

Cost

The VEP is free to veterans selected for the program. Instruction, materials, travel expenses, lodging, and meals for the Phase II Boot Camp are provided at no cost to each delegate. The costs of the VEP are underwritten by sponsors and private donors, with operations and program development provided by the Gary W. Rollins College of Business at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Eligibility

VEP serves veterans who meet the following requirements:

- Have separated from active duty service (or are in the process of separating) with an honorable discharge.
- Have developed a business concept or have an existing business less than three years old.
- Preference will be given to applicants who are identified as disabled by the Veterans Administration based on a "service-connected" disability OR who are "service-distinguished" based on exemplary military conduct.

How to Apply

The VEP has a selective application process that reflects the unique opportunity and valuable resources being offered to eligible veterans. Successful candidates demonstrate a strong interest in entrepreneurship and venture creation, the motivation to own and operate a business, and a high likelihood of active participation and completion of the entire VEP curriculum.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Sandra Cordell, PMP | VEP Director
423-425-4417

Sandra-Cordell@utc.edu

APPLY ONLINE AT UTC.EDU/VEP

PRESENTING SPONSOR



Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration



Gary W. Rollins College of Business

The Gary W. Rollins College of Business at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is a nationally ranked, AACSB-accredited business school that produces academically prepared and business-world ready graduates for a competitive global environment.

The Rollins College of Business recognizes the role of entrepreneurship in the global economy and places a priority on entrepreneurship education. Our graduates receive a thorough foundation in critical aspects of business, such as marketing, accounting, management and finance, as well as relevant entrepreneurial topics such as cash flow management. Courses in creativity, innovation, and business plans for new ventures help round out the College's fastest growing major. UTC students also benefit from the insight and experience of the area's most successful entrepreneurs.

The VEP Consortium

In order to continue to serve as many of our nation's veterans as possible, VEP is also offered at **Oklahoma State University** and the **University of Florida**. For more information about their programs and schedules please visit their websites:

OSU: business.okstate.edu/riata/veterans/

UF: warrington.ufl.edu/vep



NATIONAL VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

EMPOWERING AMERICA'S VETERANS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
AT CHATTANOOGA
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE



The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is a comprehensive, community-engaged campus of the University of Tennessee System. UTC is an EEO/AA/Titles IV & IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA Institution. 23349679-25

HELPING VETERANS LAUNCH OR GROW THEIR OWN BUSINESSES



OUR MILITARY VETERANS have served and protected our nation, and acquired knowledge and skills including risk management, performance under pressure, and leadership. To help military veterans translate those skills to the civilian world and build successful businesses,

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is proud to present the National Veterans Entrepreneurship Program (VEP).

Now in its 14th year, the VEP offers a highly innovative immersion program built around hands-on learning, personalized interaction, and exposure to inspiring role models. Our mission is to foster the creation of successful, profitable ventures owned by veterans. A team of world-class faculty, distinguished entrepreneurs, and subject matter experts work with delegates, to provide a challenging, interactive, and informative experience.

The Gary W. Rollins College of Business and its location in Chattanooga, Tenn., are an ideal venue for the VEP. Chattanooga is an emerging global startup hub and is on the cutting edge of entrepreneurial practice and education.



"This has been the most incredible experience. Every single one of us, we were so blown away by the amount of people willing to help us. It's been mind blowing."

- Leah Dimino, VEP 2023 Delegate

VEP SPECIFICS

At the heart of the VEP is an intense, eight-day training program at UTC. It will cover topical modules comprising the critical areas of success for new and early stage ventures. These eight days are preceded by a five-week, self-study component and are then followed by a five-month advising period and online peer-to-peer networking. This integrated model offers an innovative and effective combination of focused, practical training in venture creation and growth, accompanied by a support structure for graduates of the program.

VEP PHASE I

Concept Development & Self-Study, May 27- June 27, 2025

During Phase I, delegates will participate in a five-week, self-study curriculum developed for the VEP, facilitated by an online discussion and assessment module that will be moderated by faculty and staff from the Rollins College of Business. This phase enables delegates to work on the further development of their business concepts and prepare for the Boot Camp to be held at The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in July. Those with existing businesses will work on understanding and shaping relevant business issues. Participants will also receive 12 months of free access to LivePlan, an online business software that takes users through a step-by-step process to create a bank-ready business plan.

VEP PHASE II

VEP Boot Camp, July 19-26, 2025

Like a military Boot Camp, this eight-day residency at UTC is intense, rigorous, and demanding. It is an opportunity for hands-on learning and interaction with faculty, guest entrepreneurs, business experts, and peer delegates. The Boot Camp exposes VEP participants to the "nuts and bolts" of business ownership through experiential workshops and lessons from world-class faculty representing nationally ranked programs around the country.

VEP PHASE III

Advising & Venture Development, August - December 2025

Delegates are provided with five months of ongoing advising from entrepreneurs, subject matter experts and online peer-to-peer networking. This enables delegates to get feedback specific to their ventures and provides hands-on learning, which is critical to success.

VEP SCHEDULE AT UTC

Application Deadline is April 30, 2025

All applications must be received by midnight on April 30, 2025 to be considered.

May 15, 2025

Applicants are notified of admission or rejection on a rolling basis, with final notification to all applicants by this date. As there are a limited number of spots in the program, the selection committee must receive a signed commitment letter within one week of acceptance into the program.

May 27-June 27, 2025

Phase I – Self Study & Business Concept Development

July 19-26, 2025

Phase II – VEP Entrepreneurship Boot Camp: delegates arrive in Chattanooga on July 19 and depart on July 27

August - December 2025

Phase III – Advising, Business Development Support, and Online Peer-to-Peer Networking

SAMPLE TOPICS INCLUDE:

- **BUSINESS PLANS:** How do I develop something that actually helps my business?
 - **FUNDING:** How much money do I really need, and how do I get it?
 - **MARKETING:** What is the best way to identify and reach my audience, and how do I market effectively?
 - **ACCOUNTING:** What do I need to know about the numbers? How do I use that information to make better decisions?
 - **OPERATIONS:** What are the keys to service delivery, cost controls, dealing with suppliers and other elements that make the business work?
 - **RISK MANAGEMENT:** What risks am I likely to encounter and how do I protect my business?
 - **SALES:** How do I acquire new customers?
- ...and much more!

IMAGINE

BELIEVE

CREATE