I-Corps @ UMass Amherst

Training + Experience + Funding for STEM faculty and students considering or undertaking research commercialization and startup efforts

Why
Gain exposure to NSF’s approach to early steps in research commercialization and startup development.

Open the door to additional funding:
- Prepare for national NSF I-Corps Teams project ($50K over 6 months)
- Qualify for new PFI opportunities ($250K over 18-24 months)
- Improve the odds of NSF SBIR success

Add new capabilities and perspective to enhance competitiveness.

What
Learn about and practice the Lean LaunchPad methodology. Prepare for the national NSF I-Corps Teams program.

Attend training sessions and conduct 30 customer discovery interviews.

Receive up to $2,500 to support project activities ($500 for training program plus up to $2,000 for reimbursable expenses upon completion).

Who
Faculty, students, postdoctoral fellows, and recent alumni interested in transferring technology out of the university and into products or services.

How
Identify a project focus based on ideas and technologies within an area normally supported by the NSF and can be based on student work, faculty-led research (funded or unfunded), institutional or industrial projects. Intellectual property may be owned by either the university or the team.

Form a team including an entrepreneurial lead (typically a student or postdoctoral fellow), a technical/academic lead (typically a faculty member familiar with the technology) and, an I-Corps team mentor (typically someone close by with experience transitioning technology out of academic labs, working in startups, or working in a relevant industry). A mentor is not required to apply; the I-Corps @ UMass team will help you to find one.

I-Corps @ UMass is available to help with team formation, defining the project, finding a mentor, and timing decisions.

When
Inaugural cohort:
- Two-day kickoff on January 25-26
- Webinar on February 1
- Finale February 8
- Office hours and check-ins by appointment
- 30 customer discovery interviews within 3 months

The I-Corps @ UMass program is offered once per semester.

Apply
Complete the application form at https://www.umass.edu/tto/apply-i-corps by January 16 for the inaugural cohort. Applications will be reviewed on a first-come-first-serve basis.

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I-Corps @ UMass Team
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