

GRAVES BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

Guidelines and Eligibility

Student Teams

The Graves Business Plan Competition is open to full-time students enrolled in an undergraduate or master's degree program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. To compete in the Graves Business Plan Competition, students may form teams of up to four students or compete individually. The lead team member must be a full-time undergraduate or master's student seeking a degree at UT Knoxville. The following clarifying restrictions apply:

- *Prior Graves Business Plan Competition Winners:* Previous winners of the Graves Business Plan Competition cannot compete in consecutive semesters with the same business plan. Previous winners must use a different business plan to compete in consecutive semesters.
- *Programs of Study:* The Graves Business Plan Competition is open to students in any program of study in an undergraduate or master's degree program at the UT Knoxville.

Ownership of the Venture

Ventures must be owned by UT Knoxville students enrolled in an undergraduate or master's degree program. The UT Knoxville student owner must hold majority interest in the business. A venture owned by a non-student, in which a student has been given equity for a business plan, is not eligible to compete.

Judging

Awarding of prizes is at the discretion of the judges.

Nature and Status of the Venture

The competition is for new, independent ventures in concept, seed, startup, or early growth stage. The following restrictions apply:

- *Professional Investment:* Any existing company or idea that has received angel or venture capital financing prior to the competition is ineligible for this competition. Funding from personal sources including "family and friends" is allowed for competition applicants.
- *Venture Type Exclusions:* The following ventures are generally excluded from the competition: Expansions of existing companies, real estate syndications, tax shelters, franchises, licensing agreements for distribution in a different geographical area, and spin-outs from existing corporations.