

STARTUP COMMUNITY

Membership Policy

(Effective as of February 1, 2022)

Program Overview

Startup Community is the point of entry for all University of Oklahoma students and University affiliates interested in or actively pursuing a project, prototype or business model. This program connects individuals from multidisciplinary backgrounds to create, design and explore their entrepreneurial ideas. Startup Community offers program members the opportunity to form a team and work on their own entrepreneurial idea, or join a team and employ their skills in supporting another's business concept or project.

Membership Offerings

Startup Community is an adaptive program that responds to program members' individual needs. Program members are offered:

- skills training in market discovery and consumer insight research
- monthly one-on-one mentorship sessions
- biweekly seminars and workshops dedicated to critical issues
- 24-7 access to dedicated workspaces
- access to critical prototyping services and equipment (if applicable)
- use of in-house production equipment and services

Membership Intake Process

Total membership in Startup Community may not exceed fifty (50) individuals, though this figure does not include any member of the OU Startup Programs Leadership Initiative or other Startup Programs.

Startup Community offers rolling admission to the program, therefore prospective members must submit the Startup Community Intake Form for periodic review by OU Startup Programs staff. OU Startup Programs staff will review submitted intake forms every three (3) weeks, whereupon prospective members will be notified of their status as a program member or if they were placed on a waitlist due to program capacity constraints.

Membership Responsibilities

Startup Community members are required to attend at least one (1) seminar, workshop, social event or one-on-one with an OU Startup Programs staff per month. In the event a program member fails to meet this attendance requirement, the program member will receive an informal warning and will be extended a grace period of one (1) additional week to reschedule and attend their monthly one-on-one as a replacement event.

If a program member fails either to reschedule or attend their monthly one-on-one within the grace period, the program member will be expelled from the program. Additionally, if a program member receives two (2) subsequent informal warnings for lack of attendance, regardless if they attended a monthly one-on-one within the allotted grace period in either case, the program member will be expelled from the program.

Expulsion from Startup Community is not an admonition, and any program member expelled from the program is permitted and encouraged to re-submit the Startup Community Intake Form.



Payment for Services

No Startup Community member is permitted to offer or receive compensation from any other Startup Community member for any services performed while participating in the program as a general member. Put simply, payment for any services rendered is prohibited between Startup Community members. However, Startup Community members may receive compensation from external organizations (including companies currently participating in Startup Accelerator, Startup Incubator, or any other Startup Programs-affiliated program) for any services rendered.

The terms of any payments received from external organizations are the sole responsibility of the Startup Community member(s) and the external organizations; however, either party may request advice regarding such terms from an OU Startup Programs staff member.

Team Conflicts

In any event where conflicts emerge which cause breakdowns in team communications, delays in project progression, or otherwise, Startup Community members are required to submit to mediation led by an OU Startup Programs staff member. If any such conflict touches upon any legal matter, such conflicts will be referred to an Entrepreneurial Law Center staff member. In no event will mediation be binding, nor will it be given any legal consideration if any such conflict advances to the point of litigation.

Additional Information

Any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Startup Community Membership Policy or its terms should be addressed to OU Startup Programs at startups@ou.edu.

