



2021 Florida Atlantic University Business Plan Competition

Rules and Eligibility

Welcome to the Florida Atlantic University Business Plan Competition (FAU BPC).

The FAU BPC provides contestants with valuable resources in the following areas:

- Networks of entrepreneurs, investors, and potential partners
- Mentorship by successful and seasoned professionals
- Education in specific business planning skills and general entrepreneurial insight
- Teambuilding opportunities
- Funding and support to help the winning teams start their ventures

HOW TO ENTER:

Please fill out and submit the **FAU BPC online application**. It can be found at business.fau.edu/BPC or by visiting: <https://form.jotform.com/202925639977169>.

Applications Opens November 20, 2020 and closes on February 1st, 2021 at midnight.



Within a few hours of submission you will receive an email confirming receipt of your application and a copy of the responses submitted. Please allow the BPC Committee enough time to process your submission. If you need to make changes to your submission please wait until you are contacted by our office. You can expect to

hear from us on **February 15, 2021**. All submission deadlines are final. Late applications cannot be accepted and deadline extensions cannot be granted for any reason.

ELIGIBILITY

Each team must meet the following requirements in order to compete in the FAU BPC.

- The competition is for FAU students, faculty, staff and recent graduates (students who have graduated in the past year). At least one member of the team must meet the above requirements, not the entire team. Current students must be in good academic standing and currently enrolled on a full or part-time basis. BPC finalists from previous years are not eligible to compete in subsequent FAU Business Plan Competitions. Instead, we encourage you to apply to the FAU Tech Runway Launch Competition (<http://www.fau.edu/research/tech-runway/>).

Students are expected to:

- Be a key force behind the new venture
- Have played a key role in developing the business concept
- Anticipate having a key management role in the venture, and own significant equity in the venture

The competition is for new, independent ventures in the seed, start-up, or early growth stages. Generally excluded are the following: buy-outs, expansions of existing companies, real estate syndications, tax shelters, franchisees, and licensing agreements for distribution in a different geographical area. The competition is supportive of teams that have created a business concept or plan to launch a new venture based on university-developed research and innovations.

All submitted work must be original work of team members or appropriately licensed work of others. Any submission that does not meet these requirements will be eliminated from the competition.

BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION TIMELINE

Application opens: **November 20, 2020**

Deadline to submit application: **Monday, February 1, 2021 (by 11:59 pm)**

“Pitch Scrub” – practice rounds: **Friday, March 5, 2021.**

Semi-finalists make pitch to judges/mentors: **Friday, March 26, 2021.**

Finalists are notified (on or before): **Friday, April 2, 2021.**

Business Plan Competition: **Friday, April 16, 2021 (9 am – 2 pm)**

Note: Currently all events will take place via Zoom. Business attire should be worn for all presentations.

- **Semi-finalists** will be contacted by the competition coordinator to schedule a time for a 15-minute pitch of their business concept, followed by a 10 minute Q&A with a panel of judges/mentors.
- **Finalists:** Final presentations will take place at the FAU College of Business, Boca Raton campus on Friday, April 16, 2021 and will be transmitted live via Zoom. Teams should arrive at 8 am and plan to stay until 3 pm. All presentations must be the original work of the presenting team members. The finalists will have 15 minutes to present, followed by a 10 minute in-depth Q&A session with the

judges. There will be 5 minutes between each presentation for teams to set-up. The order of team presentations will be selected at random.

Once a team has finished its presentation, the team may observe both the presentation and Q&A session of the teams that follow it. Teams may not observe other presentations until AFTER they have made their presentation. Teams may not observe another team's prior practice or prior feedback sessions.

Teams should bring a USB drive with a PC compatible presentation. The presentation room is equipped with a large-screen projector and a PC to run your presentation. You may also connect your laptop directly to the projector. If you are using a Mac laptop, you should bring your own video adapter to be able to connect into the A/V system in the room. If you have questions about audio/video equipment, please contact the competition coordinator at adamscenter@fau.edu.

PRIZES

1. The first half of the prize money will be awarded to teams in the weeks following the FAU BPC. Students will be paid via their account at myfau.edu.
2. The second half of the winners' prize payment is contingent upon review and approval of their progress report by the FAU BPC committee during the fall 2021 semester. Winners will be notified if their progress report was accepted or denied by the FAU BPC committee via email.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The competition, is open to the public at large. Any data or information discussed or divulged in public sessions by entrants should be considered information that could possibly enter the public realm, and entrants should not assume any right of confidentiality.

All decisions regarding the competition rules, procedures, processes and selection of teams are at the sole discretion of the COB. While not anticipated, the rules and prizes are subject to change.

If a team uses copyrighted materials and/or images from a third-party in its submissions or presentation, the team must obtain permission and authorization in advance from the owners to use this material and be able to provide such documented permission/authorization upon request from the FAU BPC, ACE, mentors, or judges.

No contestant under any circumstances may contact a judge before or during the competition to discuss the team's entry. Any such behavior will result in disqualification.

No judge, mentor, volunteer or competition staff member may have any vested interest, equity stake, or financial stake in any of the competing companies. Any such associations will result in disqualification of the team and/or removal of that individual from his/her associated position with the competition.

DISCLAIMER

By submitting an application you authorize Florida Atlantic University (University) and those acting pursuant to its authority to: (i) record my likeness and/or voice on a video, audio, photographic, digital, electronic or any other medium; (ii) use my name and biographical material in connection with such recordings; and (iii) use, reproduce, exhibit, and/or distribute my name, biographical material, and such recordings in any medium (e.g., print publications, video, internet, etc.) for promotional, advertising, educational, and/or other lawful purposes. I release and waive any claims or rights of compensation or ownership regarding such uses and understand that all such recordings shall remain the property of the University.