

# EDWARD L. KAPLAN, '71 NEW VENTURE CHALLENGE (NVC)

The Edward L. Kaplan, '71, New Venture Challenge (NVC) is the premier startup launch program and a nationally-recognized accelerator. Entering its twenty-fifth year, the NVC helps graduate students at the University of Chicago turn their ideas into viable businesses.



## OVERVIEW:

Launched in 1996, the Edward L. Kaplan, '71, New Venture Challenge (NVC) is recognized as one of the top-ranked accelerators in the U.S., an honor shared by only the most elite startup accelerators such as Y Combinator and Techstars. Managed by the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and taught by Chicago Booth faculty, the program has expanded and now includes five tracks to serve a diverse group of entrepreneurs across the globe. The traditional track of the NVC supports teams of currently enrolled graduate students at the University of Chicago.

## PROGRAM FORMAT:

The NVC is a year-long program that is divided up into three phases:

- **Phase I:** In the Fall quarter, attend events hosted by the Polsky Center to learn about entrepreneurship, meet teammates, and generate ideas. Eligible teams must develop their business feasibility summary and apply by January 28, 2021.
- **Phase II:** Selected teams will enroll in a Spring quarter class where they will develop a full business plan, practice pitching, and receive mentorship from faculty, coaches, and experienced investors.
- **Phase III:** The program will culminate at the end of the Spring quarter where top finalist teams will be invited to compete for \$1 million in cash and in-kind prizes and pitch in front of an esteemed panel of investors and judges at the NVC Finals on June 3, 2021.

## KEY DATES:

*Kickoff/Info Sessions*

- **Wednesday, October 28**  
5:00-7:00 p.m., Virtual

*Application Deadline*

- **Thursday, January 28**  
at 10:00 a.m.

*Phase II Announcement*

- **February 2021**

*Phase II Orientation*

- **February 2021**

*NVC Finals*

- **Thursday, June 3**

## APPLY ONLINE:

Visit [chicagonvc.com](https://chicagonvc.com) and click on the NVC tab.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Megan Fox, assistant director, at [megan.fox@chicagobooth.edu](mailto:megan.fox@chicagobooth.edu).

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## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

All currently enrolled graduate students at the University of Chicago are eligible to apply to the NVC as an individual or as a team. Teams with cross-functional expertise are strongly encouraged. Companies that have already raised more than \$500,000 in institutional funding are ineligible.

Alumni of the university and individuals not affiliated with the university are eligible to apply to the NVC as long as they have at least one current UChicago student as an integral member of the team (i.e., someone with a minimum of 10% equity stake in the venture). However, only current UChicago students are allowed to present in class and at the finals event; other team members may participate in the Q&A only.

## FACULTY:



### Steve Kaplan

Kessenich E.P. Faculty Director, Polsky Center; Neubauer Family Distinguished Service Professor of Entrepreneurship and Finance at Chicago Booth



### Ellen Rudnick, MBA '73

Senior Adviser on Entrepreneurship and Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship at Chicago Booth



### Mark Tebbe

Entrepreneur-in-Residence and Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship at Chicago Booth

## BY THE NUMBERS:

**330+**  
COMPANIES  
still in business

**\$1+**  
BILLION  
in funding raised

**\$7.5+**  
BILLION  
in exit value

## SAMPLE OF OUR PORTFOLIO COMPANIES:



Learn more about the Polsky Center at: [polsky.uchicago.edu](http://polsky.uchicago.edu)