

ACCELERATE'S

Co-op for Entrepreneurs and Innovators

A unique experience for Wentworth students to utilize their co-op and get paid while turning their ideas, inventions, and innovations into a business

Applications Due: Friday, June 20, 2025



What is Accelerate?

Accelerate, Wentworth's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center, is a place where Wentworth students can test, learn, iterate, and build as they move their ideas forward.

Located on the first floor of the CEIS building, students from all majors are invited to join us in the makerspace and utilize its materials, tools, and equipment, free of charge. Accelerate staff, mentors, and experts are on-hand to help turn your vision into reality, whether you want to work on a personal project, bring a class assignment to the next level, or are interested in launching a business.

What's the Accelerate Co-op for Entrepreneurs (ACE)?

Built to meet the needs of Wentworth's innovative and entrepreneurial students, ACE is a unique opportunity for students to use their co-op to work on turning an idea, prototype, or product into a business, while getting paid! You'll spend a full semester working directly with faculty advisors and mentors, getting Accelerate support through its staff and makerspace, and immersing yourself in a peer network of other WIT students with similar goals. You will also receive up to \$2,500 to spend on materials and supplies in addition to \$9,000 in wages.

ACE provides support for up to six students/student teams who have great ideas, prototypes, products, and/or businesses and are looking to launch them into the world. You will work directly with an advisor to set goals for yourself, participate in weekly business workshops, receive guidance and feedback, increase your network, and stay on top of self-identified milestones.

To be a successful innovator or entrepreneur, you must be self-directed and self-motivated to move your ideas forward. As such, a large portion of this experience will be you adhering to your own deadlines and pushing yourself to get the work done. These things will be integral to your success:

- ▶ Attending additional entrepreneurship and business related workshops and events offered by Accelerate and external startup organizations.
- ▶ Mentoring through faculty advisors, Accelerate staff and entrepreneurs-in-residence, and other local experts.
- ▶ Immersion into the larger entrepreneurship ecosystem to gather inspiration and build your own network of mentors, peers, and champions.
- ▶ Regular meetings with your assigned advisor and weekly meetings with other ACE students.



The Accelerate Co-Op for Entrepreneurs “was the perfect opportunity to take the time I needed away from things like school... to focus on my passion and really push it towards becoming a business.”

- Emmanuel Andre Chalumeau '22, Computer Science

Junior & Senior Co-op Experience

For juniors and seniors, the ACE experience runs 15-weeks and allows up to six individuals or teams to work exclusively on their businesses. During that time, each student is required to spend at least 35 hours per week working on their ventures with the following support to make that happen:

- ▶ Up to \$2,500 to spend on materials, supplies, and other business needs
- ▶ \$9,000 in wages paid in three installments
- ▶ A dedicated advisor
- ▶ Accelerate staff support and use of the makerspace
- ▶ A peer network of other WIT student entrepreneurs
- ▶ Networking opportunities with the broader Boston ecosystem
- ▶ Weekly content sessions teaching you more about business and entrepreneurship

How It Works:

In addition to working independently on building your business, you will be required to:

- ▶ Meet with your co-op advisor each week
- ▶ Attend weekly Accelerate workshops with external speakers
- ▶ Meet with the larger group of ACE advisors and entrepreneurs every week
- ▶ Provide evidence of progress against your milestones on a regular basis
- ▶ Proactively seek out external mentors and champions

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Who is this co-op experience for?

A: This experience is open to seniors and juniors participating in a mandatory co-op.

Q: Does the ACE experience count as a co-op?

A: Yes, it fulfills Wentworth's mandatory co-op requirement for juniors and seniors.

Q: Is this co-op open to all majors?

A: Yes, this co-op is open to all majors.

Q: Is there an application process?

A: Yes, the application process involves a written application and, if you make it to the second round, an interview. The point of this process is for the committee to gather information on your idea, what problem you're solving, how much traction you've made, and whether the co-op is the right fit for you.

[Apply Here](#)

Q: When are applications due?

A: Friday, June 20, 2025, by 11:59EST. We will inform students of acceptance by July 28.

Q: Where can I apply?

A: Click the Apply Here button on the bottom of the next page.

Q: Do you already need an idea or business to apply?

A: This co-op is for those students who are passionate about an innovation, invention, or business concept and want to work on it full time. Participants should be past the idea stage and already working on some aspect of making their idea a reality, whether it's creating a prototype, working on customer discovery, developing the business model, etc.

Q: Is this co-op paid?

A: Yes. Juniors and seniors will receive \$9,000 in wages, paid in three installments. If you're a part of a co-founder team, this \$9,000 will be split between the two founders.

Q: Are there restrictions on the use of the wages received?

A: No. This money can be used at your discretion, whether you're covering living expenses like food and rent or putting it toward your business!

Q: Will there be space for us to work on campus?

We provide a large conference room as co-working space for ACE participants and ACE alumni.

Q: What if I have to live out of state and need to be virtual?

You should still apply. We will do our best to accommodate by making meetings virtual.

Q: Who are the advisors?

A: There are three advisors leading this opportunity, all of whom have entrepreneurship, strategy, and leadership experience.

Q: Is there a formal process I have to follow during the co-op?

A: We require that you meet with your advisor once a week and attend all workshops, social events, and content sessions. You will also be asked to give a final presentation at the end. Outside of that,



“Accelerate’s Co-op for Entrepreneurs has allowed me to create and develop a [biomedical product] design that my partners and I have been working on for the last three years. It’s given me the space, materials, and time to work on it, make what I want, and have it actually come to life.”

- Jessica Woyton '24, Biomedical Engineering

Frequently Asked Questions Continued:

you are responsible for setting and meeting your own goals. Being an entrepreneur means you hold yourself accountable and keep yourself motivated so we intentionally keep a big part of this experience self-directed.

We also require that you be available for content sessions between 9am and 5pm, Monday through Friday so please do not plan anything else for those times, including shifts for a part time job.

Q: What other support can I get during this experience?

A: In addition to your advisors, you have access to the Accelerate makerspace and its staff, who have varying degrees of experience in developing prototypes, testing entrepreneurial ideas, and running startups. You can also tap into Accelerate's Entrepreneur-in-Residence for mentorship and office hours and work with the Accelerate Lab Technician if you want to start bringing a prototype to life.

Q: Should I still apply if I plan to get a full-time job after graduation?

A: Yes. While you may not work on your business full time after graduation, the skills, knowledge and network that you develop will be critical to your success, regardless of what you do down the road. You also have the option of working on your business during your non-work hours and could press the pause button, only to pick it up again a few months or years down the road.

Q: We're a team of co-founders. Can we both apply?

Yes, both co-founders can participate in the program but the co-founders will have to split wages and the \$2,500 in materials and supplies money will be allocated to the team, not to each individual co-founder.

Please submit one application per team and ensure both co-founders are available for an interview. If a co-founder doesn't interview, they are not eligible to participate.

If you get in, both co-founders will be required to attend all sessions.

Q: If I participate, will Wentworth own any of my Intellectual Property (IP)?

No! Wentworth nor Accelerate will own any of your business and/or IP unless you put a contract in place that states otherwise.

Q: Who should I reach out to if I have questions?

Contact Yonalis Rosario Perez PerezY3@wit.edu - Accelerate's Program Manager or Ashley Lucas lucasa1@wit.edu, Accelerate's Executive Director.

Apply Here