

2024/25

INNOVATION &  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## ACCELERATING DRUG DISCOVERIES

### Division of Molecular Therapeutics

Berkeley's new Division of Molecular Therapeutics ("MTx" for short) admitted its first cohort of students in fall 2024. Led by Professor Michael Rapé, this new emphasis within the Department of Molecular & Cell Biology focuses on innovative approaches to treat diseases. The Division aims to accelerate the drug discovery process from idea to laboratory to clinic. Rapé is an accomplished researcher and entrepreneur with major discoveries and several successful companies to his name. According to Rapé, the shared commitment to public service and the deep level of faculty expertise make Berkeley an ideal location to develop this new program. Not only will the Division of Molecular Therapeutics strive to expand treatment options for major diseases, but the hope is that it will democratize the industry so brilliant researchers won't need luck and connections to develop cures.

## EXPANDING BERKELEY INNOVATION ZONE

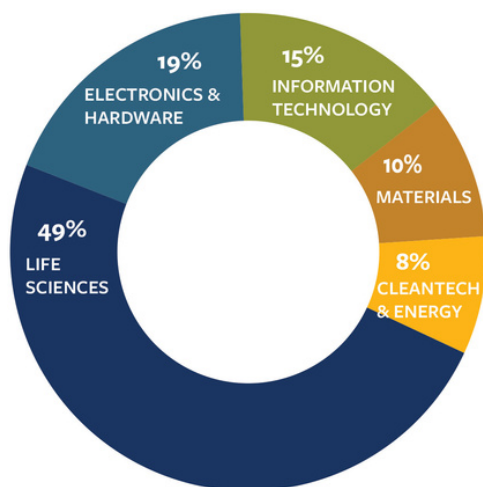
### Bakar ClimatEnginuity Hub Announced



From materials that can draw carbon from the air to plastics that are truly biodegradable, UC Berkeley researchers are advancing discoveries that are poised to improve the health of our planet. The campus recently announced plans for a new space dedicated to translating these discoveries into impactful climate solutions. The **Bakar ClimatEnginuity Hub** will provide campus innovators with the resources they need to launch successful companies in the burgeoning field of climate technology. The new facility is part of the Berkeley Innovation Zone, an effort to redevelop the west side of campus into a center for life sciences, materials science and climate research.

## UC Berkeley Startups are Represented in Many Sectors

Over the last decades, more than **300 start-up companies** have been founded to commercialize IP rights under license from UC Berkeley.



July 2024

## A Vibrant Ecosystem

In 2024 UC Berkeley's ecosystem of campus programs devoted to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among students, faculty, and researchers continued to expand. As of summer 2024 the campus accelerator **SkyDeck** had supported over 1,800 start-up teams that had raised \$2.0B. Annually SkyDeck is accelerating some 280 startups. 135 companies had completed the **CITRIS Foundry** program raising more than \$531M in external funding. Launched in 2022, the **Bakar BioEnginuity Hub** has helped incubate 41 companies that have raised \$408M. More broadly the **QB3 incubator network** counted 277 current and alumni companies that had raised a combined \$13.4 billion in venture funding. Learn more at [Entrepreneurship at Berkeley](#) and [Berkeley Gateway to Innovation](#).

## BEST IN CLASS

### Global Leader in Fostering Entrepreneurs

#### VC-Backed Entrepreneurs

In 2024, [PitchBook](#) ranked UC Berkeley as the **#1 university worldwide** for the number of venture capital-backed companies founded by undergraduate alumni and students.

#### Successful Company Founders

In 2024, a [CrunchBase](#) survey ranked UC Berkeley **among the top four universities** from which the most successful company founders in the US had graduated.

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## NEW INTERACTION SPACE Haas Entrepreneurship Hub



Berkeley's Haas School of Business recently opened a new gateway for global entrepreneurship and innovation, the **Haas Entrepreneurship Hub**, in a newly renovated building. The Entrepreneurship Hub welcome faculty and students from across the campus – not only Berkeley Haas – and provide navigation through entrepreneurship resources campus-wide. The new hub offers vital space for teams to exchange ideas, test concepts, and host club meetings, mentorship activities, hackathons, and industry and other partnership events.

## Tech Transfer and Licensing



At UC Berkeley innovators and entrepreneurs are creating groundbreaking products, revolutionary companies, and entirely new industries. The University plays a critical role in California's economy. Last year the campus expanded the dynamic ecosystem that fosters novel approaches to research and its translation into real-world applications. As of July 2024, UC Berkeley has:

Total License  
Inventions  
**1,497**

Active License  
Agreements  
**370**

Active US  
Patents  
**876**

Active Foreign  
Patents  
**1,428**

## UCB-UCSF COLLABORATION Bakar Fellows Program Expands

The **Bakar Fellows Program** that supports faculty who seek to translate their ideas from the lab to the marketplace continues to expand with new support for UCSF researchers working in collaboration with their Berkeley counterparts. The program, which has been a key driver for helping faculty turn proof-of-concept funding into real-world solutions through licensing and startups, now includes awards that bring engineers and computer scientists together with clinical faculty. Additional funding from the Academic Innovation Catalyst supports new projects in climate technology. Together these expansions support up to 14 faculty each year, nearly doubling the number of awardees.

## Success with Founders' Pledge

Over 540 company founders have used the **Berkeley Founders' Pledge** to promise philanthropic support to the campus, and have collectively given more than \$85M to Berkeley.

## UC Berkeley Company Founders

Steve Wozniak of Apple, Gordon Moore of Intel and Eric Schmidt of Google are among the many UC Berkeley alumni who have founded and run successful corporations. Other prominent companies founded by UC Berkeley affiliates include:

- 4D Molecular Therapeutics
- Apple
- Cadence Design
- Caribou Biosciences
- Catena Biosciences
- Chernin Entertainment
- Corelight
- Databricks
- Exelixis
- Gap
- Google Earth
- Intel
- Kaiser Permanente
- Marvell
- Mendel Biotech
- National Semiconductor
- OpenAI
- PowerBar
- Red Octane
- Renaissance Technologies
- Revolution Foods
- Rodarte
- SanDisk
- Sun Microsystems
- Tesla

Berkeley faculty, researchers, and students accelerate the translation of inventions into products and services that benefit society.

- As of July 2024, companies under IP licenses from UC Berkeley have commercialized more than **800 products**.
- The **Berkeley Research Infrastructure Commons (RIC)** enables early stage startup companies affiliated with UC Berkeley to temporarily conduct new product R&D in faculty labs — under certain conditions and rigorous oversight.
- The university holds an extensive CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing portfolio in the United States with **57 patents** to date.

More information: [vcresearch.berkeley.edu](https://vcresearch.berkeley.edu) | Questions: [research@berkeley.edu](mailto:research@berkeley.edu) | Update: 1/31/25