Developing New Entrepreneurial Talent

UC Berkeley is a global leader in producing successful entrepreneurs. In 2020, Pitch Book ranked the top 50 universities that produced VC-backed entrepreneurs on a global basis — and UC Berkeley came in second among all universities.

In 2021, CrunchBase published a survey ranking UC Berkeley among the top five universities from which the most successful company founders in the US had graduated. According to Pitch Book, since 2006, Berkeley has cultivated over 1,300 founders and 1,225 companies that raised $36.3 billion in capital.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

UC Berkeley accelerates the translation of ideas and inventions developed by faculty, researchers, and students into products and services that benefit society.

- The university holds the largest CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing portfolio in the United States with 41 US patents to date.
- As of July 2020, companies under the IP licenses from Berkeley have commercialized more than 730 products.
- The Berkeley Research Infrastructure Commons (RIC) program enables early stage (pre-product sales) startup companies affiliated with UC Berkeley to temporarily conduct new product R&D in faculty labs - under certain conditions and rigorous oversight.
- A drug royalty, monetized for $93 million, helps fund biological research facilities, students, faculty recruitment and retention, and new initiatives.
- UC Berkeley is 1 of 5 universities that founded two-thirds of all biotechnology companies in California.

UC Berkeley Startups are Represented in Many Sectors

Over the last three decades, over 250 start-up companies have been founded to commercialize IP rights under license from UC Berkeley.
Bakar BioEnginuity Hub

The Bakar BioEnginuity Hub is a new flagship facility opening this fall. It will provide a home to Bakar Labs, an incubator serving startups from around the world and will cultivate the innovators of tomorrow with a vibrant set of entrepreneurship programs at the intersection of the life sciences with the physical, engineering, and data sciences.

A donor-developed project, the Bakar BioEnginuity Hub will thoughtfully preserve Woo Hon Fai Hall, a National Register building and City of Berkeley designated landmark that was the former home of the University Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. Featuring a transparent glass addition, the 40,000-square-foot facility of flexible lab and office space will accommodate up to 80 startup companies, so that they can develop, test, and grow their game-changing ideas. It will also offer fellowships and programming for Berkeley students and researchers, bringing campus scholars and startup founders together under one roof to transform research in the life and physical sciences into viable companies. Approved by the UC Regents in 2018, the project is now under construction and expected to open in 2021–22 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Woo Hon Fai Hall.

Companies Founded by UC Berkeley Faculty and Alumni

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:

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

Berkeley Changemakers

“The Berkeley Changemaker narrative is fundamentally about the values that make Berkeley so distinctive.”

- Berkeley Chief Innovation and Entrepreneurship Officer Rich Lyons

The Berkeley Changemaker codifies an essential part of what UC Berkeley has always stood for and provides a future-oriented narrative that the campus is rallying behind, humanists and scientists alike. Its inclusive curriculum activates undergraduates’ passions and helps them develop a sharper sense of who they want to be and how to make that happen. This breadth-plus-depth approach to harnessing Berkeley’s intellectual creativity promotes a unique and much-needed integration of disciplines. Learn more at changemaker.berkeley.edu.

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