University-Wide Minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation (MEI)

The mission of the MEI is to prepare Cornell students to be agents of change in careers that require the application of entrepreneurial thinking and action to economic and social challenges. Such careers include: 1) capitalizing on opportunities through the creation of new businesses; 2) working within start-ups or large innovative firms; 3) participating in initiatives to address social and environmental issues; and/or 4) contributing to entrepreneurial ecosystems through consulting, finance, accounting, law, and policy.

Underlying the MEI is the premise that the value of entrepreneurship education is to create an innovative, creative mindset and to add a set of entrepreneurial tools and experiences that will prepare students from across Cornell as citizens and professionals. There is no expectation that students have their own startup ideas nor that they necessarily aspire to become founders; the minor is not exclusively about ideation or the practical aspects of starting a company. Instead, it offers a more general approach to stimulate entrepreneurial thinking and problem solving by including courses that focus on generalized academic frameworks, exploring a range of contexts and challenges.

Eligibility for the Minor

The MEI is available to all undergraduate students who are graduating in Fall 2018 or later across all colleges at Cornell University, including the SC Johnson College of Business.

Declaration of Intent to Minor

Students may complete a Declaration of Intent to Minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation following the completion of their first two semesters and must declare their intent to minor by the end of their sixth semester to qualify. (Note: Students in their seventh semester who are graduating in Fall 2018 may also apply in Spring 2018.) There is no GPA requirement for admission to the MEI.

The declaration is intended to signal the interest and intent of a student to pursue the minor. Once the declaration has been registered in the MEI database, students receive notification and are officially considered part of the program. Prospective students should be aware that declaring intent for the minor does not guarantee enrollment in any of the minor courses. The entrepreneurship courses are very popular, and students are strongly encouraged to plan ahead in order to meet the minor course requirements.

After fully reviewing the Overview of Coursework and Matrix for Guided Exploration, students declaring the intent to pursue the minor should address further questions on the minor to the MEI office; however, we do not intend to provide in-depth mentoring or individualized consultation. To obtain entrepreneurial mentoring, resources, and support,
students are encouraged to utilize Blackstone LaunchPad through Entrepreneurship at Cornell. Students will also be put on a notification list that will be used to announce new offerings and opportunities for entrepreneurship-related programming through Entrepreneurship at Cornell and The Leland C. and Mary M. Pillsbury Institute for Hospitality Entrepreneurship.

The Declaration of Intent form is found online at: minors.business.cornell.edu

How to Declare and Complete the Minor

1. **Review**: Review the section of Overview of Coursework below and the Matrix for Guided Exploration to better understand the minor.
2. **Plan**: Plan a course of study to complete the minor requirements.
3. **Apply**: Complete the online Declaration of Intent following completion of your first 2 semesters but prior to the end of your sixth semester. Note: Students in their seventh semester who are graduating in Fall 2018 may also apply in Spring 2018.
4. **Certify**: Certify completion of the MEI with an application by May 1 of your senior year (if graduating in the Spring) or by December 1 (if you are graduating in the Fall).

Overview of Coursework

**Recommended foundational subjects**
Introductory courses in foundational subjects such as microeconomics, accounting, finance, management, marketing and operations can be helpful in preparing for the MEI. Some courses in MEI may require a specific pre-requisite course, so participants should plan their selection accordingly. Courses with a pre-requisite are marked with a P.

**Required courses**
- The minor requires a total of 17 credits, with the structure in the table below.
- All courses taken for the minor must be taken for a letter grade and must receive a C or above.
- We recommend that students undertake the course requirements in sequence to the extent possible, completing the Perspectives and Teams & People courses first, then the Entrepreneurship in Practice course, and then completing the Guided Exploration courses.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Perspectives</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Foundational Perspectives on Entrepreneurship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Teams &amp; People</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Theories and frameworks for leading and working in teams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Entrepreneurship in Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Experiential courses that require participants to work in a team to explore an opportunity, do customer development, create a business and deliver a written and oral presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Guided Exploration</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Customize the minor to learn about E&amp;I in different industries and organizational settings.</td>
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**Perspectives Course (3 credits required)**

Required:
- AEM 2220: Foundational Perspectives and Contemporary Issues in Entrepreneurship

**Teams and People (2 credits required)**

One of the following courses is required:
- HADM 4835: Leading and managing teams (3 credits)  
- HADM 4115: Managing Professional relationships (2 credits)  
- HADM 4170: Hospitality Leadership (2 credits)  
- ILRHR 4603: Work Groups and Teams (2 credits)  
- ILROB 4230: Leadership in Organizations (4 credits)  
- NBA 5150: Leadership Theory and Practice (non-Johnson only: 3 credits)  
- NCC 5540: Managing and Leading in Organizations (non-Johnson only: 3 credits)

**Credits earned in excess of the 2 required in this category may NOT be applied to the required 9 credits of Guided Exploration.**

**Entrepreneurship in Practice (3 credits required)**

One of the following courses is required:
- AEM 3249: Entrepreneurial Marketing and Strategy (3 credits)  
- AEM 3250: Business Plan Process for New Ventures (4 credits)  
- HADM 4145: Developing a Hospitality Business Plan (3 credits)  
- MAE 4610 / ORIE 4152 / ENGRG 4610: Entrepreneurship for Engineers (3 credits)  
- NBA 3000: Entrepreneurship and Private Equity (non-Johnson only: 3 credits)
**Up to 4 credits earned in excess of the 3 required in this category MAY be applied to the required 9 credits of Guided Exploration.**

**Guided Exploration (9 credits required)**
Students are required to take 9 credits of entrepreneurship courses that are taught in a particular context for entrepreneurship. This allows students to explore areas of entrepreneurship that are of particular interest to them, rather than taking a rigid set of required upper level courses. For example, a student majoring in food science, design, or engineering can take the core courses related to their field and then build upon this core with courses from the MEI (all of which are specifically related to E&I) that are most relevant to their field of study. However, for those students that are less self-directed, we also seek to provide guidance (via the Matrix for Guided Exploration – see link of MEI website to access this document) regarding what courses might logically fit together into a coherent curriculum. In this case, students can identify the organizational stage (vertical) and industry sector (horizontal) of interest and choose courses according to the Matrix. We emphasize that either approach is acceptable; students are free to design their own “track” in fields that interest them (e.g., startup sports business, fashion ventures, etc.) and these should not be perceived as any less legitimate for having been not explicitly included as rows or columns. If students wish to count a course not listed on the matrix towards a particular focus in entrepreneurship, they can petition the MEI Academic Director. Only courses that relate to entrepreneurship and innovation in a non-trivial sense will be considered.

**If students opt to take a second course from the Entrepreneurship in Practice Category, up to 4 credits MAY be counted toward the required 9 credits of Guided Exploration.**

**Questions:**

For more information, please email entrepreneurship.minor@cornell.edu or call 607.255.2486. The University-Wide Minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation office is located in 545 Statler Hall, and is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00pm and Friday from 8:00am to 3:00pm.