



National Veterans  
Entrepreneurship  
Program (VEP)

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# Overview

The VEP is designed for veterans with service-connected disabilities who are either aspiring entrepreneurs or in the early stages of launching a venture and looking to achieve financial independence through the creation of a sustainable venture and small business ownership.



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# Problem & Solution

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## Problem

**2008**

A record # of Veterans with service-connected disabilities were returning from overseas and the economy was at an all-time low.

The veteran unemployment rate was higher than the national average.

Lack of education and/or disability was the most cited barrier.

Lack of financial resources hindered continuing education.

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## Solution

**National Veterans Entrepreneurship Program (VEP)**

**Free** education in entrepreneurship/small business ownership, providing an alternative to traditional employment.

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# VEP Consortium



Oklahoma State  
University  
**2009**



University of Tennessee  
at Chattanooga  
**2012**



University of Florida  
**2014**



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# Program Structure

**Designed around *TWO* central elements.**

1. Focused, practical training in the tools and skills of new venture creation and growth.
2. Establish a support structure for graduates of the program.

## Eight months, Three Phases

Phase One	Phase Two	Phase Three
<b>Concept Development/Self-Study</b>	<b>VEP Bootcamp</b>	<b>Advising and Venture Development</b>
Initial five-weeks	Eight-day residency	Five months of ongoing advising
Online discussion & assessment model	Intense, rigorous, and demanding	Feedback specific to ventures
Weekly topics, deadlines	“Nuts and bolts” starting or expanding business	Extended hands-on learning
Group introductions	Experiential workshops and lessons	Resource access

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# Program Eligibility & Cost

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## Eligibility

Have separated from active-duty service (or are in the process) with an honorable discharge.

Preference is given to applicants who are identified as disabled by the Veterans Administration based on a service-connected disability.

Demonstrate intense motivation to start or grow a business.

The VEP is completely **FREE** to all veterans accepted into the program. Costs are underwritten by the SBA, sponsors, and private donors. The cost for one accepted veteran is approximately **\$5,000**.

**Acceptance on a rolling basis**

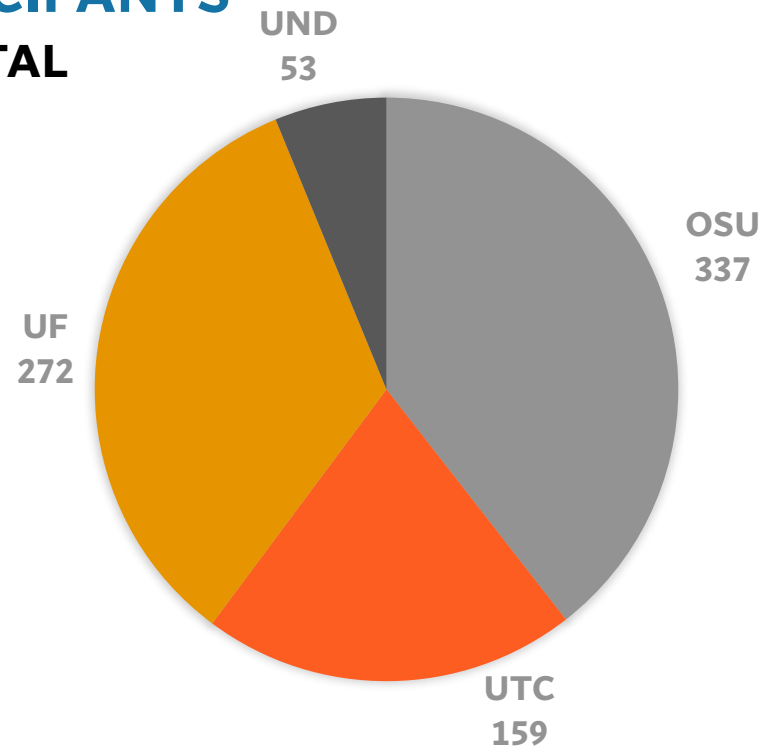


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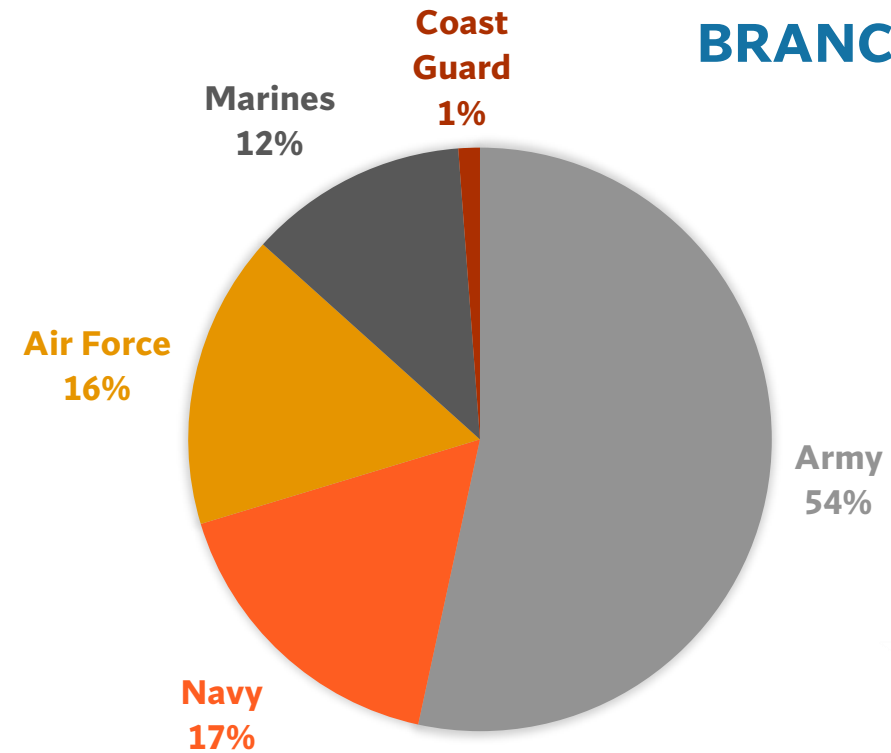
# Program Statistics

## PARTICIPANTS

854 TOTAL



## BRANCHES

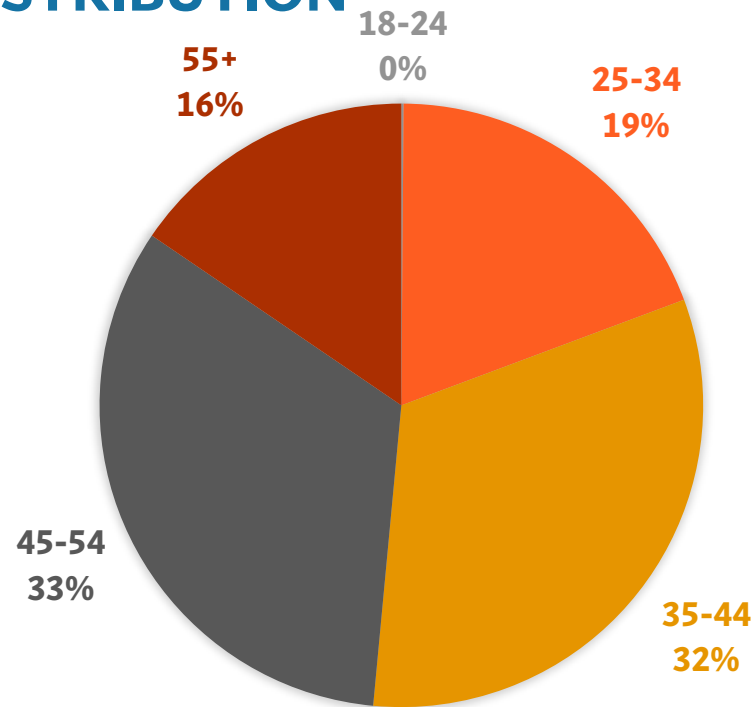




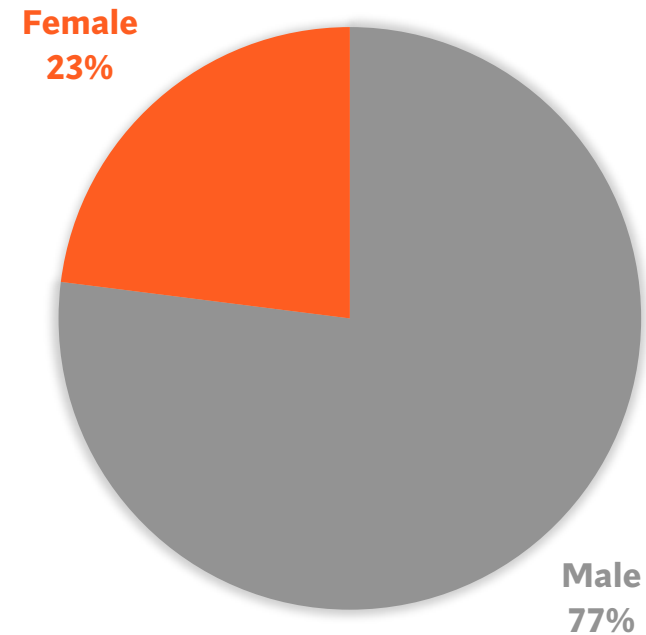
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# Program Statistics

## AGE DISTRIBUTION



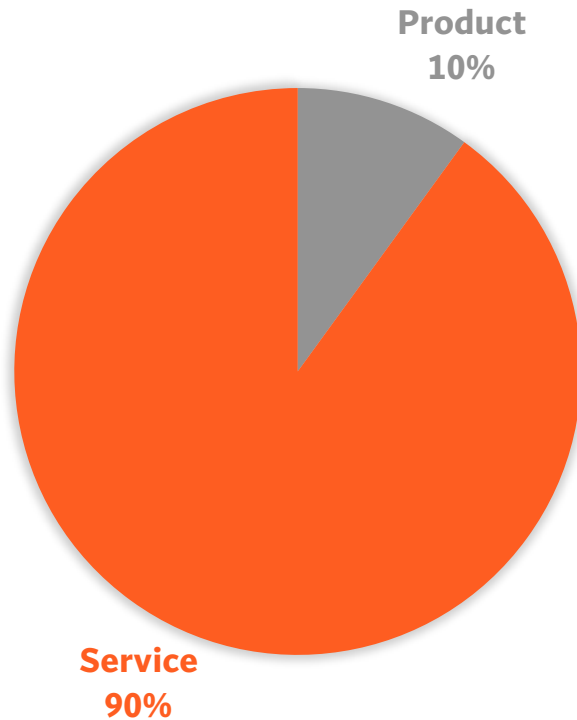
## GENDER DISTRIBUTION



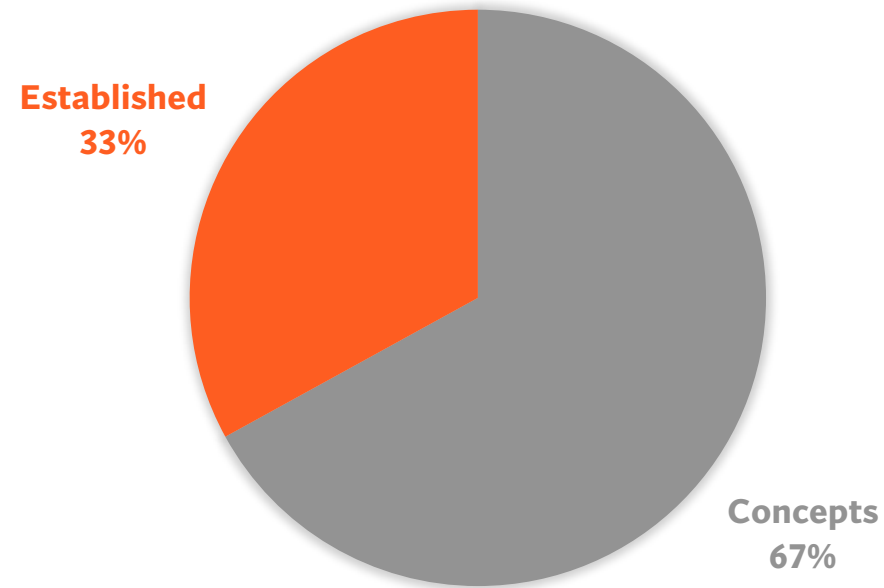
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# Program Statistics

## PRODUCT/SERVICE



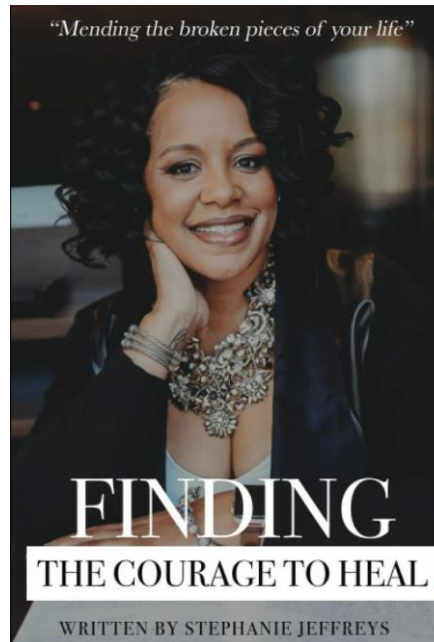
## CONCEPT/ESTABLISHED



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# VEP Outcomes

UTC
46% of Graduates Launched Businesses
400+ Jobs Created, 35% are Veterans
\$13.6m of Capital Acquired
\$121m Total Revenue



OSU
52% of Graduates Launched Businesses
175 Experienced Sustained Growth
36 Employed Other Veterans
16 Exceeded \$1m Revenue



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# VEP Businesses Launched

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Catering & Cooking School

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Accounting Services

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Mental Health Care

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Food Truck

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Woodworking

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Welding & Fabrication

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Trucking/Logistics

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Software Development

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Cyber Security

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Winery & Brewery

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Bed & Breakfast

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Local Goods Market

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Charter School

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Security & PI Services

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CBD Distribution Co.

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Composting Services

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Architecture Firm

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HVAC Services

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# Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ
Do I need a college degree to participate?
Can veterans' spouses and dependents apply?
Is this program only for the local community?
What about travel costs?
Can I bring my spouse with me to Bootcamp?
Are members of the National Guard eligible?
Can you accommodate my special dietary needs?
Do I need a business plan when I apply?
How many spaces are available?



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# The VEP is Growing!

<b>New Programming is Coming</b>
Fall 2024 VEP Consortium Entrepreneurship Conference
Spring 2025 OSU First Female Cohort

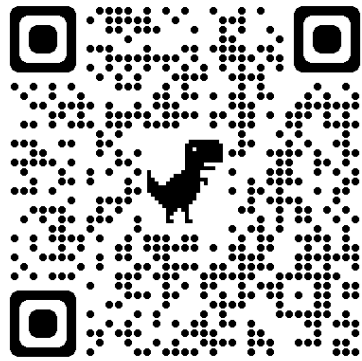


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# How to Apply



Application Deadline  
**December 10, 2023**



Application Deadline  
**February 1, 2024**



Application Deadline  
**April 30, 2024**



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# Thank You!

## Q&A

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