THE WORLD DEMANDS ENTREPRENEURIAL THINKERS & DOERS.

In today’s extremely competitive global workforce, there is an increased value and demand for initiative, independence, and innovative methods to rethink old practices and invent new techniques. The Charles D. Close School has pioneered an approach to entrepreneurship education that addresses this need by teaching students to be entrepreneurial thinkers and doers, preparing them to meet the world market on solid footing, and to create their own opportunities.

Welcome to the Charles D. Close School of Entrepreneurship - the nation’s first freestanding and degree-granting school of entrepreneurship. We redefine what it means to be an entrepreneur through our 21st century curriculum, teaching entrepreneurship as a habit of mind that you will apply throughout your career and your life.

AN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM LIKE NO OTHER.

What Makes a Starter?

- Passion. Starters have the drive to follow their dreams and transform plans from ideas to reality.
- Innovation. Entrepreneurs see something that needs to be improved and make it happen.
- Resilience. At the core of every entrepreneur, there is the ability to learn from failure.
- Curiosity. Starters ask ‘why?’ and ‘how?’, then seek out solutions.
Why Entrepreneurship?

Current students have strong aspirations to use their creativity and initiative in their careers, whether they choose to work for a company or start their own venture. The Close School will help develop these skills.

Did You Know?

1. Between the ages of 22 and 42, Americans will have held approximately 10 jobs, several of which will be self-employed. An entrepreneurial mindset and skillset prepares you for this challenging employment landscape. (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

2. Whether working in a company or starting their own venture, students aspire to apply creativity and initiative to their careers.

3. 65% percent of jobs that current college students will experience throughout their career have not been invented yet. (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

4. By the year 2020, 40% of the workforce will consist of freelance workers as companies continue to outsource and downsize, creating more specialized opportunities and startups. (Kauffman Foundation)

“Anytime we choose to embark on a path uncharted, we are engaging in small acts of entrepreneurship.”

- Dr. Donna De Carolis
  Founding Dean
  Charles D. Close School of Entrepreneurship
Learn

Through courses such as Life Strategies, Ready Set Fail, and Building Entrepreneurial Teams, our curriculum establishes an entrepreneurial attitude that integrates innovative thinking and doing into the everyday thought process of our students.

Why I chose the Close School...

“I chose the Close School because it is the only school in the country solely dedicated to entrepreneurship. I can’t get this type of practical business education anywhere else!”

NOELLE WIGGINS

“I chose the Close School because it offered the most innovative program and would help me do the most I can during my years here and beyond.”

JASMINE-ANJALI TAUR

“I chose the Close School because of the small, tight-knit community and the amazing faculty they have created. It offers unique opportunities that no other school in the nation offers.”

JACOB SHELDON

“I chose the Close School because it is the only school in the country solely dedicated to entrepreneurship. I can’t get this type of practical business education anywhere else!”

NOELLE WIGGINS

“I am learning how to build a company rather than how to build a technical skill.”

TSUYOSHI MUA

“I’m learning the important aspects of launching a business that are often overlooked. For example, how essential it is to do extensive customer validation before you even start.”

MANSOOR SIDDIQUI

“The Close School will help me by equipping me with real world ‘boots on the ground’ entrepreneurship experience through classes like Launch It.”

NIRKEL JUDGE

“In being surrounded by entrepreneurs inside and outside of the classroom, we are learning skills from negotiating to creatively marketing our product to the right consumers.”

PARIS GRAMANN

“My experience at Close has plunged me into my career. After meeting my employer in a Close course, I now run the email division at Argyle Interactive. In addition to landing a job, I’ve begun to realize my dream of becoming a serial entrepreneur by working with 3 different startups while at the Close School, Argyle being the first!”

JON SHETTSLINE

“The Close School will help me gain the necessary knowledge, skills, and mindset to finally launch my dream business.”

BRENDAN SILBERMAN

Where it will take me...

“I chose the Close School because it is the only school in the country solely dedicated to entrepreneurship; I can’t get this type of practical business education anywhere else!”

“Close School”

Where it will take me...

“[Close School] will help me by equipping me with real world ‘boots on the ground’ entrepreneurship experience through classes like Launch It.”

NIKHEL JUDGE

“My experience at Close has plunged me into my career. After meeting my employer in a Close course, I now run the email division at Argyle Interactive. In addition to landing a job, I’ve begun to realize my dream of becoming a serial entrepreneur by working with 3 different startups while at the Close School, Argyle being the first!”

JON SHETTSLINE

“The Close School will help me gain the necessary knowledge, skills, and mindset to finally launch my dream business.”

BRENDAN SILBERMAN

What I am learning...

“I am learning how to build a company rather than how to build a technical skill.”

TSUYOSHI MUA

“I’m learning the important aspects of launching a business that are often overlooked. For example, how essential it is to do extensive customer validation before you even start.”

MANSOOR SIDDIQUI

“In being surrounded by entrepreneurs inside and outside of the classroom, we are learning skills from negotiating to creatively marketing our product to the right consumers.”

PARIS GRAMANN

The Close School will help me by equipping me with real world ‘boots on the ground’ entrepreneurship experience through classes like Launch It.”

NIRKEL JUDGE

“My experience at Close has plunged me into my career. After meeting my employer in a Close course, I now run the email division at Argyle Interactive. In addition to landing a job, I’ve begun to realize my dream of becoming a serial entrepreneur by working with 3 different startups while at the Close School, Argyle being the first!”

JON SHETTSLINE

“The Close School will help me gain the necessary knowledge, skills, and mindset to finally launch my dream business.”

BRENDAN SILBERMAN

Why I chose the Close School...

“I chose the Close School because it is the only school in the country solely dedicated to entrepreneurship. I can’t get this type of practical business education anywhere else!”

NOELLE WIGGINS

“I chose the Close School because it offered the most innovative program and would help me do the most I can during my years here and beyond.”

JASMINE-ANJALI TAUR

“I chose the Close School because of the small, tight-knit community and the amazing faculty they have created. It offers unique opportunities that no other school in the nation offers.”

JACOB SHELDON

“I chose the Close School because it is the only school in the country solely dedicated to entrepreneurship; I can’t get this type of practical business education anywhere else!”

NOELLE WIGGINS

“I am learning how to build a company rather than how to build a technical skill.”

TSUYOSHI MUA

“I’m learning the important aspects of launching a business that are often overlooked. For example, how essential it is to do extensive customer validation before you even start.”

MANSOOR SIDDIQUI

“In being surrounded by entrepreneurs inside and outside of the classroom, we are learning skills from negotiating to creatively marketing our product to the right consumers.”

PARIS GRAMANN

“The Close School will help me by equipping me with real world ‘boots on the ground’ entrepreneurship experience through classes like Launch It.”

NIRKEL JUDGE

“My experience at Close has plunged me into my career. After meeting my employer in a Close course, I now run the email division at Argyle Interactive. In addition to landing a job, I’ve begun to realize my dream of becoming a serial entrepreneur by working with 3 different startups while at the Close School, Argyle being the first!”

JON SHETTSLINE

“The Close School will help me gain the necessary knowledge, skills, and mindset to finally launch my dream business.”

BRENDAN SILBERMAN

Imagine

Our plan of study encourages big ideas and empowers students to pursue their passions. We provide the tools to cultivate the innovative mindset that serves your life, career, and beyond. We challenge our students to think and act like entrepreneurs to bring their dreams to life.

Live

Becoming an entrepreneur requires learning and living through experience. That is why we offer co-curricular experiential programs that complement and enhance all coursework. We promise, “You Will Start Something” as a Close School student.

What I am learning...

“I am learning how to build a company rather than how to build a technical skill.”

TSUYOSHI MUA

“I’m learning the important aspects of launching a business that are often overlooked. For example, how essential it is to do extensive customer validation before you even start.”

MANSOOR SIDDIQUI

“In being surrounded by entrepreneurs inside and outside of the classroom, we are learning skills from negotiating to creatively marketing our product to the right consumers.”

PARIS GRAMANN

“[Close School] will help me by equipping me with real world ‘boots on the ground’ entrepreneurship experience through classes like Launch It.”

NIRKEL JUDGE

“My experience at Close has plunged me into my career. After meeting my employer in a Close course, I now run the email division at Argyle Interactive. In addition to landing a job, I’ve begun to realize my dream of becoming a serial entrepreneur by working with 3 different startups while at the Close School, Argyle being the first!”

JON SHETTSLINE

“The Close School will help me gain the necessary knowledge, skills, and mindset to finally launch my dream business.”

BRENDAN SILBERMAN

Why I chose the Close School...

“I chose the Close School because it is the only school in the country solely dedicated to entrepreneurship. I can’t get this type of practical business education anywhere else!”

NOELLE WIGGINS

“I chose the Close School because it offered the most innovative program and would help me do the most I can during my years here and beyond.”

JASMINE-ANJALI TAUR

“I chose the Close School because of the small, tight-knit community and the amazing faculty they have created. It offers unique opportunities that no other school in the nation offers.”

JACOB SHELDON

“I chose the Close School because it is the only school in the country solely dedicated to entrepreneurship; I can’t get this type of practical business education anywhere else!”

NOELLE WIGGINS

“I am learning how to build a company rather than how to build a technical skill.”

TSUYOSHI MUA

“I’m learning the important aspects of launching a business that are often overlooked. For example, how essential it is to do extensive customer validation before you even start.”

MANSOOR SIDDIQUI

“In being surrounded by entrepreneurs inside and outside of the classroom, we are learning skills from negotiating to creatively marketing our product to the right consumers.”

PARIS GRAMANN

“The Close School will help me by equipping me with real world ‘boots on the ground’ entrepreneurship experience through classes like Launch It.”

NIRKEL JUDGE

“My experience at Close has plunged me into my career. After meeting my employer in a Close course, I now run the email division at Argyle Interactive. In addition to landing a job, I’ve begun to realize my dream of becoming a serial entrepreneur by working with 3 different startups while at the Close School, Argyle being the first!”

JON SHETTSLINE

“The Close School will help me gain the necessary knowledge, skills, and mindset to finally launch my dream business.”

BRENDAN SILBERMAN
Learn Through Experience

Co-op: From Startups to Corporations
Receive co-op credit and experience business operations from companies in any industry.

Immersion Trips
Students are exposed to startup environments in cities such as Silicon Valley, New York City, and San Diego.

Entrepreneurship Co-op
Receive workspace in the Baiada Institute, mentoring, and $15,000 in funding to work on your own company.

Startup Day
A university event dedicated to entrepreneurship in Philadelphia. Network & compete for over $25,000 in cash prizes.

Pitch Competitions
Pitch your ideas and business models for a chance to win prizes in a series of competitions.

Mentorship
Learn from the experience of successful entrepreneurs and advisors.

Maguire Empowerment Program for Women Leaders
Coursework that empowers young women to become entrepreneurs while developing the skills needed to succeed as a woman in business.

Students have interacted with top companies
Bachelor’s Degree

A COMBINATION OF ENTREPRENEURIAL AND DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC SKILLS IS THE BEST PREPARATION FOR YOUR CAREER.

Our unique curriculum encompasses the landscape of entrepreneurship and requires that you dive deep into your passion, along with a required minor from any of Drexel’s 100+ minor programs.

We help you build an entrepreneurial attitude and incorporate innovative thinking and doing in all that you do.

Courses like Life Strategies, Ready Set Fail, Building Teams, and Entrepreneurial Leadership allow you to develop a mindset that is necessary to succeed throughout your life. Other required courses such as Early Stage Venture Funding, Innovation in Established Companies, Social Entrepreneurship, Franchising, and many others, take you through the process of entrepreneurship.

More than Courses

Our holistic approach to entrepreneurship education surrounds your classroom learning.

Mentorship

Our Advising and Mentoring Programs -“AMP Up”- enhance learning and accelerate entrepreneurial skill development.

Team Building

The Baiada Institute is home to students, staff, and alumni, allowing you to gain feedback and insight from different perspectives. We host events and socials, designed to help you network and build your community.

Resources

The Close School puts you in the center of Drexel University’s entrepreneurship ecosystem. We help connect you to funding and legal resources to empower you with knowledge that is essential.
The Baiada Institute helps students translate the Close School’s innovative curriculum into tangible companies.

The institute provides incubation and experiential programs for all interested Drexel University students. The state-of-the-art institute empowers students with all of the resources needed to start something. Inside the Baiada Institute, you can share workspace with innovators from all schools within Drexel, learning and networking with peers to improve your ideas and company. Equipped with services that span from legal aid to formal mentorship and advising, the Baiada Institute helps students translate the Charles D. Close School’s innovative, groundbreaking curriculum into disruptive ideas and tangible companies.
IDEA STAGE

It all begins with an idea; start yours here.

SERVICES PROVIDED
One-on-one advisory services, business model assessment, templates and guides, and referral to entrepreneurship education resources. Alumni will also be introduced to Drexel Ventures to discuss additional Drexel startup support.

ENTREPRENEUR REQUIREMENTS
Take action on the advice you receive, participate in Drexel’s entrepreneurship programs, and keep in touch regarding your progress.

EARLY STAGE

As a full-time student, you are developing your idea. As your idea is taking shape, you will benefit from occasional use of the incubator.

SERVICES PROVIDED
Develop your idea and business model while becoming a part of the Drexel entrepreneurship community in a part-time flex space. You will also receive in-depth advising and regular progress check-ins with a designated mentor.

ENTREPRENEUR REQUIREMENTS
Sign a space agreement, receive onboarding training, and get involved. Participate in Close School and Baiada programs such as classes, events, and the Innovative Drexel Entrepreneurship Association (iDEA). Schedule regular startup advisor meetings to continue making progress on your idea and maintain your academic standards.

RESIDENT STAGE

Congratulations! You are ready for full-time incubation and the full range of Baiada services. Residents are competition finalists, entrepreneurship co-ops, and startups (usually upcoming or recent grads) that have made substantial progress on their ventures.

SERVICES PROVIDED
Full-time dedicated workspace, file storage, company address, Baiada community meetings, partner services, and introductions to investors, lawyers, and accountants. Residents also benefit from quarterly progress reviews, a website profile, and media mentions.

ENTREPRENEUR REQUIREMENTS
Meet quarterly with your mentor, maintain an active membership within the Baiada community, and participate in community service activities including running a workshop, mentoring, and camp assistance.

MOVING FORWARD

Prepare to conclude your residency in the incubator.

SERVICES PROVIDED
Up to 8 hours per month of flex access for 1 year post-incubation, mentor program access, and website resources.

ENTREPRENEUR REQUIREMENTS
Final presentation and completion of exit interview, participation in ongoing assessment and data collection efforts, as well as attendance at Baiada Alumni events. Final ways to pay it forward and give back to the next generation of entrepreneurs.
Philadelphia was rated #3 on New York Times’ list of places to go in the world (2015). A mixture of top-notch cuisine, outdoor metropolitan activity, economic expansion, and a bustling revitalization of the riverfront are a few elements of Philadelphia that draw travelers, students, and people looking for an exciting new place to call home.

Rated #1 City for “20-somethings” by Business Insider Magazine

Philadelphia is home to 12 Fortune 500 companies. Businesses gravitate towards this city because of the resources they gain within the region. The proximity to financial and political hubs, as well as the access to an abundant workforce derived from college graduates throughout the area, allows companies to compete and excel on local, national, and global levels.

There are over 50 incubators and coworking spaces in Philadelphia. These spaces are a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit of Philadelphia as well as the collaborative nature of the city. Drexel University contributes to the growth of entrepreneurship by providing resources and knowledge through our state-of-the-art incubator, the Baiada Institute.

With a deep-rooted history, Philadelphia has always been, and continues to be, a home for starters. As the birthplace of our nation, the city is home to many firsts. From the first medical hospital to modern inventions like the computer, the Charles D. Close School makes history in becoming the first freestanding school of entrepreneurship in America.
Connect With Starters

Set your goals for the next 5 years:

1. ____________________________
2. ____________________________
3. ____________________________
4. ____________________________
5. ____________________________

@TheCloseSchool  #WeAreStarters