
Startup Studio @ UVic Wraps Up With Three Student Ventures Moving Forward

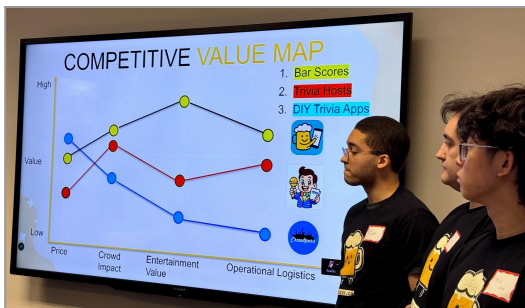


Victoria, B.C. — The Fall 2025 cohort of **Startup Studio**, the University of Victoria's interdisciplinary, AI-enabled venture-building course, concluded last week with exciting opportunities ahead. Out of five student teams, **three are continuing their ventures** after receiving **interest from investors**.

Startup Studio, co-taught across **Engineering & Computer Science** and the **Gustavson School of Business**, immerses students in a fast-paced environment where they form teams, identify real-world problems, and build market-ready innovative solutions in just 12 weeks. The course integrates the entrepreneurial mindset with emerging **generative AI tools**, enabling students from business and engineering to collaborate, prototype, and iterate more rapidly than in traditional innovation programs.

Real-World Impact and Venture Continuation

This year's student teams tackled challenges ranging from community engagement tools, to AI-enabled service platforms for sports teams, travel planning, task management and home inspectors. During lean iterations, they focused on achieving problem-solution fit and convincing monetization strategies.



Three ventures received investment interest and will move forward through UVic's **Co-op Entrepreneurship Program**, allowing founders to spend a full work term developing their companies with mentorship and resources.

A Unique Learning Environment, Differentiated By:

Interdisciplinary teams of students from software engineering and business backgrounds working side by side, learning how to merge technical innovation with market insight.



Rapid Cycles of Feedback and ongoing mentorship from founders, industry experts such as Kent Beck, UVic faculty, and guest investors, that accelerated and deepened learning, reflection and iteration.

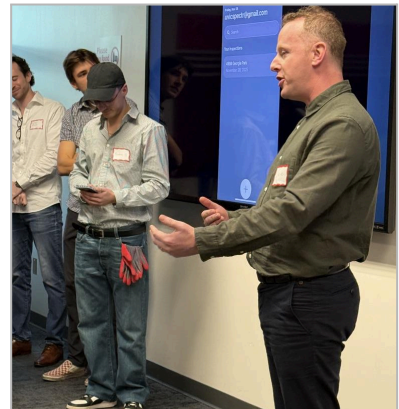
Hands-On Use and Early Adoption of AI Tools accelerated customer research, business value mapping, rapid prototyping and deployment into the hands of users.

A Culminating Pitch Event for teams to present to mentors, investors, and members of the local tech ecosystem. Judges highlighted student professionalism, creativity, technical capabilities and readiness for real-world venture development.

Looking Ahead

With three ventures already moving forward and planning to refine their prototypes, Startup Studio continues to position UVic as a hub for **next-generation education in entrepreneurship and technology**.

The program will run again in the Fall of 2026 with expanded mentorship opportunities, closer integration with UVic's innovation ecosystem, and additional support for students using generative AI in product creation.



Student founders reported that in Startup Studio *“they felt empowered to build something that is real and valuable”*, underscoring the impact of practice-driven, interdisciplinary learning.

“Our students didn’t just learn entrepreneurship, they practiced it,” said instructor **Dr. Margaret-Anne Storey** (Engineering & Computer Science). **Dr. Claudia Smith** (Gustavson School of Business) added *“Seeing multiple ventures continue with investor support shows what’s possible when students are given the tools, the space, and the confidence to build something important.”*

→ Learn more at startup-studio.ai.

