

Frequently Asked Questions

What is FastTrac® NewVenture™ for the Female Entrepreneur?

FastTrac® NewVenture™ for the Female Entrepreneur is part of a suite of FastTrac® courses. NewVenture™ is a course designed to help aspiring entrepreneurs evaluate and refine their business concepts, including all steps necessary to launch. This particular NewVenture™ for the Female Entrepreneur course will additionally focus on topics, challenges and resources relevant to women.

FastTrac® NewVenture™ includes:

- A 7-day intensive course
- One-on-one assistance from experienced entrepreneurs who will help you review your ideas, assignments, and business plan
- Interactive presentations from successful entrepreneurs who can share their experience
- Wrap-up session to formally present your final business plan for feedback
- Connection to services that will help you start your business, including [NYC Business Express](#) and [NYC Business Solutions](#)

Who is providing this program?

The NYC Department of Small Business Services partners with [Kauffman FastTrac](#) and [the SUNY Levin Institute](#) to offer this free course.

What will I accomplish by the end of FastTrac® NewVenture™ for the Female Entrepreneur?

By the end of the course, students will have vetted their business idea with experienced coaches, business experts and successful entrepreneurs, developed a strong business plan, and connected to services that will help them start their business, including NYC Business Solutions.

Who can apply for FastTrac® NewVenture™ for the Female Entrepreneur?

You are eligible for FastTrac® NewVenture™ if you:

- Are a female looking to launch a business idea
- Have a well thought-out idea for a new business
- Have two years of work experience
- Have access to a computer to complete assignments
- Are committed to **attending all sessions** (approximately 50 classroom hours) and complete prep work (approximately 15-20 hours per week)
- Have conducted some market research

Who teaches FastTrac courses?

FastTrac courses are taught by course facilitators and business coaches who are experienced entrepreneurs in various business fields.

How are FastTrac® NewVenture™ courses structured?

Each session, the course facilitator presents a lesson to the class, followed by breakout work groups, during which students perform in-class brainstorming exercises and review assignments and aspects of their business plans.

Also, guest speakers make presentations to students throughout the course to offer insight into a particular aspect of starting a business.

What is the class size for FastTrac® NewVenture™ courses?

Each FastTrac® NewVenture™ course aims to enroll and graduate 35 – 38 participants.

How much do FastTrac® courses cost?

FastTrac® courses for entrepreneurs are being offered by the City of New York and the Kauffman Foundation at **no cost**.

What is the acceptance process for this FastTrac® course?

Given the volume of applications and limited number of seats, applicants are encouraged to apply early. Admittance to FastTrac® courses is determined as follows:

1. Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria for the course.
2. Applicants will be rated based on the one business concept they propose. It is important that applicants submit thorough descriptions and responses to questions in order to strengthen their applications and improve their chance of acceptance.

Do I have to be unemployed to take this FastTrac® course?

Applicants do not have to be unemployed to take FastTrac® NewVenture™. However, FastTrac® NewVenture™ is designed to provide a “crash course” for starting a business to individuals that have a significant amount of time to dedicate to this endeavor. All FastTrac® NewVenture™ courses require that students attend 7-full day classes (9AM – 4PM) and complete extensive assignments.

How many hours of outside work will I be expected to complete?

This program requires you to work on your business plan and conduct research outside of class. Outside coursework will require a minimum of 12 to 18 hours per week for the duration of the course.

How much will I be expected to participate in class discussions?

Your participation in class discussions is strongly encouraged and will help you benefit fully from the program. Work groups with business coaches and other students are only as useful as you make them through your engagement in discussions and brainstorming exercises. We think that each of you can offer a new perspective and improve the course by contributing. Also, we encourage equal participation from all students and work to prevent course discussions that are dominated by a few individuals.

Will I be able to access help for starting my business after the course is over?

Yes, you will have access to resources after the course is over. During your FastTrac® course, you will be directed to available tools, resources, and services to help you start your business following the completion of the course. FastTrac® facilitators will provide detailed instructions on how to use these resources and when to access them. These services include [NYC Business Express](#) to learn about the licenses and permits required for your business and [NYC Business Solutions](#) to get loan facilitation, legal and hiring assistance.

How do I stay connected with my classmates and facilitators after the course is over?

This program serves as a great way to network and stay connected with entrepreneurs like you. You are encouraged to stay connected via social networks such as LinkedIn (and the FastTrac LinkedIn group site set up for the NYC program graduates) and facebook®, share contact information, and continue to interact with your peers and facilitators after your course is complete.

When will I find out if I am accepted?

Accepted participants will be notified no later than one week prior to the first date of the course.

Where will the program be held?

The class sessions will take place at the SUNY Levin Institute, located at 116 East 55th Street in Midtown Manhattan. You must be able to secure your own transportation to and from this location.

How much does the program cost?

This is a no-cost program for participants.

How do I apply?

If you are interested, visit www.nyc.gov/fasttrac and search for "FastTrac® NewVenture™ for the Female Entrepreneur." You will find class dates, additional information and a link to the online application. The application should take approximately 15 - 20 minutes to complete.

I have more questions. Who do I contact?

For questions or concerns regarding the program and the application process, please email fasttrac@nycbusiness-solutions.com.