

About Square One (SQ1)

Square One (SQ1) is a hands-on training program designed to provide support to early-stage and first-time business owners in the region.

SQ1 Boot Camp is an in-depth 10-week, 50 hour program that combines formal instruction with hands-on learning, networking and mentoring. The program's structured curriculum seeks to instill in entrepreneurs the skills needed to succeed in a high-growth industry. Participants work on specific deliverables such as a business model canvas, financial statements, pitch-deck, 2-minute elevator pitch and planning checklist.

The SQ1 Boot Camp is *only* offered once a year. Applications open June 17th. Classes run from September 9th through November 12th. Class is every Monday night from 5.30p to 8.30p and every Tuesday night from 5.30p to 7.30p. Participants are expected to attend all classes, on Monday and Tuesday nights, for the duration of the program.

Program prerequisites include

- First draft of a business model canvas
- Phone interview at the discretion of the Program Director
- Signed participant agreement
- Completion of any pre-class assignments

Main components of the SQ1 Boot Camp

- 1) Core Business Competency Curriculum – Covers the basics you need to start your business.
- 2) Personalized Guidance & Mentoring – CET is fortunate to have a wide array of supporters in the community who provide their time to help grow St. Louis' entrepreneurial talent.
- 3) Co-working Stipend – Space permitting, CET and CIC St. Louis provide SQ1 Boot Camp participants who complete a client service agreement with 6 months of co-working at CIC@CET
- 4) Seminars, Workshops & Extended Learning Opportunities – CET provides a variety of workshops and seminars designed to help SQ1 participants and entrepreneurs throughout the region learn more about the skills needed to grow their ventures.
- 5) Support for Minority Inclusion – CET partners with the BioSTL Inclusion Initiative to promote awareness and engagement in new business formation by women and underrepresented communities in order to create a more diverse and inclusive pipeline of entrepreneurs into the SQ1 program and the entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Nearly 50 subject matter experts, including experienced entrepreneurs, investors and business owners, present content throughout the program. *You will graduate from this program with a very comprehensive business network.*

Key Dates for 2019

- SQ1 Boot Camp application opens June 17th
- SQ1 Boot Camp classes begin September 9th and end November 12th

Cost

Funding for SQ1 programming is provided in part by the *Missouri Technology Corporation* and through a contract with the *U.S. Small Business Administration* as part of the *SBA Regional Innovation Clusters Program*. SQ1 Boot Camp participants are asked to pay a \$250 administrative fee which is used to match the funding CET receives from its generous supporters. Scholarships are available on an as-need basis.

Application

To apply please click the application link at <https://cetstl.com/programs/square-one/>

Applications are competitive and filled on a rolling basis. If you are interested I strongly encourage candidates to apply quickly before the class fills.