



# Entrepreneurship Education at Olin College

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# Olin by the Numbers

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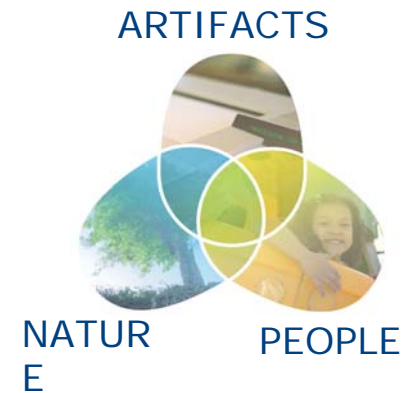
- ▶ Chartered in 1997, first class begins in 2002
- ▶ \$460M endowment to start the college
- ▶ \$130,000 tuition scholarship for all students through 2010
- ▶ 9:1 student-faculty ratio
- ▶ 46% women, 54% men
- ▶ ~300 students
- ▶ 3 ABET accredited degree programs (ME, ECE, E)



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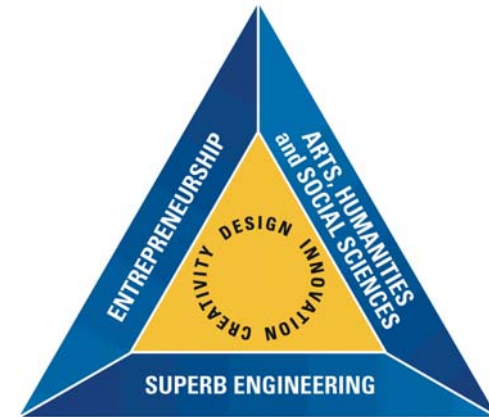
## ▶ Required Classes

- ▶ Fundamentals of Business and Entrepreneurship
- ▶ User Oriented Collaborative Design
- ▶ Senior Capstone Project for Engineering (SCOPE)



## ▶ Entrepreneurship Concentration and Capstone

- ▶ 25% of students choose this option (but 5/20 are women)
- ▶ 2 additional entrepreneurship/business classes
  - ▶ Technology New Ventures
  - ▶ Entrepreneurship and New Ventures
  - ▶ Negotiations
  - ▶ Business Law
  - ▶ Economics
  - ▶ Social Entrepreneurship
  - ▶ Product Design and Development



## ▶ Capstone

- ▶ Advanced, self-designed team or individual project to build and/or execute a plan to bring a new organization, product or service into being

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## ▶ Attitudes

- ▶ Motivations are extremely passion driven as opposed to end-goal driven
- ▶ Flexibility
- ▶ Gender balanced (students and faculty)

## ▶ Supporting Resources

- ▶ Machine Shop
- ▶ Olin Foundry
- ▶ Olin IP Policy
- ▶ Free summer housing at Olin
- ▶ Leave of Absence

## ▶ Close Proximity to Babson

- ▶ Babson Hatchery
- ▶ Babson business plan competition
- ▶ Babson summer venture program
- ▶ Incoming class is 55% women at Babson as well

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- 
- ▶ National Academies  
Committee on Women in Science, Engineering and Medicine





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- ▶ Lots of women at Olin College
  - ▶ 45% women, 55% in incoming class
- ▶ What do they think about opportunities in entrepreneurship?
  - ▶ “It’s not always obvious how to go from an idea you are passionate about to starting a business.”
  - ▶ “When we have great ideas, we want to share: have an event, or encourage community involvement.”
- ▶ Frustrations
  - ▶ “When at a networking event, I tried to approach people I wanted to talk to. But it’s hard to compete with the tall guys in power suits when you are a short Asian woman.”
- ▶ What works?
  - ▶ “I was inspired by the women speakers in FBE talking about their first start-ups. They had strong personalities, were risk-takers, driven, extremely self-confident, and enjoyed their autonomy.”
- ▶ What more can we do in undergraduate education?
  - ▶ What do you think?

# Student Businesses

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▶ National Academies  
Committee on Women in Science, Engineering and Medicine