AcceleratorApp
Software for Accelerator & Incubators

2026 EDITION

Running a University Entrepreneurship Center

Managing multiple student programs on one platform

A practical guide for directors juggling pre-accelerators, incubators, fellowships, and TTO programs with one team.

More Programs, Less Infrastructure

University entrepreneurship centers run more programs with less infrastructure than almost anyone.

A center might run a pre-accelerator, a student incubator, a fellowship, and a TTO support program at the same time, with a team of two or three and a budget approved by committee. The programs run on different tools, faculty reviewers are time-poor, and students treat the coordinator's inbox as a help desk.

Four programs, three staff, a committee-approved budget, and a different tool for each one.

This guide covers running a multi-program center well: structuring programs so they share infrastructure, getting faculty to actually review, and reporting to institutional stakeholders without a week of data assembly.

WHAT THIS COVERS

Multi-Program Structure

The biggest efficiency gain is running every program on shared infrastructure.

Director Dashboard
One admin view, every program

- **Pre-Accelerator** — Fixed-window intake
- **Incubator** — Rolling intake
- **Fellowship** — Award + milestones
- **TTO Program** — Spinout + IP track

STRUCTURING A MULTI-PROGRAM CENTER

- [ ] Run each program as its own configuration, not its own tool
- [ ] Share the advisor and mentor pool across programs
- [ ] Keep one admin view across all programs for the director
- [ ] Brand each student-facing program with the institution's identity
- [ ] Reuse forms, rubrics, and milestone templates across programs

ONE LOGIN, EVERY PROGRAM

A center running five programs does not need five platforms. The director should see the pre-accelerator, incubator, and fellowship from one dashboard.

Student Intake

Students apply to multiple programs and should never re-enter the same information.

A student who applies to the pre-accelerator in the fall and the fellowship in the spring already has a record. Intake should recognize that, carry their profile forward, and ask only for what is new. The less friction at the front door, the larger and more representative your applicant pool.

STUDENT INTAKE CHECKLIST

- [ ] Brand application forms with the institution's identity
- [ ] Use conditional logic so students see only relevant fields
- [ ] Screen eligibility automatically (enrollment status, year, faculty)
- [ ] Communicate status automatically so students stop emailing to ask
- [ ] Support rolling and fixed-window intake per program

THE STATUS EMAIL PROBLEM

Most student emails to a coordinator are status questions. A student portal that shows application status removes the single largest source of inbound coordination.

Faculty Review

Faculty are your scarcest reviewing resource. Design for their time.

A faculty member reviewing applications is doing it between teaching, research, and service obligations. Every extra click, every PDF to download, every login they have to recover is a reason to push the review to next week. The interface they see decides whether scores come back on time.

GETTING FACULTY TO REVIEW

- [ ] Give faculty a single clean interface, no PDF attachments
- [ ] Preconfigure the scoring rubric so reviews take 10 to 15 minutes
- [ ] Require no training; the interface should be self-evident
- [ ] Build COI declaration into the reviewer flow
- [ ] Send one reminder, not a chain of chase emails

10 to 15 minutes per review is the target. Past that, scores stop coming back.

FRICTION KILLS FACULTY PARTICIPATION

Every step you add between a faculty member and submitting a score loses reviewers. The lower the barrier, the more reviews you get back on time.

Advisor Coordination

University advisor pools mix faculty, alumni, and external mentors.

The same person who mentors a fellow this term may sit on a review committee the next, and a successful alum may advise two programs at once. One pool with expertise tags lets you draw the right person for each student without maintaining three separate contact lists.

COORDINATING A MIXED ADVISOR POOL

- [ ] Build one pool with expertise tags spanning faculty, alumni, and external mentors
- [ ] Match advisors to students by expertise and availability
- [ ] Log every session with structured notes
- [ ] Give advisors a limited-access view of only their students
- [ ] Track advisor load to avoid over-requesting your best people

> **SCOPED ACCESS FOR PART-TIME ADVISORS**
>
> Faculty advisors who are not full-time staff need a low-friction, scoped view. They should see their assigned students and nothing else.

Fellowship and TTO Tracking

Fellowship and TTO programs carry milestone and reporting requirements that student programs do not.

A fellowship runs across an award period with checkpoints tied to funding. A TTO program tracks spinouts and licensing that mature over years. Both need the structure of milestones and award logic that a simple application tool was never built to hold.

TRACKING FUNDED AND IP-LINKED PROGRAMS

- [ ] Configure fellowship tracks with their own application, award, and milestone logic
- [ ] Track fellow progress across the award period
- [ ] Link TTO spinout and licensing milestones to the program record
- [ ] Keep TTO staff and program coordinators on the same data

1 → 2 → 3 → 4

1. Award
Fellowship granted

2. Milestones
Checkpoints across the award period

3. Spinout
Company formed, IP assigned

4. Licensing
Revenue tracked over years

LONG HORIZONS, ONE RECORD

Spinout and licensing conversations span years. Tracking them alongside the program lifecycle keeps the whole picture in one place.

The Student Experience

A good student experience reduces your workload.

Every question a student can answer for themselves is a question that never reaches the coordinator. A portal that holds status, schedule, advisor, and submissions in one place turns the inbox from a help desk back into a channel for the things that actually need a person.

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE

- [ ] Their own portal showing application status and program schedule
- [ ] Their assigned advisor and the ability to book sessions
- [ ] Milestone checklists and submission tools
- [ ] Curriculum and resource access
- [ ] Community with other students and alumni

> **SELF-SERVICE IS WORKLOAD REDUCTION**
> Every self-service feature in the student portal is one fewer email in the coordinator's inbox.

Institutional Reporting

The VP of Research, the development office, and external funders each want different reports from the same data.

VP of Research

Portfolio view across programs: active companies, total funding raised, jobs and spinouts, completion rates. Monthly or quarterly.

Development Office

Outcomes framed for donors and stewardship: companies launched, funding, patents, alumni success. Annual, formatted for cultivation.

External Funder

Program-specific reporting against grant metrics, with evidence attached. Per the funder's required format.

INSTITUTIONAL REPORTING CHECKLIST

- [ ] Track outcome metrics over time (companies, funding, jobs, patents, spinouts)
- [ ] Configure dashboard views per stakeholder, including read-only access
- [ ] Export in the formats each audience requires
- [ ] Pull funder reports without manual data assembly

ONE DATASET, MANY REPORTS

The development office and the VP of Research want the same underlying numbers in different formats. Configurable views beat manual reformatting.

Reuse Every Semester

Configure once. Reuse every semester.

The work of setting up a program is front-loaded. Once a program's forms, rubrics, milestone templates, and advisor rules are in place, the next cycle should start from that configuration, not from a blank page.

1 → 2 → 3

Save
Forms, rubrics, milestones, and advisor rules per program

Clone
Duplicate the program configuration for the new term

Open Intake
Adjust dates and start accepting students

REUSE CHECKLIST

- [ ] Save forms, rubrics, milestone templates, and advisor rules per program
- [ ] Clone each program configuration at the start of the new semester
- [ ] Adjust dates and open intake

COMPOUNDING SETUP

Each new semester starts from the last one, not from scratch.

About AcceleratorApp

AcceleratorApp is a program management platform used by Yale, MIT Design X, and institutions across 6 continents.

It runs multiple university programs on one platform: student intake, faculty review, advisor matching, fellowship and TTO tracking, curriculum, AI application scoring, AI applicant coaching, AI reporting, and institutional reporting.

700K+	1–2 wks	$499
Applications processed	Live on the platform	Per month, plans from

GET STARTED

Book a demo: acceleratorapp.co/en/demo

See pricing: acceleratorapp.co/en/pricing

Contact: support@acceleratorapp.co

HIGHLIGHTS

- 700,000+ applications processed
- ISO 27001 certified, GDPR compliant
- White-label with your institution's branding
- Live within one to two weeks
- Full migration included
- Plans from $499 per month

ONE PLATFORM, EVERY PROGRAM

Pre-accelerators, incubators, fellowships, and TTO programs run side by side, with the director's view across all of them.

AcceleratorApp
Software for Accelerator & Incubators

Ready to run your programs on one platform?

A 30-minute demo tailored to your center's program mix, faculty review, and institutional reporting.

Book a demo · acceleratorapp.co/en/demo

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