The contest is open to individual participants and/or teams of participants. At least one active member of the management team, and or the individual participant, must have one of the following affiliations, below. An “active team member” should be an active participant in the business’ development, not simply recruited to assist in pitching/qualifying the idea for the competition.

- UC Davis affiliation. This includes status as an alumnus, current student (undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools i.e. MBA, Medical, Law etc.), faculty, or staff member (regardless of percentage). Terminated or non-current UCD staff are not considered active.
- Alumnus of the UC Davis Child Family Institute Entrepreneurship Academies.
- Qualifying teams from the Sacramento Entrepreneurship Academy and finalists from the Sacramento State University Global Entrepreneurship Week Pitch Competition, regardless of an active UCD affiliate on their team.

The contest is intended for early stage startups and entrepreneurs who want to develop a business or scale up their existing business.

Teams/companies that have obtained $250,000 or more in equity funding, are not eligible to participate.

- University grants and debt do not qualify as equity funding.

Previous Big Bang! teams are eligible to re-enter the competition under the following conditions:

- The previous Big Bang! team competed in the year immediately prior (2014 for the 2015 competition).
- The previous Big Bang! team did not win 1st, 2nd, People’s Choice and/or a sector-specific award.
- The previous Big Bang! team did not advance to the Finals.

Team representative(s) are required to attend the Final Presentation Round and risk disqualification if they do not.

Events associated with the Child Family Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, such as workshops and networking events, are not mandatory, although we encourage contestants to use the workshops to prepare their contest materials.

Institute and Graduate School of Management staff do not have influence or effect on the outcomes.

Selection of the winners is made by external judges using an established judging rubric to score each team.

Visit the Big Bang! website for more info: http://bigbang.gsm.ucdavis.edu
Registration

- Within 24 hours of submitting your registration form at http://bigbang2015.istart.org, you will receive a confirmation email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt, please email Edward Silva, ejsilva@ucdavis.edu, for follow-up.
- When registering, you must select one member of your team as a team leader. This individual must also be an active UC Davis affiliate. This individual is the main contact for your team and is responsible for receiving all official communications.
- All registrations for the Big Bang Business Competition must be submitted via www.iStart.org. We will not accept email registration.
- All teams must register by Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 11:59 pm (PST) online.

Round 1: Executive Summary

Submissions

- Teams must submit their Executive Summaries through the iStart portal.
  - Executive summaries are due no later than Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 11:59 pm (PST). This is a required submission.
- A confirmation e-mail will be sent within 24 hours. If you do not receive confirmation within this timeframe, please email Edward Silva at ejsilva@ucdavis.edu.
- An internal review committee comprised of MBA students and affiliated UC Davis staff will provide constructive feedback on Executive Summaries between January 15-27. This is a non-elimination feedback round.
- The internal review committee will return executive summaries to participants on January 27.
- Contestants will have the opportunity to revise their Executive Summaries between January 28-February 8.
  - The Revised Executive Summaries are due no later than Sunday February 8, 2015 at 11:59PM (PST). This is a required submission.

Judging

- External judges, comprised of industry executives, business and investment community members, are randomly assigned to review the Executive Summaries.
- Each judge reviews 3-5 Executive Summaries.
- Each Executive Summary will be reviewed at least three (3) times.
- Judges score each executive summary based on the Judging Rubric. External Judging takes place February 11-March 1.
- After scoring, the Executive Summaries are ranked.
- The top 75% will move to the Detailed Pitch Deck Round.
- Teams are notified of results on March 3.
- For guidelines and resources, including a full executive summary example template, visit the bigbang.gsm.ucdavis.edu website.
Round 2: Detailed Pitch Deck

- Only qualifying teams that advance past Round 1 may participate in Round 2.
- Round 2 consists of a detailed slide deck (prepared in a presentation software, i.e. PowerPoint, Keynote) which is intended to be used without the support of audio. The Pitch Deck will be submitted as a PDF so the presentation must be readable and understandable.
- The detailed slide deck should clearly define your value proposition, market/customer, business model, technology, team and financial projections.
- Teams are highly encouraged to use the provided Pitch Deck Template when preparing their submission. Teams should also use the judging rubric as a guideline for what needs to be included in their presentation.

Submission Requirements

- Slide decks must be submitted no later than Sunday, March 29th, 2015 at 11:59pm (PST). This is a required submission.
- A confirmation e-mail will be sent within 24 hours. If you do not receive confirmation within this timeframe, please email Edward Silva at ejsilva@ucdavis.edu.
- Teams MUST submit their Detailed Slide Deck as a PDF document with the title of the document saved as so “Company name_Full name of team leader.”
- External judges are randomly assigned to review the submitted PDF.
- Each Pitch Deck is reviewed at least three times.
- Judges score each detailed slide deck based on the judging rubric.
- The top 15 scoring teams will move to the next round.
- For resources, including a slide deck template, visit the website: bigbang.gsm.ucdavis.edu.

Round 3: Final Presentation Round

- The Final Presentation Round has three components: Feedback Survey, Dry Run and Final Presentation.
- Only qualifying teams that have advanced past Rounds 1 and 2 may participate in Round 3. Eligibility will be reviewed again during this round. Any ineligible teams will be eliminated.
- Teams are expected to review the feedback provided in Round 2, and create a presentable pitch deck, to be delivered live in a closed room with judges during both the Dry Run and the Final Presentation.

Feedback Survey

- Feedback Survey: Must be completed before the Dry Run to help capture metrics regarding the Big Bang! process.

Dry Run

- Dry Run Presentations (May 4, 2015): Each team will rotate between three rooms, and present to three separate panels of judges. This section of Round 3 is a non-elimination round, and is designed to help teams prepare for the final round.
**Final Pitch Presentations**

- **Final Presentations (May 15, 2015):** Each team will pitch in front of a panel of judges in a closed door session. This is a required pitch presentation for teams who have advanced to the Finals.
- Pitches are timed. Teams have 10 minutes to present and 2 minutes to answer questions.
- The Final Presentation is the final elimination round.
- Five teams will be selected to present at the Final Awards Ceremony on May 21.
- Judges will also select the 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd} and sector-award winners. The winners will be kept secret until the Final Awards Ceremony.

All disputes and decisions will be resolved at the sole discretion of the institute.

For questions, please email Edward Silva at ejsilva@ucdavis.edu.