

# ***START YOUR CAREER AT A STARTUP WITH VFA***

*Everything you need to  
know to apply to the*

***Class of 2021***

**VENTURE**  
FOR AMERICA

# Online Application



The activities submission is our first chance to get to know you. In this section, we're hoping to learn more about the impact you've made, the leadership experience you've gained, and the skills you've developed. We want to hear how these experiences can translate into a startup environment.

## Activities & Resume Tips

**Stay focused on startups.** We want to see what you've done, but we also want to understand how these experiences can translate to success in a startup. For example, were you a leader of an on-campus organization or did you have a part-time job? Tell us about how your accomplishments in those positions gave you skills for managing projects.

### **Connect your experiences to working at a startup.**

We're looking for instances when you were self-directed or entrepreneurial, where you took on a leadership role, or where you learned skills you can apply to a business setting. Examples could include learning sales skills as a campus tour guide or being a project manager as an event planner on-campus.

**Show us your impact.** Don't just tell us what you did, describe the impact your work had. If possible, it's helpful to use numbers to support your claims. This could look like describing the number of attendees that you got to attend an event, how much money you handled for an activity, or even how many followers on social media you were able to get for your organization. Go beyond describing what you did and highlight why your work mattered in the activity.

**Just the top three.** We know you've probably done a lot, but we want you to pick the activities most relevant to startup life. Narrow them down by focusing on instances when you were self-directed or entrepreneurial, where you took on a leadership role, or where you learned skills you can apply to a professional setting.

**Demonstrate your commitment.** Show us experiences where you've had a long-lasting impact and stuck through something even if it was difficult. For example, did you go from being a member of an organization and becoming a leader who grew membership?

**Create a clear and simple resume.** All you need is one color, one font, one page, and a simple layout.

**Again, show don't tell.** Use your bullet points to describe the impact your work had, not just what you did. Focus on your impact and make it measurable if you can.

*For example, "Planned annual club bake sale" is weak; "Planned annual bake sale that raised \$1,000 in revenue (+45% increase versus the previous year) and engaged 50 out of 67 club members" is strong.*

## Did you...

- Use an email address that you check regularly?
- Show us the impact you had in each activity either on your resume or in the activities submission?
- Pick your top three activities where you've made the most impact?
- Proofread your materials?