STAGE 1: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

This FAQ provides an overview of the UC San Diego MedTech Accelerator (MTA), including Stage 1, Stage 2, and the FiPA (Faculty, Innovator & Physician Affiliate) Program.

GENERAL OVERVIEW: What is the UC San Diego MedTech Accelerator?

The UC San Diego MedTech Accelerator (MTA) is a founder-focused commercialization program operated by the Institute for the Global Entrepreneur (IGE) within the UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering. The program is designed to help founders translate medical and deep technology innovations—such as medical devices, diagnostics, digital health tools, and enabling technologies—into viable startup companies.

The MTA emphasizes customer discovery, market validation, business model development, regulatory and reimbursement awareness, and investor readiness. The program is not a class; it is an accelerator built for teams actively working to bring an innovation to market.

MEDTECH ACCELERATOR – STAGE 1

What is Stage 1 of the MedTech Accelerator?
Stage 1 is an application-based, 12-session commercialization program designed for early-stage founders who are exploring or validating the commercial potential of a MedTech or deep tech innovation.
Stage 1 includes: **Customer discovery and validation, Market and stakeholder analysis, Business model development, Regulatory and reimbursement exposure, and Pitch development.**

An integrated National Science Foundation Innovation Corps (NSF I-Corps) curriculum (Sessions 1–4), focused on achieving product–market fit through hands-on customer discovery

Q1: Is Stage 1 a course or class?
No. Stage 1 is not a course for credit. It is a structured accelerator for founders and core team members engaged in active commercialization.

Q2: What is the application deadline for Stage 1?
Application deadlines are listed on the application form for each cohort. The MedTech Accelerator runs twice annually, in the Fall and Spring academic terms.

Q3: Is Stage 1 dependent on NSF I-Corps enrollment dates?
No. NSF I-Corps is embedded within the MedTech Accelerator and delivered internally by IGE. Selected participants should not enroll separately in an external NSF I-Corps program.

Q4: What if I have already completed NSF I-Corps?
Founders who have previously completed an NSF I-Corps program may be excused from Sessions 1–4, provided prior participation can be verified. However, participation in the IGE-led, MedTech-focused I-Corps curriculum is strongly encouraged, as it is tailored to the accelerator and cohort experience.

Q5: Who should attend Stage 1 sessions?

Core team members responsible for commercialization, product development, regulatory strategy, or go-to-market execution. Stage 1 is not open to observers or spectators.

Q6: Can additional students or team members attend?
No. Participation is limited to the core founding and execution team. Additional students, observers, or representatives are not permitted.

Q7: Is the MedTech Accelerator appropriate for student projects or class teams?
No. The MedTech Accelerator is designed for startup founders pursuing real-world commercialization. It is not intended for classroom projects, passive participation, or observational experiences.

Q8: What level of commitment is expected?
Founders should expect: Consistent attendance Active participation Ongoing customer discovery Accountability to milestones The value of the program depends heavily on founder engagement.

PROGRAM COST & EQUITY

What is the cost to participate in the UC San Diego MedTech Accelerator?
There is no cost to participate. The MedTech Accelerator is supported by IGE and the UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering as a no-fee, no-equity program designed to advance UC San Diego–affiliated innovation. Participants are not charged tuition or program fees.

Does the MedTech Accelerator take equity in participating startups?
No. The UC San Diego MedTech Accelerator does not take equity in participating companies. Unlike many accelerators, the MTA is intentionally structured to remove financial and ownership barriers so founders can focus on customer discovery, validation, and building mission-driven companies.

FINAL NOTES

The UC San Diego MedTech Accelerator is a high-touch commercialization program built for teams serious about translating innovation into impact. Program participation, progression, and advancement to later stages are determined by readiness and execution—not by application volume or academic interest.

For additional questions, please contact the MedTech Accelerator team at the Institute for the Global Entrepreneur.