The following are criteria that the Tampa Bay Technology Incubator evaluates before admitting a company.

- A for-profit technology company that is registered to do business in the State of Florida
- A proprietary technology or innovation that can be commercialized or funded
- A start-up company (post-idea stage), existing small business in a growth phase, launching a new business project, or a new division of an existing company located outside of the Tampa Bay area
- Experienced management in place with preferably at least one full-time executive
- Identifiable reasons to leverage the programs and/or services of the University of South Florida, Tampa Bay Technology Incubator and community partners
- Potential and drive to create a significant economic impact on the Tampa Bay area by remaining in the area after graduating from TBTI
- At least twelve-month goals and projections
- Completion of a recognized entrepreneurial program or comparable serial entrepreneurial experience
- Completed business plan or clearly defined business model
- Coachability of management team
- Sufficient capital resources to meet established short-term goals