## BUSINESS FOUNDATION CHECKLIST





#### Building a business is hard.

Build a business right and it will change your life.

At Launched, we know what it takes to build a business. We know that most advice on starting a business is vague and incomplete.

We have seen too many businesses try to back-pedal as they struggle to correct mistakes that were made before they even opened. We want to help you avoid that.

This checklist is long. Do not let it overwhelm you. Do one task a time.

Reach out for help as needed.

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Launched has a six month Launch My Business
Academy that will walk you through each and every
step, in the right order. We are here to guide you. If
you don't know some of the terms check out our social
media for help.

Apply at LaunchedAcademy.com







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You have to take care of the legal aspects of your business.

If you ignore them, you are asking for a lot of heartache and expenses down the road.

Choose a business name Business name:	Assign business phone number Phone number:
Company address or get a P.O. Box Company address:	Determine company email Email:
	Determine company start date Start date:
LEGALIZE YOUR BUSI	NESS
LEGALIZE YOUR BUSI  Choose entity type	Obtain state tax ID number  STID:
☐ Choose entity type ☐ Select end of fiscal year End date:	Obtain state tax ID number
☐ Choose entity type ☐ Select end of fiscal year End date:	Obtain state tax ID number  STID:  Obtain licenses  City/county license



How you choose to run your business matters. The sooner you determine what you want to build, the sooner you can make choices that get you there.

Every business has their own business model. This is HOW you want to run things. Answer the questions below to help determine yours and write out in the space provided. There is no right or wrong answer. You get to build the business that YOU want.

- What does your ideal work week look like?
- When will be your "busy time"?
- What are your long term revenue goals?
- Are you building this business to sell?
- Is your business all online?
- Will you carry inventory?
- How will you deliver your goods and services?

What is your general business model? How to you want your business to run?



## SECTION THREE: ESTABLISH YOUR BRAND

Branding is often confused with other aspects of business, especially marketing. Branding is incredibly important in your business because your brand is your business identity. This is who you are, what you stand for, your goals, and your vision.

Simply put, branding is the essence of who your company is.

#### **BRANDING CHECKLIST**

- 1. Establish your business message
  - 2. Define your business values
- 3. Choose your voice
- 4 Define your physical branding elements

After you have determined everything on the left, you can create your branding kit and logo. Your logo should be the embodiment of your brand.

- Create a branding kit
- ☐ Create your logo

(sketch logo ideas below)





## SECTION FOUR BUILD YOUR MARKETING

Creating a business is not enough, you have to know how to bring people in.

Marketing is understand who your people are, where they hang out, and what they respond to.

You will want to seek out your best clients and solve their problems.

Marketing is only about your clients.



#### MARKETING CHECKLIST



Identify your ideal client	Identify the people you do NOT want to
Ideal Client:	work with NOT your client:
Identify your clients' pain	
Pain:	Set your annual & quarterly goals
Choose your core product	Create a marketing plan
Core:	
Choose your upsells:	
Upsell 1:	
Upsell 2:	<b>EXPERT TIP:</b> A marketing plan only
	sounds scary. Google

A marketing plan only sounds scary. Google examples of marketing plans and then use those templates to create something that works well for you.

#### **SECTION FIVE:**

#### CREATE YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE

It should be easy for your clients to find and shop with you.

#### **ONLINE PRESENCE CHECKLIST**

Create Google listing	Optimize your website
Determine the social platforms that your ideal client uses:	Research other directories
	☐ Create accounts to relevant directories
	Update personal account to send potential clients to your business
Create an an account on each platform	
Buy web domain	
Create your website	EXPERT TIP: We often unintentionally

We often unintentionally create barriers between our clients and shopping with us. Doing the work to make sure you are easily found online will help alleviate many of these barriers.

## SECTION SIX: SETTING UP FINANCE

If you do not understand your numbers you cannot run a profitable business.

Numbers are the language of business.

As business owners we often run our business focused on revenue and rarely spend time truly understanding our numbers. You need to know your expenses (fixed and variable) how to price your products, how to read a balance sheet, plug the holes, and when to grow.

You cannot properly manage a business if you do not know your numbers

#### FINANCE CHECKLIST

	Open a business bank account	<ul><li>Figure your variable cost for your core product</li></ul>
	Choose an accounting system	Variable cost:
	Setup your chart of accounts	\$
	Add all accounting and money info to your accounting system	Price your core product
	Figure your fixed expenses	☐ Price your upsells
ш	Fixed expenses:	Learn your breakeven
	\$/mo	Create a balance sheet
		Obtain a business credit card







A business without systems is chaos.

Systems allow you to be free from your business and not a slave to it.

#### SYSTEMS CHECKLIST

Systems are the way that we do something. In business, your systems are setup to make things easier, faster, and more profitable. You should begin to create systems on day one.

Create a brainstorm system: spreadsheet, notebook, something tangible
Establish how you:
□ Take client orders/book appts
☐ Fulfill client orders
☐ Gather client information
☐ Take payments
□ Pay bills
Choose a way to store all this info: a client management system, a spreadsheet, a video series, etc
Add all the info your system - one role at a time

**EXPERT TIP:** 

This checklist over simplifies the systems process. Systems are ongoing and take time. It is okay if your systems are not perfect or even if they suck to start with.

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### SECTION EIGHT:

#### **BUILD COLLABORATION**

#### You don't have to do this alone!

Work with other businesses, teams, and people to build your business together.

While collaboration has always been an important part of business, the internet and "influencers" have not only made it more important than ever but also easier. Take advantage of the perks of clever collaboration.



#### **COLLABORATION CHECKLIST**

Ш	Create a list of 30 businesses, people, or content creators that share your ideal client
	Eliminate anyone who has products/services in competition with your own
	Create an email template to present your collaboration idea.
	Reach out to 15 businesses or influencers
	Agree to collaboration terms and create a contract

## EXPERT TIP: Collaborations should benefit each collaborator. Make sure you answer the question: "How does this collaboration benefit everyone?" Consider affiliate offers.

# LAUNCH YOUR BUSINESS ACADEMY

If you are bringing home **under \$70,000** from your business it's time to step it up. You can do this. We can give you **all the steps.** 





#### SECTION TWO: YOUR BUS



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SECTION SEVEN: BUILD COLLABORATION

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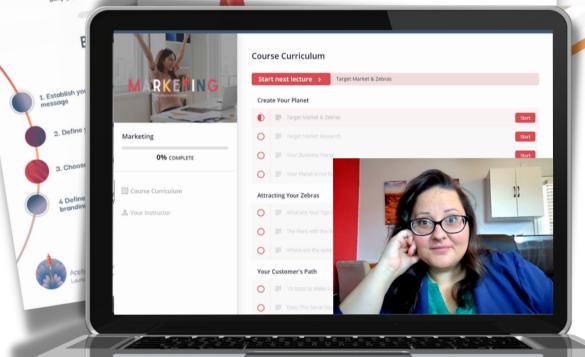
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