



# NEXT Awards FAQ

## Q: What is the NEXT Awards & Entrepreneurs' Hall of Fame?

Nashville Entrepreneur Center's **NEXT Awards + Entrepreneurs' Hall of Fame, Presented by Amazon**, is one spectacular night devoted to the exceptional entrepreneurs transforming their industries, creating opportunities, growing economies, and improving lives in the greater Nashville area and beyond.

## Q: What industries are recognized?

There are six industry categories:

1. **Products and Services**
2. **Financial Services**
3. **Healthcare**
4. **Hospitality and Retail**
5. **Music, Sports, Gaming and Entertainment**
6. **Real Estate and Construction**

## Q: What are the awards given in each category?

There are two awards given within each category based on stage:

- **Startup:** Businesses that have been operating for less than 5 years\*
- **Growth:** Businesses that have been operating for more than 5 years\*

\*The business's public launch date is considered to be its first date of operation

## Q: Are there individual awards?

Yes, there will be two individual awards given: Startup Entrepreneur of 2024 and Growth Entrepreneur of 2024.

**Q: Can I apply for both a company award and an individual award?**

Yes!

**Q: What are the qualifications to win?**

In order to be a winner, you must have led your company through significant growth showing proof through qualitative and quantitative data submitted in the application process. You also must meet the following criteria:

- Headquartered in Middle Tennessee
- Founder must still be actively involved with the company
- Proven growth, success, and some level of scale
- Made a significant impact within the last 12 months
- Must be a for-profit company

**Q: Who judges the applications?**

Applications are evaluated, discussed and narrowed down by our NEXT committee, each of whom are established entrepreneurs and/or experienced leaders in the Middle Tennessee business community.

**Q: What is the application process like?**

Applications are submitted by June 14th at 11:59PM CT. Rankings from each judge are averaged and the top three finalists in each category are notified in early August before tickets go on sale.

**Q: Will my information be kept confidential?**

Yes. All quantitative and qualitative information submitted in your application is kept confidential. We also implement a double-blind judging process so that financial information is not tied to your company name.