

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/clips/bravery-not-required>

Leaving grad school to launch a startup wasn't as scary as you might think, says Verge Genomics founder and CEO Alice Zhang. She describes overcoming uncertainty and challenges by focusing on one question, one step at a time.



## Transcript

- A lot of people ask me, they say oh you must've been so brave to leave the grad school program or to make the leap.. But the honest answer is, it never felt like a leap, it always felt like a next step and it felt like the next step towards answering just a long list of questions and I feel like that's a lot of what entrepreneurship is.. So the first question for us was will anyone even care about this idea.. And luckily we found that YC did care and then the next question was can we actually get funding to grow our idea.. And the question after that was can we build an initial team to actually build the product and can we actually grow a team to take the product to the next level.. So really this was just kind of a cascading journey of individual steps.. But it really taught me that the most important thing is to just stay adaptable and I think that people get so caught up in trying to figure out like where do I want to end up, what is the best path there, is this really where I want to be.. When in reality you can never really know and the best thing you can do is just to take the next step to find out more information if that is true or not..