

Application of University Patent and Copyright Policies to Students

Patent Policy

- A patent is a government right which is applied for and which protects inventions - that is, new, useful, and unobvious processes, devices, manufactured articles, or materials.
- The University's Patent Policy states that the university owns the inventions of its researchers. That means that the University owns the inventions of any University researcher, including students, in any laboratory or research facility of the University, or that used funding or equipment provided by the University. However, if the invention is commercialized by the university, the university shares the income from inventions with the inventor(s). Patent income is usually generated by licensing UC inventions to external companies, agencies, or even other universities
- Students should keep a laboratory notebook in which they keep records of their work. Descriptions of discoveries should be signed, dated, and if possible, witnessed.
- Discoveries and inventions should be reported to the University via a UC Invention Disclosure form, available from the UC Intellectual Property Office, www.ipu.uc.edu. The disclosure will normally be made by the student's research advisor. In some cases the student(s) will be listed as co-inventors on the disclosure form; in other cases, the advisor alone may be listed as the sole inventor.
- In consultation with the advisor, and in some cases with students, the Intellectual Property Office will decide whether or not the disclosed invention merits patent protection. If it is decided to apply for a patent, there may be an interval of time during which the advisor and students must refrain from publishing or otherwise publicly disclosing the invention.
- Students are generally not free to take patents or University intellectual property with them when they graduate. The inventions and patents belong to the University (for further details see University rules on patents, entitled "Patents and copyrights: Policy on inventions and discoveries": <http://www.uc.edu/trustees/rules/RuleDetail.asp?ID=85>.)

Copyright Policy

- A copyright is a government right which arises automatically (no application necessary) and protects those original works of authorship, such as poetry, art, books, movies, software, or songs. The university's Copyright Policy divides works into four classes; the University owns three and the creator of the work owns one. In particular, the policy designates theses and dissertations as owned by students (for further details see University rules on copyrights, entitled "Patents and copyrights: Copyright policy": <http://www.uc.edu/trustees/rules/RuleDetail.asp?ID=84>.)

For additional Information on UC patent and copyright policies, contact Douglas J. Nienaber, Assistant General Counsel, UC Office of General Counsel: Nienabdj@ucmail.uc.edu.