

Intellectual Property Protection

Why Seek a Patent?

Patenting an invention derived from OSU research is generally the first step in commercializing a technology and maximizing its value to the inventor, OSU, and society. Patenting intellectual property incentivizes the investment necessary for commercial development and protects the interests of its creators and investors.

As a researcher, you should always be mindful that your work may have commercial potential. The licensing managers at OSU's Office for Commercialization and Corporate Development (OCCD) can help you evaluate the commercial possibilities of your research and help you protect information that, if released too early, could compromise the patent process.

How can I protect my IP?

To maximize the protection of your IP, it is best to disclose your invention to OCCD prior to any public disclosure (such as a journal publication or poster presentation). OCCD provides a secure Inventor Portal for you to share a detailed description of your invention with our licensing managers. Knowing your technology and the history of its development will let OCCD:

- Evaluate the patentability of your invention and the commercial opportunity it provides
- Prepare and submit patent applications or other appropriate means of protecting the IP
- Meet invention-reporting requirements for federally sponsored research

If you have any trouble getting started, just give us a call.

Can I publish my work and still protect my IP?

Yes, but remember that certain public disclosures describing your invention can lead to loss of patent rights. U.S. patent law

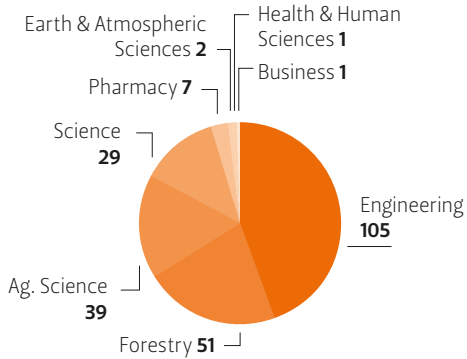
allows an inventor to be eligible for a patent up to one year after a public disclosure of the work. Most other countries do not have such a grace period.

Contact OCCD to initiate a standard **Confidentiality Agreement**. Additionally, a **Material Transfer Agreement** is necessary when sending proprietary samples (e.g., biological materials) to a company. These agreements protect information and materials while allowing foreign patent rights to be preserved.

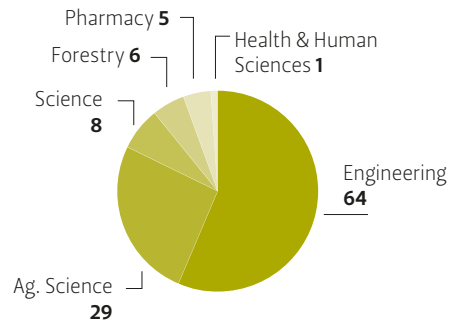
In sum, patenting is a complicated legal arena. OCCD can work with you to ensure that you can continue to publish and present your research results, apply for grants, and share materials with other researchers, without losing your patent rights and without burdensome delays.

Patents by College FY 2012–14

Filed



Issued



When is the right time to contact OCCD?

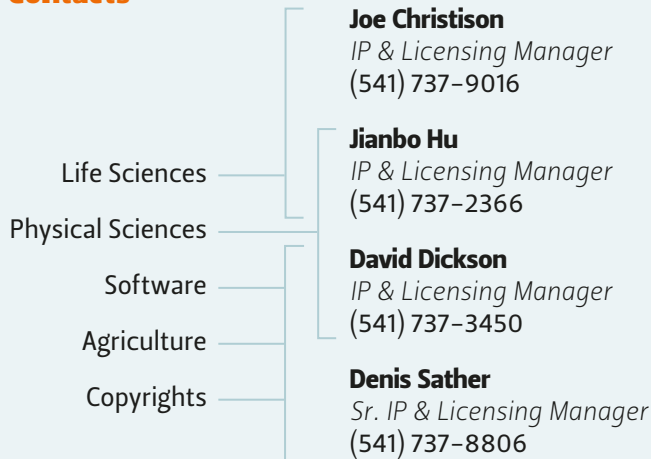


If you believe you have discovered, invented, or created something that may be patentable... Contact OCCD IP Protection and Licensing managers.



Before publicly discussing the details of your invention or sharing unpublished information to anyone outside the University... Contact OCCD IP Protection and Licensing managers.

IP and Licensing Contacts



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Office for Commercialization
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