

The Technology Transfer Process

Step 1: Invention Disclosure

When you develop an invention or idea, submit an Invention Disclosure Form detailing its stage of development, funding sources, inventors, and any public disclosures. Public disclosure, including posters or presentations, starts a one year deadline to file a patent. A separate form must be submitted for each invention.

Step 2: Evaluation

The Office for Research reviews disclosures for patentability, commercial potential, and IP strategy, then meets with the researcher to decide whether to file a patent.

Step 3: Patent Application

If patentable, you must first file a provisional application. In the U.S., inventors have one year after public disclosure, but patents follow a first to file rule, so whoever files first receives the patent.

All Patentable Inventions Must Be:

- Novel
- Non-obvious
- Described in sufficient detail so that one of ordinary skill in the art can make and use the invention
- Claimed in clear and definite terms

What can't be patented?

- Laws of Nature
- Physical Phenomena
- Abstract ideas
- Literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works –these would fall under copyright protection

For more information on patents, visit US Patent and Trademark Office at [uspto.gov](https://www.uspto.gov)

Step 4: Assessment and Marketing

Once a patent application has been filed, an assessment of the technology will be done. Details from this type of assessment can then be used to market the technology.

Step 5: Licensing of Patents

ISU's goal is to put our inventions and discoveries in the hands of the public. Patented inventions are transferred to industry through a variety of licensing arrangements.

Step 6: Business Development

If a licensing agreement is in place, the University monitors the licensee's progress, manages patents, and distributes revenue per its IP Policy.