



VSU Department of Engineering & Technology Intellectual Property Policies for Senior Design Projects

Ownership of Intellectual Property

Ownership of intellectual property (IP) created during execution of senior design projects will be governed by Virginia State University's Intellectual Properties Policy (VSU-IPP). This document approved by the Board of Visitors establishes the policy for VSU with respect to intellectual property developed by members of the University community. Members of the University by definition include "all full and part-time faculty, classified employees, administrative staff, paid student assistants, students, fellows and trainees" etc. The policy states that "the University shall retain all rights, title and interest in any and all intellectual property generated, created, or developed at facilities operated or controlled by the University, and/or performed in the course of regular duties by University members. University owned IP will be initially assigned to VSU and then to VSU's Intellectual Property Foundation, a not-for-profit foundation whose sole purpose is to commercialize University-owned IP. Students (and sponsors) shall receive a copy of VSU's IPP and shall be informed of its content prior to engaging in the senior design project. In all matters pertaining to inventions, VSU's Intellectual Property Foundation will work cooperatively and in good faith with inventors and corporate sponsors.

Sole Ownership by VSU

Intellectual property conceived of and reduced to practice (or created) by University members shall be reported to VSU's Office of Technology Transfer. If solely created by University members, the University shall solely own the invention and be responsible for its protection and commercialization. Industrial sponsors who financially supported the project shall have an exclusive option to license said IP and the inventor(s)/creator(s) (students and faculty) of said IP will share in all forms of licensing compensation as per VSU-IPP.



Joint Ownership

It is anticipated that VSU members in the course of their senior design project may contribute to intellectual property that is jointly owned by VSU and the industrial sponsor. In this case, the industrial sponsor(s) supporting the project shall have an exclusive option to license of the VSU-owned portion of said IP and the University inventor(s)/ creator(s) of said IP will share in all forms of licensing compensation as per VSU-IPP.

Sole Ownership by Industrial Sponsor

There may be instances in which the proposed problem and its solution are fully defined by the sponsor of the project. It is unlikely that such projects will be considered by the faculty of the Department of Engineering & Technology as acceptable for the Senior Design Expo since the definition of a solution may leave little room for student design initiative and consideration of design alternatives. However, in this scenario the industrial sponsor is considered to be the sole owner of the invention. If students are allowed to consider design alternatives and offer a solution to the problem which differs substantively from that suggested by a sponsor, VSU will retain full or joint ownership of the differing solution and accompanying IP and sponsors will be granted an exclusive licensing option as defined by the foregoing paragraphs.



I acknowledge that I am aware of VSU's Intellectual Properties Policy
and that this policy will govern inventions made during the Senior
Design Project.

Fall Semester CPEG 400
Spring Semester CPEG 408

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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