

## **ECU Patent Agreement and Assignment – FAQs**

**Q:** Who do the ECU Patent and Copyright policies apply to?

**A:** ECU Patent and Copyright policies apply to all employees, students, postdocs and other individuals, including visitors and volunteers who use ECU resources, facilities, personnel and/or funds administered by ECU.

**Q:** If I have an employment, consulting or other agreement with a company or other university that requires assignment of my intellectual property rights to such third party, then is that in conflict with the Patent Agreement?

**A:** Obligations under the policy apply to employees, students, postdoctoral fellows, visitors and volunteers of ECU when inventions are developed using ECU resources, facilities, personnel or funds administered by ECU. If no inventions are developed using ECU resources, then there should be no conflict with ECU policies and the Patent Agreement.

**Q:** If I work, volunteer, or do an independent study project in a laboratory in which an invention is discovered, then do I need to disclose the invention to ECU?

**A:** Use of university resources will require disclosure of any resulting inventions to ECU's Office of Innovation & New Ventures.

**Q:** If I develop an invention or computer program without use of any ECU resources, then am I required to disclose the invention to ECU?

**A:** If no university resources, facilities, personnel and/or funds administered by ECU were used in the development of an invention then no invention disclosure is required.

**Q:** If I develop an invention or business idea while taking an ECU class in innovation or entrepreneurship, then am I required to make a disclosure to ECU?

**A:** Courses and programs offered by ECU to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and economic development are generally exempted from the disclosure requirement, provided the invention does not result from material use of university resources. Use of course laboratories, computing and library facilities, software, supplies and materials at a level ordinarily provided to students in the course, are not considered a material use for students enrolled in an ECU course or program.

**Q:** If my research is sponsored by a grant, then do I need to disclose any resulting inventions to ECU?

**A:** Use of university resources facilities, personnel and/or funds administered by the university, including grant funds, will require disclosure of any resulting inventions to ECU's Office of Innovation & New Ventures.

**Q:** If my research is not sponsored by a grant, then do I need to disclose any resulting inventions to ECU?

**A:** Use of university resources, facilities, personnel and/or funds administered by the university will require disclosure of any resulting inventions to ECU's Office of Innovation & New Ventures.

- Q: If I use ECU engineering facilities to develop an invention, then do I need to disclose the invention to ECU?
- A: Use of university resources, facilities, personnel and/or funds administered by the university will require disclosure of any resulting inventions to ECU's Office of Innovation & New Ventures.
- Q: If I use ECU music studios to compose music, then do I need to disclose new music compositions to ECU?
- A: Music compositions are not patentable inventions so no disclosure to ECU is required.
- Q: If I use ECU art studios to perfect my skills in painting/ drawing/ animation/ sculpture / pottery, etc., then do I need to disclose new works of art to ECU?
- A: Artistic works are generally not patentable but in the event university resources, facilities, personnel and/or funds administered by the university were utilized, then disclosure of artwork is required to ECU's Office of Innovation & New Ventures.
- Q: If I participated in an ECU Make-a-Thon challenge that resulted in an idea for a new invention, then am I required to disclose it to ECU?
- A: Courses and programs offered by ECU to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and economic development are generally exempted from the disclosure requirement, provided the invention does not result from material use of university resources. Use of course laboratories, computing and library facilities, software, supplies and materials at a level ordinarily provided to students in the course, are not considered a material use for students enrolled in a course of study.
- Q: If I am an inventor of an invention in which I have been required to assign my rights to ECU, then will I be compensated for any revenue received by ECU?
- A: Yes, in the event revenue is received by ECU as a result of licensing the invention, then the inventor is eligible to receive compensation in accordance with the formula contained in the Patent Policy.