



Policy Brief

Last Revised: 3/9/2026

7.6 Intellectual Property Policy

Administering Department: Research Compliance and Regulatory Affairs (RCRA)

Scope:

Summary

Emory University maintains an Intellectual Property (IP) Policy to support academic freedom while ensuring appropriate stewardship of inventions, software, scholarly works, and other IP that may arise from research, teaching, or activities conducted with University resources. The policy provides a framework for ownership, disclosure, commercialization, and revenue distribution associated with IP created by Emory Personnel, Students, and Visitors.

Applicability

This policy applies to all Emory personnel, and in specific circumstances detailed within this policy, visitors and students.

Compliance with the Policy

Emory University owns all Intellectual Property (“IP”) created by Emory personnel when the creation or development is related to assigned duties, research, or areas of expertise, or when any form of Emory support is used (including funding, facilities, equipment, or staff). Visitors to Emory are also bound by this policy and by Policy 7.12.

Students retain ownership of IP unless the creation or development receives Emory funding, uses substantial Emory support, or is tied to an external funding agreement. In such cases, Students must disclose the IP and are considered Emory personnel for that work. IP arising from consulting may still be owned by Emory when it overlaps with University duties or involves the use of University resources. Emory personnel must disclose the existence of any IP to the Office of Technology Transfer (“OTT”) using the official Disclosure Statement Form. OTT evaluates the commercial potential of disclosed IP and informs contributors of subsequent steps. Failure to disclose constitutes a violation of University policy. Emory may release or assign ownership of specific IP, with decisions made by the Vice President for Research Administration in consultation with supervisors and OTT. Even when rights are released, Emory retains a perpetual, royalty-free license for research, clinical, and educational use.

Revenue generated through licensing is distributed according to the established formula among Contributors, Departments/Centers, Schools/Units, and the General University. Equity obtained from licensing follows the same framework, with additional requirements for Emory Start-Up involvement, conflict-of-interest compliance, and supervisory approvals. IP developed with external funding must comply with all sponsor requirements and contractual obligations.

Disputes related to inventorship, ownership, or revenue allocation are resolved by the Senior Vice President for Research, with appeals directed to the Executive Vice Presidents.



The use of Emory's name, logo, trademarks, or service marks in any commercial context requires prior approval from University Communications and the Office of the General Counsel.

Noncompliance with the Policy

Possible violations of this policy, include, but are not limited to, failure to disclose IP to OTT, unauthorized commercialization or use; misuse of Emory name, logo or trademarks; misuse of Emory support or resources. Failure to comply with this policy may result in corrective actions, including report to supervisor or unit leadership for disciplinary proceedings, suspension of research activities, loss of funding opportunities, or other institutional actions consistent with Emory policies and applicable regulations.