



OFFICE *of* SPONSORED PROGRAMS
& RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Intellectual Property



AGENDA

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- Inventorship & Core Ownership Rules
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What OSPRA Does

OSPRA manages VSU's intellectual property (IP) and supports the Intellectual Property Committee (IPC). IP covers innovations created with university resources, patents, copyrights, trade secrets, trademarks, and similar rights.

Our Mission:

The role of the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Administration (OSPRA) is to support faculty, staff, and students in the acquisition and administration of externally funded projects and programs, the ethical conduct of research, and the development of internal and exterior research collaborations to advance the mission of Valdosta State University.



Purpose and Objectives

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Administration (OSPRA) **oversees** the management of **intellectual property** and its protection at Valdosta State University. OSPRA collaborates and administratively supports the **Intellectual Property Committee** to better ensure a **partnership** between faculty, staff, and students who are **inventors**.

- Establish clear ownership and protection of IP created with VSU resources and/or under sponsored projects.
- Evaluate sponsor-supported and university-assigned IP and determine appropriate protection, licensing, or commercialization pathways.
- Promote collaboration between inventors and the University, ensuring compliance and enabling research impact.



Brief of VSU IP Policy

Who owns what:

- **Creator-owned:** Independent scholarly or aesthetic works.
- **University-owned:** IP made under a specific assignment, sponsor terms, or with significant university resources.
- **Federally funded:** Under Bayh–Dole, VSU may retain ownership; revenue is shared with inventors.

Disclosure:

Report new IP promptly via the IP Disclosure Form. Items intended for commercialization require IPC review; confidentiality/NDAs may be needed.



What Counts as IP at VSU

- Creative/scholarly works and inventions with commercial potential (patents, copyrights, trade secrets, trademarks, plant variety protection, etc.).
- IP includes innovations conceived or developed using university resources (time, equipment, facilities, supplies, clinical practice).



Inventorship & Core Ownership Rights

Who is an inventor?

A legal determination; U.S. laws state inventors own what they invent or create except when they are employees.

Bayh–Dole:

Universities may retain ownership of IP arising from federally funded research; VSU shares commercialization proceeds with inventors.

Scholarly works:

“Traditional products of scholarly activity” (e.g., articles, textbooks, art, music, traditional course materials) generally remain the author’s property; VSU does not claim ownership rights.



Revenue Sharing

Net revenue = License receipts minus VSU's out-of-pocket protection/licensing costs. Distribution (illustrative, per policy):

- **Sponsor-Supported:** Originator 70%, Dept 5%, College 5%, Faculty Research Fund 10%, Administration 10%.
- **University-Assigned:** Originator 50%, Dept 15%, College 15%, Faculty Research Fund 10%, Administration 10%.
- **University-Assisted:** Originator 60%, Dept 10%, College 10%, Faculty Research Fund 10%, Administration 10%.
- **Individual Effort:** Originator 100%



When to Disclose

Disclose immediately when something new and useful is conceived/developed or when unusual/non-obvious results appear (employees and covered students).

Required steps & signatures:

- 1) Complete the IP Disclosure form immediately.
- 2) Obtain signatures from Developer(s), Department Head, Dean, and IPC Chair.
- 3) Submit to IPC (via OSPRA) before filing patents or publications intended for commercial exploit.



Confidentiality & NDAs (Forms)

- Maintain IP information in confidence; some cases require third-party confidentiality agreements or VSU NDA forms.
- Forms and guidance are available via OSPRA's IP pages: [Intellectual Property Forms - Valdosta State University](#)



IPC: Role & Members

Interprets policy, resolves IP questions/disputes, and advises the Associate Provost for Graduate Studies & Research on patents/IP

Voting (Current members):

Co-Chair Shani Wilfred (Criminal Justice); Co-Chair Justin Arrington (Legal Affairs); Sudip Chakraborty (Computer Science); Luis Gonzalez (Economics/Finance/Healthcare); Meredith Lancaster (Environmental & Occupational Safety); Kathy Nobles (Leadership/Technology/Workforce Development); Brian Williams (Exercise Physiology); Jessica Lee (Electronic Resources Librarian); Lisa Parrish (Restricted Funds Accountant); Susan Boddie (Music).

Ex-Officio (non-voting):

Becky da Cruz (Graduate Studies); Elizabeth W. Olphie (OSPRA); Tina Wright (OSPRA); Juan S. Pire Espitia (Secretary, OSPRA).



Meeting Dates & Contacts

IPC meetings: Held as needed; typically, once each semester (Spring & Fall). Please confirm dates/times with OSPRA.

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Helpful Links

