

# KAIST IP-Minor Program

homepage: <http://ip-minor.kaist.ac.kr>  
Dept. Phone : +82-42-350-4223

## Overview

In meeting the worldwide demand for natural science and engineering majors with knowledge in intellectual property, it has become important to systematically educate KAIST undergraduate students on the subject of intellectual property.

The intellectual property curriculum is a minor program, its educational meaning divided into three parts.

### (1) Value as a minor program for undergraduates

- Intellectual property is one of the key issues in national industrial and economic policy.
- As the industry paradigm transitions from a manufacturing industry to a service and innovation driven knowledge based industry, intellectual property has become the principal issue in all economic areas.
- Particularly, the patent system is one of the key decisive factors in national technological innovation.
- Basic understanding of intellectual property must be provided as a mandatory course for KAIST undergraduate students regardless of their major fields.

### (2) The ability for future professionals in engineering and high-tech management fields to strategically organize intellectual property has become vital.

- In the current period of knowledge information, the relative importance of intellectual property compared to actual products has been growing continuously. In addition, intellectual property is forming entry barriers to the market, and has now begun to even represent a company's competency.
- Because a product's brand attracts customer loyalty, intellectual property has become an important factor in determining market share
- Efforts to attain patents and legal rights have become especially active in recent years.

### (3) Provide pre-educational courses for students who will become professionals in intellectual property

- Due to the recent establishment of law schools in Korea, the systematical entry of engineering students into the legal profession is now possible
- South Korea has become the hub for intellectual property and legal rights dealings
- The changes in the patent system during the 1980s and 1990s caused expansion in the volume of patent applications and a strengthening of the authority of patent rights. As a result, the number of patent dealings and the related cash amounts have grown rapidly.

The new curriculum trains students who take the minor to synthetically and generally learn various kinds of intellectual property, gradually combine theoretical knowledge and real-life applications, and ultimately grow as leaders who can move the global economy with their knowledge of the differing intellectual properties in various world regions.

Furthermore, the students can choose between an IP Management Track and an IP Procurement Track, depending on their future professional field.

Details of the purpose and content of the intellectual property minor program curriculum are as follows.

- The curriculum will offer integrated knowledge in intellectual property laws
  - ◇ Because students will have to protect technology and form maintenance strategies for it in real life by considering the various intellectual properties as a whole, the four core curriculums simultaneously cover patent, copyright, brand, and industry confidentiality issues so that students may compare and analyze the pros and cons of each field.
- The curriculum will offer practical knowledge of as well as the theoretical basis for intellectual property laws.
- The curriculum will offer two tracks – An “IP Procurement track” for future IP professionals and an “IP Management track” for scientists, engineers, and business managers
- The curriculum will offer comparative intellectual property knowledge in different jurisdictions, including the United States and Korea