

# Intellectual Property Minor Program

homepage: <http://ip-minor.kaist.ac.kr>

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## Overview

To meet recent surge of worldwide demand for work forces with science and technology backgrounds and knowledge in intellectual property, it has become important to systematically educate KAIST undergraduate students on the subject of intellectual property. The meaning of intellectual property education in the form of a minor program can be summarized as following:

- Value as an undergraduate minor program
  - Intellectual property is one of the key issues in national industrial and economic policy.
  - As the industry paradigm transitions from manufacturing to service and innovation driven knowledge based structure, intellectual property has become the most valuable asset in all economic areas.
  - Particularly, the patent system is one of the key decisive factors in the agility of national technological innovation.
  - Basic understanding of intellectual property must be provided as a required course for KAIST undergraduate students regardless of their major fields.
- The ability for future professionals in engineering and high-tech management fields to strategically organize intellectual property has become vital.
  - In the age of knowledge information, the relative importance of intellectual properties compared with actual products has been growing continuously. In addition, intellectual properties form a barrier of market entry and thus represents competitiveness of the firm that owns them.
  - Because a product's brand attracts customer loyalty, intellectual property has become an important factor in determining market share
  - Efforts to obtain patents and related rights have become active especially in recent years.
- Provide pre-educational courses for students who desire to grow to be intellectual property experts in the future
  - Owing to the recent establishment of law school system in Korea, it is now possible that the systematic entry of science and technology students into the legal profession.
  - Korea is becoming a hub for transactions of intellectual property and related rights
  - The changes in the patent system during the 1980s and 1990s caused expansion in the volume of patent applications and strengthening of the effectiveness of patents. As a result, number of patent transactions and their trade volume have grown rapidly.