

Transcript for Introduction to Patents Micro-course

Welcome to the Patent Basics micro-course. My name is Dave Bloom, and I'm the Patent & Trademark Resource Center Representative for University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries.

Patents are one of the main forms of intellectual property protection available in the United States and throughout the world. Patents can protect innovative products and processes, ornamental designs, and even plants; however, this protection is part of an exchange.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and other patent-granting entities provide patent-holders the right to exclude others from making and selling an invention only on the condition that applicants disclose their inventions as completely as possible. The designs for these inventions then become public and can be valuable information resources not only for people who may be interested in patenting something of their own, but for inventors, entrepreneurs, and researchers of all kinds.

This micro-course will cover patents as both exclusive rights and information resources. It includes information on:

- What is and is not patentable
- The patent application process
- The parts of a patent document
- Conducting a successful patent search
- Where to find more help

I hope you'll find this information useful in your studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.