

UC Commercialization, Innovation and Startup Activities

The University of California (UC) is an important economic engine for California and the nation, and our federally-funded research is behind the creation of cutting-edge technologies fueling startup companies and the creation of thousands of jobs. Many of California's leading industries grew from commercialization, innovation and startup activities created because of UC research, including biotechnology, computing, semiconductors, telecommunications and agriculture. UC continues to be a leader in the transfer of technology out of the lab and into the community where it creates jobs and benefits the public.

The [UC inventions at a glance dashboard](#) provides details regarding patentable inventions arising from UC research. [Technology incubators and accelerators are located throughout the UC system](#) to assist with the commercialization process.

- UC often has had the highest number of U.S. utility patents issued annually to universities throughout the United States.
- On average 5 new inventions per day are generated by UC researchers.
- Over 1,400 startups have been founded to date based on intellectual property held by UC.
- In 2020, over 1,700 inventions were disclosed by UC researchers. In FY 2020, UC held 11,601 active patents based on research conducted on UC campuses.

Strong Support for Federally Funded Research is Critical

UC urges Congress and the administration to continue making robust investments in competitive research initiatives so that universities can continue to spur innovation and commercialization activities. The role of the federal government in supporting research—across all disciplines—cannot be overstated. Federal funding is the backbone of UC researchers' and graduate students' work -- helping them tackle our nation's greatest challenges and in doing so, helping society and creating jobs. Programs such as the National Science Foundation's (NSF) I-Corps and Convergence Accelerator programs; and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, provide critical support for the commercialization of discoveries. The [Sparking Economic Growth \(SEG\) report](#) released by [The Science Coalition](#) (TSC) highlights the connection between job creation and federal investment by featuring 53 spin-off companies founded between 2015-2019 nationwide-- including 11 from UC campuses – all of whom relied on federally-funded research to get their start.

The Bayh-Dole Act of 1980

In addition to supporting robust federal research funding, UC urges Congress and the administration to preserve the Bayh-Dole Act's critical role in allowing for the commercialization of inventions. By allowing universities and other federal grantees to take title to inventions, through patents and other intellectual property rights, the Bayh-Dole Act helps to ensure that early-stage technologies have a chance of being licensed and taken forward through the commercialization process and into the market.