



A program of Invent Now, Inc.
www.invent.org/collegiate

2012 Invent Now Collegiate Inventors Competition® Student/Advisor Application

SECTION A: Student Information

Prefix: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss

Last Name First Name Middle Initial

Mailing Address

City State Zip Code

Phone number Fax number E-mail address

Mailing address and phone number after **August 1 (if different from above)**

For additional student team members, attach a separate Section A for each team member. Include all names, addresses, phone numbers, and student status.

Your College or University

Institution Name Web site address

College/School Department

Mailing Address

City State Zip Code

Current Academic Status

- Undergraduate Major: _____
 Graduate (specify degree program) ___ Masters ___ Doctoral Postdoctorate Major: _____

Title of Invention (please simplify)

Invention Category Please select the category that best fits your invention.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bandwidth/Connectivity Communications Technologies | <input type="checkbox"/> Materials Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Software/Information Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biomass Technologies | <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Wind/Hydropower Technologies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biotech/Genetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Device or Instrument | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry | <input type="checkbox"/> Nanotechnology | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electronics/Computer Hardware | <input type="checkbox"/> Optics and Photonics | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen, Fuel Cells, and Infrastructure Technologies | <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceuticals/Drug Delivery | |



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How did you hear about the Competition? (check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail from advisor | <input type="checkbox"/> www.invent.org |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail from student colleague | <input type="checkbox"/> Web site or blog (specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail from technology transfer office | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional journal or publication (specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advisor spoke to me about it | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brochure | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saw the poster | |

SECTION B: Student Essay

Follow the instructions below for each section and number all pages.

Part 1 (not to exceed 100 words)

Summary: What is your invention?

Prepare an abstract or summary paragraph which includes the title of your invention, a specific description of what your invention is, and how or what your invention adds to the current technology of your field. Part 1 of the application should appear on a separate page from the rest of your essay. In addition to providing an overview of your invention, the summary paragraph will be used to determine whether any potential conflict of interest exist with the judges who may be assigned to evaluate your submission (i.e., if a judge or judge's company is working on a similar or related project we will not assign your entry to that judge for evaluation). Please only include information that is not confidential in the summary paragraph.

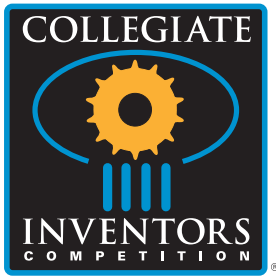
Part 2 (not to exceed 1,500 words)

Background information: Describe your invention.

- Define the problem or need and how your invention/discovery offers the solution.
- Identify the part of your invention that is new.
- How does it work? (It is best to support your claim with evidence and analysis of data.)
- What are the potential economic, environmental, and societal benefits of your solution?
- Identify the roles of the inventors (student(s) and advisor). Whose idea was it, and what did each person contribute?

Supplemental Materials

You may include photos, slides, disks, video, and even samples to help the judges understand your invention and how it works. Four (4) sets are required for judging.



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SECTION C: Patentability/Literature Research

A patentability or literature search is essential in determining originality of the invention idea presented. It will be used by the judges, along with their own research, to help distinguish your invention from other inventions and concepts previously described. A thorough search considers all prior art. That is, it considers all known information relevant to your invention, including earlier United States patents, foreign patents, and non-patent literature (e.g., newspapers, journal articles, published papers, etc.). To obtain more information on conducting a patent search, visit www.uspto.gov or consult your school's technology transfer office. You can view sample searches and find additional resources to guide you in conducting your search at www.invent.org/collegiate/resources.html.

Section C has two requirements:

1.) Submit a summary and analysis of your patentability or literature search and label it as Section C.

The two key questions you must answer in summarizing your patent/literature search are:

- a) What other inventions, methods, discoveries, or processes exist (or have been written about or described) that are similar to your invention? and
- b) How does your invention differ from those other inventions, methods, discoveries, or processes; specifically, what makes your invention different, unique, or an advancement over existing inventions, processes, discoveries, or methods?

2.) Read and sign the statement below.

If a team of students submits, all team members must print and sign their names.

We certify that a patentability or literature search has been completed for this invention.

To the best of our knowledge, we believe this invention to be original work as described in this application.

Student's name (print)

Student's signature

Student's name (print)

Student's signature

Student's name (print)

Student's signature

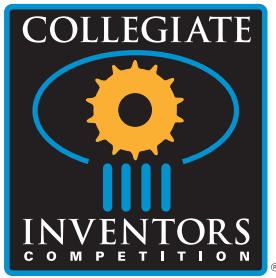
Student's name (print)

Student's signature

Advisor's name (print)

Advisor's signature

Date



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SECTION D: Advisor Information

Prefix: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss

_____		_____	_____
Last Name		First Name	Middle Initial
_____		_____	
Title		Department	

Institution Name			

Mailing Address			
_____		_____	_____
City		State	Zip Code
_____		_____	_____
Phone number		Fax number	E-mail address

SECTION E: Advisor Letter

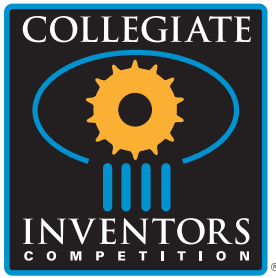
Please respond to the following questions in 500 words or less, using university/college letterhead.

- What was your role in the development of this invention? (Indicate how long you have been working on this topic and how long you have been working on this topic with this particular student or team.)
- What role did the students play in the development of the invention?
- Of what significance is this invention/discovery to existing research or to the current state of the art? (How does it improve upon present technology and why does it deserve to win?)
- What special characteristics or abilities have you noticed in this student or team?

SECTION F: Statement of Student Enrollment Status: *SEE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.*

I certify that the following student(s) are currently or were previously enrolled at the college/university in accordance with the Competition eligibility requirements:

_____	_____
Student's name (print)	Student's signature
_____	_____
Student's name (print)	Student's signature
_____	_____
Student's name (print)	Student's signature
_____	_____
Student's name (print)	Student's signature
_____	_____
Advisor's signature	College or University



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SECTION G: Student/Advisor Release Form

Invent Now, Inc., as the administrator of the Collegiate Inventors Competition, has established procedures to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information submitted by entrants. Nevertheless, it must be recognized that the review and judging process is conducted by volunteers who have no direct affiliation with Invent Now, Inc. The winning submissions may be described in certain publications and as part of publicity efforts in connection with the presentation of the awards. If you have not done so already, we strongly recommend that you begin the patent process. Please visit www.uspto.gov for information on patents and protecting intellectual property. In view of these considerations, each entrant and his or her advisor must read and sign this release.

The undersigned student hereby acknowledges that he or she is voluntarily submitting the invention idea titled

to the administrators of the Collegiate Inventors Competition for award consideration. The undersigned student(s) and the advisor hereby release Invent Now, Inc., its board members, sponsors, and volunteer judges from any and all liability in connection with the use or disclosure of any information contained as part of this submission.

The undersigned further agrees that in the event the submitted invention idea is selected for an award, Invent Now, Inc., shall have the right to use the entrant's name(s), photograph(s), or other likeness and a brief description of the invention idea in publications to the extent it deems appropriate. Notwithstanding this release, no license or rights in the invention idea(s) are granted to Invent Now, Inc., to use said invention(s) commercially or to license or grant any rights to same to any third party.

The undersigned have been advised and understand that in order to obtain patent protection in the United States, the inventor must file a patent application within one year of the date of public disclosure or commercial use of the invention. The undersigned further understands that in order to obtain patent protection in most foreign countries a patent application must be filed prior to any publication or commercial use.

Student's name (print)

Student's signature

Student's name (print)

Student's signature

Student's name (print)

Student's signature

Student's name (print)

Student's signature

Advisor's name (print)

Advisor's signature

Parent/Guardian signature (if student is not 18 or over)

Date



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Congratulations! You are preparing to enter the premier invention awards program for college students. We look forward to receiving your application.

These tips and guidelines will help you in the application process. If you have any questions about patents or intellectual property rights, consult your advisor or your school's technology transfer office. You can also find information on patents and protecting intellectual property at www.uspto.gov.

Please read through the complete application package before you begin. **Send four (4) copies of your completed application form. Four (4) copies of any supplementary material, including slides, photos, or video should accompany the application.** Staple or hinge-clip each application packet. **DO NOT** assemble it in any permanent type of binding. **Applications must be postmarked by June 15, 2012.** Late entries or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

Tips for Preparing Entries

The following suggestions may help you in preparing your entry. Although they will not guarantee a winning entry, they are traits consistently found in the past winning applications:

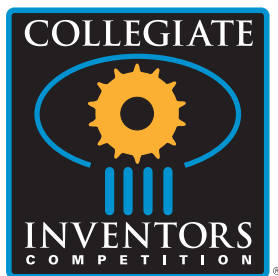
- **PRINTED** in a legible font, 10 pt. or higher, with pages numbered and stapled together (not permanently bound).
- **CLEAR** and to the point. What is your invention? It is important to articulate what the invention is and why it is an invention, as well as how it advances current technology. After writing your submission, consider asking a colleague to read it for clarity. It may also help to have someone review your application who is not familiar with your work. Spelling and grammatical errors may adversely affect how your entry is judged.
- **CONCISE.** The more concise the better. Avoid jargon. Superfluous material (e.g., research papers done on another subject matter that are submitted as appendices) detracts from a strong entry. In order to get maximum scoring points, **be sure your essay covers all requested information.**
- **COMPLETE.** A Checklist is included for your convenience.
- **CONVINCING.** It is up to you to convince the judges your entry is the best of many high quality submissions. Although the judges are experienced researchers, they may not be familiar with your particular project or specialty. Describe your work in the most positive, comprehensive manner, understandable to a scientifically literate person (e.g., in the style of articles found in *Scientific American* or *Nature* publications).

Your entry must include:

- **A SUMMARY OF CURRENT LITERATURE AND YOUR PATENT SEARCH.** This information is essential because it helps the judges to distinguish your invention idea from other inventions and concepts previously described. A high percentage of the total scoring points are awarded for the originality of the invention idea so be sure to answer the following questions in your summary: 1) What other inventions or processes exist that are related to or similar to your invention idea? and 2) How does your invention differ from existing inventions, discoveries, or processes; that is, what makes your invention unique, different, or an advance in the current state of the art?
- **TEST DATA.** Your test data and analysis should demonstrate your concept, invention, or design works.
- **IMPACT STATEMENT.** The environmental, societal, and economic impact or benefits of your invention idea are important considerations in the judging process.

Your entry should include:

- **SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS** to help the judges better understand what your invention really is and how it works. These supplements can be (but are not limited to) photos, slides, disks, video, and even samples. Four (4) sets of supplemental material should accompany your application, and must be clearly labeled with your name and the title of the invention on each item. Do not send prototypes. *Applications and supplemental material will not be returned unless specifically requested.*



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Program Objectives

The Collegiate Inventors Competition is a competition designed to encourage, recognize and reward college and university students active in science, engineering, mathematics, technology, and creative invention. The program shines the spotlight on deserving researchers and innovators at the start of their careers in an effort to provide support and inspiration to those who have tremendous potential to make the world healthier, the economy stronger, and the planet safer. The competition recognizes individuals whose research, discoveries, and inventions are original and have the potential to receive patent protection. The program also fosters the working and mentor relationships between a student(s) and his or her faculty advisor and seeks to stimulate public interest in technology and innovation.

The Collegiate Inventors Competition was introduced in 1990.

Sponsors

The Collegiate Inventors Competition is a program of **Invent Now, Inc.** Presenting sponsors of the program include the **United States Patent and Trademark Office**, the **Kauffman Foundation** and the **Abbott Fund**.

Eligibility

Students must be enrolled, or have been enrolled, full-time (in any college or university in the United States or Canada) at least part of the 12-month period prior to the date the entry is submitted. In the case of a team, at least one member of the team must meet the full-time eligibility criteria. The other team members must have been enrolled, at a minimum, on a part-time basis sometime during the 24-month period prior to the date the entry is submitted.

Requirements

The invention, a reduced-to-practice idea or working prototype, must be the work of a student or team of students with a university advisor. If it is a machine, it must be operable. If it is a chemical process, it must be complete with evidence of successful application of the idea. If it is a new plant, color photographs or slides must be included in the submission. If a new or original ornamental design for an article of manufacture is submitted, the entire design must be included in the application. In addition, the invention must be capable of being reproduced. The entry must be submitted in English. The invention must not have been 1) made available to the public as a commercial product or process, 2) described in extensive detail in a publication more than one year prior to the date of submission, or 3) issued a patent more than one year prior to the date of submission. *On rare occasions exceptions may be made to allow the submission of significant recent improvements to matter patented or published more than one year prior to submission of the application.*

Do not send your invention. Finalists will be notified by telephone and given instructions for sending any necessary documentation.



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Deadlines

The application and supporting materials must be **postmarked by June 15, 2012** to:

Invent Now Collegiate Inventors Competition
3701 Highland Park, NW
North Canton, OH 44720-4535

Questions?

Check the Frequently Asked Questions section of www.invent.org/collegiate.
If you do not find an answer to your question send an email to collegiate@invent.org
or call **330.849.6887** or **800.968.4332, option 5**.

Judging

Three first round judges review each entry submitted to the Invent Now Collegiate Inventors Competition. These judges are experts in the fields of mathematics, engineering, biology, chemistry, physics, materials science, computer science, medicine, pharmacology, nanotechnology, and various other disciplines related to invention and technology development. To ensure blind scoring, the judges do not meet or collaborate with each other in scoring their entries. Their collective scores and rankings along with data collected by an independent researcher are used by Invent Now, Inc., to determine the finalists.

The final judging panel consists of inductees to the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Special guest judges selected by the presenting sponsors, the Abbott Fund, the Kauffman Foundation and the United States Patent and Trademark Office, also participate in the final phase of judging. All finalists meet individually with the final judging panel for formal presentation of their inventions. Students entertain questions from the panel. After all the finalists have made their presentations, the panel deliberates and selects the winners. The judges' decision are final.

Prizes

Students compete in two separate divisions, Graduate and Undergraduate. The top Graduate prize is \$15,000 and the top Undergraduate prize is \$12,500. Second and third place prizes will be awarded in each division as will prizes to the winning students' advisors. Competition finalists will win an expenses-paid trip to the final judging round and awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. in November 2012.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: JUNE 15, 2012



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Checklist for Entries 2012 Student/Advisor Application (by section)

A. Student Information

- College/University information
- Current Academic Status
- Title of Invention (simplified)
- Invention Category

B. Student Essay (please number all pages)

Part 1: Summary (on separate page)

- 100-word description of invention (including title of invention)

Part 2: Background information (1,500 words)

- Problem/need and solution
- What is new about your invention
- Description of how it works
- Impact of invention (economic, environmental, and societal)
- Roles of student(s) and advisor

Supplemental Materials

- Photographs/slides/illustrations/videos, etc. if needed to show or demonstrate that (or how) the invention works

C. Patentability/Literature Research

- Summary of Patent/Literature Search attached and labeled as Section C.
- Signatures of student(s) and advisor(s) verifying that a patent/literature search has been completed.

D. Advisor Information

E. Advisor Letter (500 words max. – must be on university letterhead)

- Advisor's role in invention must be clearly stated
- Student's role in invention must be clearly stated
- Significance of the invention
- Special characteristics of student(s)

F. Statement of Student Enrollment Status

- Advisor's signature

G. Student/Advisor Release Form

- Title of invention
- Signatures of student(s) and advisor(s) and date
- Parent/guardian signature (if under 18)

Mailing Package: *All entries must be postmarked by June 15, 2012*

- Send four (4) copies of your application
- Send four (4) copies of any supplemental materials clearly labeled

Send to: **Invent Now Collegiate Inventors Competition**
3701 Highland Park, NW
North Canton, OH 44720-4535