

Careers

Scientific Advisors/Patent Agents

The Vorys Scientific Advisor and Patent Agent (SAPA) Initiative identifies talented candidates and provides them with an introduction to and training for becoming a scientific advisor or patent agent.

Participants are typically students, preferably in advanced degree programs, who have recently graduated or are expected to graduate soon (six months to two years).

Examples of SAPA candidate degrees include:

- Chemistry
- Chemical Engineering
- Petroleum Engineering
- Materials Science
- Textile Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Geological Engineering
- Marine Technology
- Aerospace Engineering
- Software Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Computer Science
- Environmental Engineering
- Biology & Biochemistry
- Biomedical Engineering
- Molecular Biology
- Genetics
- Computer Engineering

Explore

Our **SAPA Career Webinar** provides a brief overview of intellectual property law and patents, with focus upon SAPA careers. After a brief introduction to the patenting process, we will discuss the roles SAPAs play within the patenting process and introduce sample prosecution activities appropriate for all technical backgrounds.

Experience

Our **SAPA Career Deep-Dive Workshop** provides an introduction to intellectual property (IP) as well in-depth instruction in the patent prosecution process. More specifically, the Deep-Dive Workshop consists of three, half-day sessions covering topics including an introduction to intellectual property (IP) careers, an overview of the patenting process, parts of a patent and a brief introduction to patent law. The Deep-Dive Workshop emphasizes some of the writing requirements and deductive reasoning skills utilized in a patent agent's day-to-day patent practice and included prosecution case studies. A Certificate of Completion is available to those who complete the independent project.

"The patent prosecution process was well explained. Personally I feel more confident to explore the SAPA career path." - Participant, Deep-Dive Workshop

Engage

The **SAPA Internship Program** is a paid, six-week internship that will run from June 1, 2026 through July 10, 2026. Candidates will receive more involved training about patent prosecution and the opportunity to interact at social events with Vorys' patent group. The syllabus will include topics such as the patenting process, claim terminology and scope, novelty and obviousness requirements, 112 requirements, reading and understanding of office actions and cited art and office action response drafting. Participants will also receive training in claim and application drafting.

"An in-depth crash course on intellectual property and the day-to-day of a patent agent, filled with fun social events, wonderful people, and meaningful hands-on experiences with real work. The best experience that anyone with an interest in IP or the career of a SAPA could have." - Tim Petrosius, former SAPA Intern and current Vorys Patent Agent

"The SAPA program is a fantastic introduction to the world of patent law. Participants gain experience working with real matters from real clients, get instruction and feedback from seasoned professionals, and are welcomed into the supportive Vorys community." - Hannah Wendlandt, former SAPA Intern and current Vorys Scientific Advisor

"With close mentorship from former academics that know how to ease you into a law firm setting, the SAPA Internship is an excellent primer for those looking to experience the real-life workflow of patent professionals." - Meron Ghidry, former SAPA Intern and current Vorys Patent Agent

How to Apply

The application for the 2026 Vorys SAPA Internship Program will open on November 24, 2025 via the link below. To apply please submit a cover letter, resume, transcript and an individually produced writing sample no longer than 10 typewritten pages long. To learn more about the program, please email sapa@vorys.com.

Upcoming Events

Webinar: Introduction to Intellectual Property Careers Without Having to Go to Law School

Tom Thrash, patent agent in the Vorys Houston office, will host a webinar on November 10, 2025, providing a brief overview of intellectual property law and patents, with a focus on patent agent and scientific advisor (SAPA) careers. After a brief introduction to the patenting process, Tom will discuss the responsibilities of SAPAs within the patenting process. He will present paths to becoming a SAPA, including additional programming available through Vorys for those interested in SAPA careers.

Virtual Workshop: Patent Agent and Scientific Advisor Career Deep-Dive

Annually, Tom Thrash, patent agent in the Vorys Houston office, will host a 4-day, interactive workshop providing an overview of intellectual property law and the patenting process, with focus on patent agent and scientific advisor (SAPA) careers. Participants will receive an introduction to IP careers, a brief introduction to patent law, and an overview of the patenting process. Participation in this workshop is by application only. Participants will garner a more in-depth understanding of the day-to-day duties and the deductive reasoning skills needed for a SAPA career.

The Patent Agent and Scientific Advisor Career Deep-Dive Workshop will take place January 6-9, 2026. To apply for the workshop, please send a resume and cover letter to sapa@vorys.com. The deadline to apply is December 29, 2025.