America's innovation agency: Virtually no place better to work

A patent examiner is a federal employee who examines patent applications to determine whether or not a patent can be granted for new, cutting edge inventions. Your expertise can help to bring innovation to life. As an examiner, you will focus on analyzing advanced, complex concepts that ultimately protect American **intellectual property (IP)** and breakthrough inventions. Join us, and find out for yourself why the USPTO remains one of the best places to work in the federal government year after year.

Here are some steps you can take right now to position yourself for a future career as a patent examiner.

Put your hard work to work

You worked hard to earn a specialized STEM degree. Now use it for a mission-focused career that protects American innovation.

A mission-focused mindset

As you pursue your STEM degree, get involved as an extern at the USPTO, attend a recruitment event, follow us on social media, and check out our USPTO Jobs page. Also, consider boosting your writing/communications skills.

Grow your professional skills

Your STEM background will help you investigate inventions and determine if they should receive patents. Through challenging work, your technical skills can grow.

Bring innovation to life

By granting patents as an examiner, you'll help businesses quickly move their innovations to market, which will create new jobs and expand commerce.

Impact lives and the economy

Many patents, like those in the health sector, can positively impact lives. You'll end your work day knowing that the patents you grant positively impact the U.S. economy.

Enjoy work-life balance and career satisfaction

Why choose anything less than a fulfilling job?

Do work that you are passionate about in a culture of camaraderie, diversity, inclusion, and community.

Compensation

Most patent examiners start with the USPTO as a GS-7 or GS-9.

Basic qualifications

To apply, you must be a U.S. citizen and also possess a minimum of a bachelor's degree in engineering or science.

Promotion potential–your career, your way

You will have a well-defined career path that gives you specific milestones to reach for while advancing throughout your career. Patent examiners, based on their achievements, are noncompetitively promotable up to the GS-13 level!

Your career as a patent examiner is just a click away. Apply now on USAJobs.gov.

USPTO offices: Alexandria, VA | Dallas, TX | Denver, CO | Detroit, MI | San Jose, CA

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