The INVO Practicum is an unpaid 6-month internship program open to all Northwestern students and senior scientists who are interested in learning about the university technology transfer process. The interns are exposed to vast areas of innovation and gains hands-on experience in evaluating technologies for patentability, marketability and commercialization readiness. They are expected to manage the analysis of multiple technologies that fall in and outside of their wheelhouse and to communicate their findings with INVO staff and faculty inventors. Since 2015, the Practicum has trained and mentored over 37 graduate students, postdocs and research professors from McCormick School of Engineering, Feinberg School of Medicine, Weinberg School of Arts and Sciences and Pritzker School of Law. They bring a sophisticated level and breadth of scientific knowledge ranging from basic and synthetic biology, bioengineering, medicinal chemistry to computational chemistry, civil engineering and materials science engineering. Subsequent to their internships, they have been placed in university technology transfer offices, IP law firms, consulting firms and industry.

EXAMPLES OF TRAINING TOPICS

- Basics on Invention Disclosures
- Essentials of Patenting & the Prior Art Searches
- Impact of Patentability Assessment on INVO
- Technology Valuation
- Marketing Strategy
- Understanding Medical Device Regulatory Path
- Mapping the Therapeutic Development Process
- Evaluating Commercial Readiness of a Technology
- TTO Agreement Types
- Developing Negotiations Skills
- Leadership & Team Building
- In-depth Training of Resources and Digital Platforms

INVO’s mission is to catalyze the translation of Northwestern innovations to benefit the public and promote economic growth. INVO’s goal is to commercialize innovations that create impact and foster an entrepreneurial community at Northwestern.