

Stakeholder: Law Firms

Roles BME students take in their organizations?

Job Title	Description
Scientific Advisor	Position stands between technologists/scientists/medical professionals on the one hand and the attorneys that represent them. They are something of a translator between the technical jargon of the engineer and the legalese of the lawyer.
Patent Agent	Directly responsible for the drafting, prosecution, and litigation of patents and associated IP.
Attorney	Represent the legal needs of clients typically intellectual property (patents and innovation, post-grant review, trademark and copyright, technology transactions), but can extend into other practices as well such as corporate law (mergers and acquisitions, broker-dealer, company representation), litigation (trial, patent, trade secret) and regulatory and compliance.

What technical skills do they look for in BME students?

Job Title	Skill	Expectation Level			
		Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior (and above)
Scientific Advisor		N/A	N/A	N/A	Demonstrated competence of specific subset of science/engineering/law seen through either the publication of papers, leadership roles in organizations and the ability to generally understand a variety of scientific endeavors – often assessed through phone and on-site interviews on real and hypothetical situations
Patent Agent		N/A	N/A	N/A	Everything a scientific advisor does with the addition of passing the patent bar exam
Attorney		N/A	N/A	N/A	Everything a patent agent does with a law degree and having passed the state bar exam, should also have a demonstrated ability to work with and retain clients and preferably the ability to bring on new clients

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What soft skills do they look for in BME students?

Soft Skill	Description
Ability to explain situation	Since they deal with lots of clients with advanced scientific/medical ideas and technologies, and because attorneys aren't necessarily well versed in the science and medicine, the BME student would need to be able to quickly and concisely explain concepts to attorneys and perhaps do so repeatedly and in myriad ways.
Attention to detail	Because a lot of their work deals with painstaking attention to detail, they ought to be able to catch typos quickly (he remarks that one of the quickest ways to get your application rejected is to misspell anything at anytime during the application process), note how dozens of parts all interact, etc.
Creativity in an uncreative world	Patents aren't necessarily the most exciting things to write or read but they do matter a lot to the people paying for them and to those that are trying to get over them. The more creative you can be in describing some new technology to carve out to realms in the intellectual landscape, the better. For instance, one of their stock interview questions is "draft a set of claims for a paper clip" which is tricky for two reasons: first, how the heck do you describe a paperclip in patentese and second, how do you do so in a way that gets over everyone else's patents and provides the coverage the client may need to bring their product to market? If you can do that, you can become an asset.