

STANDARD CRITERIA FOR A PATENT

If you believe you have a patent-eligible invention, you'll need to meet three criteria to get a patent:

NOVELTY

Your invention must never have been previously patented, described in a patent application, written about, disclosed to the public or offered for sale anywhere in the world.

UTILITY

This simply means that your invention must function as intended. For example, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office used to deny patents to hair re-growing products because they didn't work

NON-OBVIOUSNESS

Say you invent a wheeled cart to move supplies. If this is the first such cart in history, you can get a patent for it. If you then decide to put those wheels on a chair, you won't get a patent for it. This is because combining two widely-known elements would be obvious to anyone skilled in the art of furniture design.

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