

Delaware's Innovation Economy

The Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 enables universities to retain intellectual property rights to discoveries made with federal funding, spurring an explosion of innovation in the life sciences.

Academic technology transfer contributed **\$1.9 trillion** to U.S. industrial output from 1996-2020. The benefits of this innovation often stay local — **68% of university-licensed life science startups** remain within 60 miles of their founding university.

The Life Sciences Sector in DE¹



\$2.8B
total economic impact



8,597
jobs supported statewide



2nd nationally
in share of economy dedicated to pharmaceutical manufacturing



\$238M+
in state vendor spending

Delaware Universities - By The Numbers²



\$2.1B
in federal research investment



1,000
invention disclosures



198
patents issued



48
start-ups launched



99
IP licenses

What's at Stake

Misguided policies like **Most Favored Nation (MFN) policy** threaten to import foreign price controls that would undermine innovation in Delaware and risk **dismantling** the ecosystem that produces life-saving treatments.



¹ The Bayh-Dole Act's Role in Stimulating University-Led Regional Economic Growth, June 16, 2025; We Work For Health, [In the States](#)

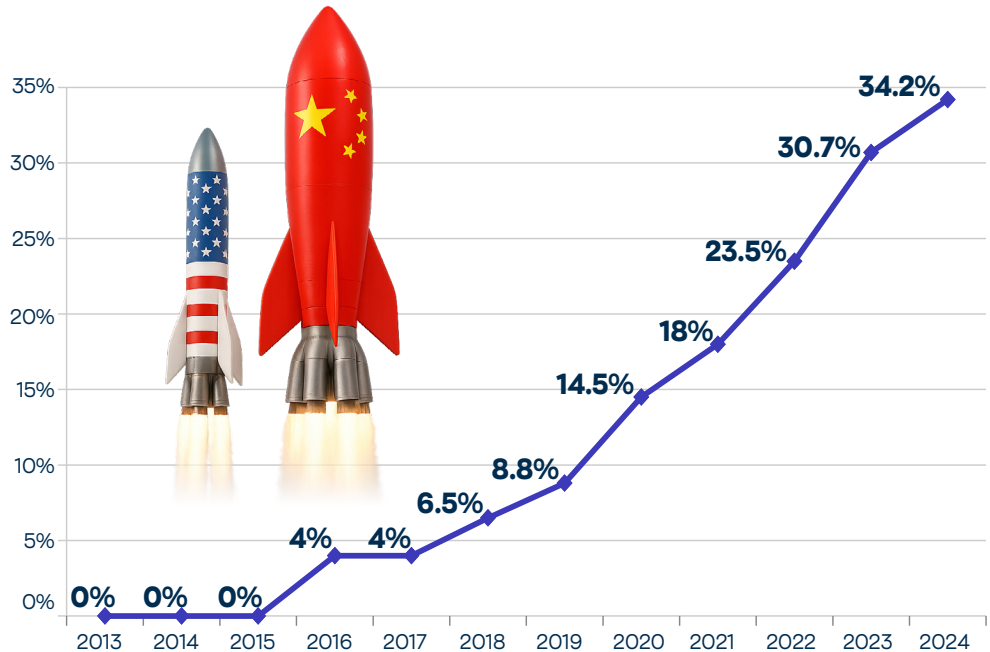
² The Bayh-Dole Act's Role in Stimulating University-Led Regional Economic Growth, June 16, 2025

China on the Rise³

China recently surpassed the U.S. in the annual number of clinical trials, the latest sign of it closing in on America's leadership in the life sciences.

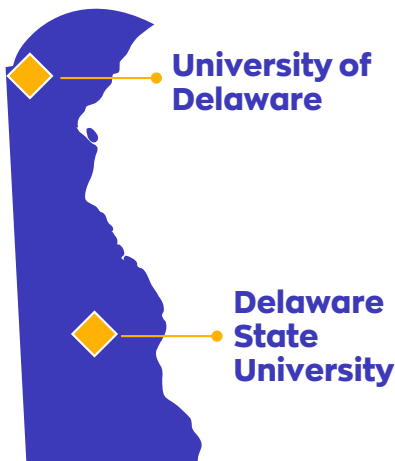
In 2014, **no China universities** were in the top 100 of the Academic Ranking of World Universities. The country had **13 such schools** last year — 34.2% of the United States' total (38).

Number of top 100 universities in China relative to the United States



Delaware's innovation leadership depends on smart policy choices that make university-industry collaboration possible.

Anchor Universities Driving Growth



³ China Surpasses US for Annual Number of Clinical Trials, Feb. 12, 2025;
China is Rapidly Becoming a Leading Innovator in Advanced Industries, Sept. 2024