

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Independent study is a method of self-development and personal growth. It involves choosing a problem or topic that has particular meaning for the individual and following it to a point where it satisfies his/her curiosity or need at the time. Independent study may be independent of all course work in which a student is enrolled, or may be within a course under the direction of that teacher.

Purposes

- To enrich the curriculum for the more highly motivated, independent, and self-reliant student.
- To encourage students to pursue a self-directed, self-initiated intellectual inquiry.
- To give students the opportunity to develop good independent study habits and to learn to discipline their own time, a need expressed frequently by our graduates in college.
- To provide an opportunity to study an established subject to a level beyond the existing curriculum or to study an area not presently included in our course offerings. (Courses offered in the curriculum cannot be taken on an independent study basis.)

Eligibility and Selection of Students

- Independent Study courses may only be added to a student's schedule during the first three days of each semester.
- Only juniors and seniors will be eligible for directed independent study.
- Students who have shown unusual interest in their subject of study in the regular school program will be eligible.
- A student will not pursue more than one directed independent study project at one time, or two per year.
- Independent study courses can be applied toward the 300-minute supervision requirement and toward an academic waiver.

Student Responsibilities

1. Prepare a proposal for independent study including:
 - A statement of purpose with clearly defined goals.
 - An outline of the material to be read, experiment to be conducted, creative task to be undertaken, or appropriate description of study to be pursued.
 - A schedule showing time to be devoted and dates for completion (must be completed no later than the end of the semester—one semester minimum).
 - A list of library resources needed or the equipment and facilities required.
 - Criteria for evaluation.
2. Pursue this study with a maximum of self-motivation and independence, minimum of assistance, or supervision from a faculty member.
3. Plan, schedule, and report all activities carried out in connection with the directed independent study program.
4. Solicit the help of a teacher-advisor to supervise the study.
5. Be scheduled into a full-period course with the teacher advisor and attend the course every day.

Grading

Grading of directed independent study projects completed successfully shall be "Pass". Projects not completed shall receive no grade nor will any record be maintained.

Procedures to Receive an Independent Study Project

- Receive forms for the independent study project in the divisional chairperson's office.
- Receive all six approvals of the proposed project.
- Complete application and approval within the first ten days of the semester in which it is taken.

Final approval will be determined by the AP of Teaching & Learning.

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NAME _____ ID NUMBER _____ GRADE _____

COUNSELOR NAME _____ DIVISION _____

TEACHER ADVISOR NAME _____

TOPIC _____

PROPOSAL DATE: _____ Must be submitted and approved within 10 days of semester

COMPLETION DATE: _____ Must be completed no later than the end of the semester
(One semester minimum))

PROJECT PROPOSED:

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT IN OUTLINE FORM: Include material to be read, tasks undertaken, and experiments conducted.

TIMELINE: Dates when various parts of work are to be completed (at least four deadlines). Final deadline should coincide with the end of the semester. It cannot extend beyond the end of the semester.

Deadline 1

Deadline 2

Deadline 3

Deadline 4

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MATERIALS TO BE USED: Bibliography, types of research, films, artifacts, etc.

CRITERIA OF EVALUATION: Pass/Fail only

Please state the number of hours per week that you plan to commit to the project _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

TEACHER ADVISOR SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

COUNSELOR SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

DIVISION DIRECTOR SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

AP of TEACHING & LEARNING SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

The AP of Teaching and Learning returns this form to the counselor when completed.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Processed on _____ **Initials** _____

Original: Counselor

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