

Definition and description: Independent Study provides the student with the opportunity to work with a faculty advisor on a specific topic or issue of interest that might not otherwise be available in a structured course. Independent study courses are typically not available to students until they have completed the foundation curriculum. Independent study course can be used towards the degree as an elective.

To plan an Independent Study, a one page proposal that includes the following information should be submitted to the department:

1. Statement of purpose – what do you plan to study and why
2. Specific learning objectives you will pursue
3. List of specific texts or other readings you will complete
4. Identify the outcome or product – e.g., data analysis and summary, a video summary, a journal publication, etc.
5. Identify the grading or evaluation criteria for the project (i.e., how will your grade be determined? what percentage will come from the final product, from meetings with the faculty, from other sources/project objectives?)
6. Indicate how often you and the faculty advisor and/or graduate student mentor plan to meet over the course of the Independent Study.