
INDEPENDENT STUDY/DIRECTED RESEARCH

PURPOSE: To provide students the opportunity to exhibit scholarly competencies on an independent basis. Independent Study and Directed Research allows the student to explore in depth a specific aspect of a discipline or professional field.

I. Availability

Independent Study (496) is available to all upper-division students and to lower-division Honors Program students (as 188). Directed Research (596) is available to graduate students.

II. Restriction

An Independent Study cannot be substituted for any departmental course requirement without prior approval of the department chair and the dean of the college offering the Independent Study.

III. Departmental Authorization

Any department of the University which fields a baccalaureate degree or graduate program is authorized to offer Independent Study/Directed Research credit.

IV. Maximum Credit Allowed

Lower-division students who have been accepted into the Honors Program are eligible for one to three credits of Honors Independent Study per semester. Credits may not exceed three per semester or six in an academic year.

Upper-division students are eligible for one to four credits of Independent Study in one semester. Independent Study may be repeated for a maximum of nine credits towards graduation with no more than six in an academic year.

Graduate students may have Directed Research as part of their program at the discretion of the graduate student's supervising committee or professor. Directed Research may be repeated for a maximum of nine credits toward the degree with no more than six credits in any one semester. Only three credits of Directed Research and/or Internship may be applied to the MBA degree requirements.

V. Independent Study Identification

- 188 Honors Independent Study -- 1 - 3 credits
- 496 Independent Study -- 1 - 4 credits
- 596 Directed Research -- 1 - 6 credits

The letter prefix attached to the number representing a level of Independent Study must identify the discipline in which the study is being done and be consistent with the course designation code listed in the Boise State University Catalog. For example, an Independent Study in History would be designated HY 497 - 3 credits.

VI. Procedures of Application

Students are expected to take the initiative in developing their Independent Study plans. Applications will be accepted by the Registrar's Office up to the last day to add classes in the semester for which credit is desired. The approval procedure is as follows:

- A. Pick up the "Request for Independent Study/Directed Research" form at the department office;
- B. Contact advisor who will counsel the student with respect to the advisability of applying for the Independent Study.

If the advisor gives approval, the advisor will assist the student in identifying the area in which the study will take place;

- C. Following this identification, the student will complete the "Application for Independent Study" form which in part contains a concise description of the study and the basic objective of the study. The form is then approved and signed by the advisor;
- D. With the assistance of the advisor, the student contacts the appropriate professor and requests permission that the professor accept an Independent Study student. If the professor agrees, s/he gives approval by signing the form;
- E. The application is then approved by the department chairperson. "Directed Research" forms must be submitted to the Graduate Dean for final approval;
- F. The student is responsible for providing the department chairperson, the supervising professor and the advisor with a copy of the approved form;
- G. The student keeps one copy and submits the completed original to the Registrar's Office; and
- H. Once registration is completed and classes begin, it is the responsibility of the student to make an appointment with the supervising professor and proceed with the study.

VII. Student Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the student to initiate, conduct and complete the Independent Study/Directed Research. Definition of the phrase "Independent Study" means that the student proceeds independently with only periodic checks with the supervising professor. The purpose of the periodic contact between the student and professor is to insure student progress is satisfactory. At the end of the semester or session, the student submits to the professor the completed study. Grades will be based on the quality and scholarship of the completed work and will be determined by the professor who directed the study.