HONORS INDEPENDENT STUDY GUIDELINES

Please note: the deadline for the submission of an independent study is the drop/add deadline for the term. Late applications will be considered only in special circumstances.

Honors students are encouraged to explore possibility for independent study with their instructors. Students are reminded, however, that independent study should not simply duplicate work available in regular undergraduate courses. Independent study is reserved for serious academic work.

Procedure: Students should first consult with a faculty member to discuss an independent study proposal. Having discussed a preliminary proposal with a professor, the student should complete the Honors Independent Study Authorization Form for the professor’s co-signature. The form must be submitted to the Honors office for approval. If approved, an override will be given to the student to register for the course.

Honors independent study is available under several course numbers:

**Honors 290** - Primarily for directed readings at an introductory level. In general, such courses should include reading on a significant topic and regular discussion with the faculty member regarding the work. Writing would most likely be focused on a consideration of the literature, or the issues raised for potential study, rather than on detailed research on the field.

**Honors 291, 292** – Designed for students learning research and laboratory techniques under close supervision of a faculty member.

**Honors 390** – Intended for those engaged in study of some topic at an intermediate level. Such study might include a detailed investigation of primary sources, development of new procedures or programs, or perhaps the investigation of new problems in the laboratory. Generally the project would include a term paper or some other type of report to bring together and evaluate the original work which is done.

**Honors 490** – Intended for those engaged in original research at an advanced level. This course is most frequently used for Senior Honors Thesis research.

**Credit for independent study**: Each of the above courses may be elected for between one and four credits, following these general guidelines:

3-5 hours a week of serious academic work (e.g. reading, discussion with a faculty member, writing) earns one semester hour credit. For reading courses, roughly 3-4 books would be appropriate per credit hour.

4 hours of laboratory work per week generally earns one semester hour credit.
HONORS INDEPENDENT STUDY AUTHORIZATION

Name: ________________________________  ID#: __________________________

Local Addresses: ________________________________  Phone#: __________________________

Email Address: ________________________________

Class Standing: FR  SO  JR  SR

Total Credit Hours So Far: _________

Term of Enrollment

Fall
Winter
Spring
Spring/Summer
Summer

Course Number (circle one): 290  291  292  390  490

Credit Hours requested: 1  2  3  4

List any independent study coursework you have already completed. Provide the course numbers, hours, and terms taken.

Honors Office Use Only:  Approved  Section Number: ____________

Denied

Honors Academic Board Representative: ________________________  Date: ________________

Processed on: ___________________________
FOR THE STUDENT

Topic of Study: _______________________________________________________

Please provide a description of the course objectives and activities. What is the overall project and what is your place in this project, i.e., what are your specific responsibilities? Please attach additional sheets as necessary.

Readings/bibliography:

Method of evaluation (e.g. papers, tests, oral quiz, discussions, research results, thesis). Please remember that Honors 390 generally results in a term paper or project and Honors 490 is the appropriate number for senior thesis research.
FOR THE FACULTY SPONSOR

Please remember that an Honors Independent Study is intended for research work which goes beyond carrying out clearly specified tasks and which requires some decision-making on the part of the student.

This is to certify that I have discussed this Honors Independent Study course with the above named student and I have agreed to the course arrangements outlined.

____________________________________
Faculty Sponsor (please print)          Signature

____________________________________
Sponsor’s UMID#                        Sponsor’s uniqname
(required for processing)              (or preferred e-mail address)

____________________________________
Department                              Campus Address

____________________________________
Date