REQUESTS FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY
Trinity College of Arts & Sciences

Independent study enables a student to pursue for course credit individual interests under the supervision of a faculty member. Independent study is of two types: Independent Study (non-research) and Research Independent Study. Courses entitled Independent Study are individual non-research directed study in a field of special interest on a previously approved topic taken under the supervision of a faculty member and resulting in an academic and/or artistic product. Such independent study courses do not bear a Research (R) code and do not satisfy any general education requirements.

Courses entitled Research Independent Study are individual research in a field of special interest under the supervision of a faculty member, the central goal of which is a substantive paper or written report containing significant analysis and interpretation of a previously approved topic. Such research independent study courses bear a Research (R) code and satisfy general education Research requirements. One research independent study may be submitted and approved for a Writing (W) code in addition to the R code designation, but no other curriculum code designations are permitted for research independent study courses. Students who wish to request a W code for one research independent study course must take the appropriate form to 02 Allen Building by the end of the semester they are enrolled in the course. The request form is available at http://trinity.duke.edu/academicrequirements?p=independent-study-research-w-coding.

Policies:
The following policies apply to both types of independent study:

1. Approval—The independent study must be approved by the instructor(s) involved as well as by the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the relevant department or program.
2. Faculty appointment—The instructor of record (supervising faculty member) must hold a faculty appointment at Duke within the department or program sponsoring the independent study and is responsible for submitting the final grade according to the academic standards, policies, and procedures pertaining to undergraduate students in Trinity College of Arts & Sciences.
3. Course Content / Quality—The independent study must provide a rigorous academic experience equivalent to that of any other undergraduate Duke course. Independent study courses may not duplicate available course offerings in the semester or summer term in which the independent study is being taken, nor may independent study be used simply to provide low-level support for other projects or to observe or shadow the work of others.
4. Meeting schedule—In addition to the individual effort of the student, which normally entails ~10 hours per week, the student will meet with the supervising faculty member of the independent study at least once every two weeks during the fall or spring semester (at least once a week during the summer).
5. Final product—The student will produce a final academic and/or artistic product to be completed during the semester for which the student is registered for the course.
6. Grading—The supervising faculty member will evaluate the work, including the final product, associated with the independent study, and submit a grade by the end of the semester.

Procedures:
1. Students wishing to register for an independent study or research independent study must first make arrangements with a faculty member having expertise in the desired area. The student and faculty member should agree on the course title, plan of study, objectives and expectations, as well as on the nature of the final product and evaluation criteria.
2. The student submits the Independent Study Permission Form (attached here) to the Director of Undergraduate Studies for final approval before the end of the drop/add period of the term in which the independent study is to be taken. If approved, the student will receive a permission number to register for the course.

For policies and procedures related to independent study in Study Abroad programs, see Duke Abroad Handbook.
INDEPENDENT STUDY PERMISSION FORM
Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies: Trinity College of Arts & Sciences

To the student: Please read the attached policies and procedures, and consult with your supervising faculty member about course title, description, requirements and expectations. This form must be approved and signed by the supervising faculty member and submitted to the Director of Undergraduate Studies before the end of the drop/add period.

Student Name: __________________________ Date __________________________
Email: __________________________ Student ID (not unique ID) __________________________
Graduation Date: __________________________ Undeclared: __________________________
Major(s)/Minor(s)/Certificate(s) __________________________
Course Subject / Number: __________(Independent Study) or__________ (Research Independent Study)
Term / Year __________________________
Title of Independent Study __________________________
Short Title __________________________
(to be listed on transcript; limit 30 characters, including spaces)
Supervising Faculty Member __________________________
Academic Title __________________________
Affiliation (dept or program) __________________________

On the following page (or attached sheet), please provide the following information:
1. Title and Description of Proposed Study: Provide a one to two paragraph description of the proposed study, including topic, course goals, research/readings to be conducted. (The instructor and/or department or program may require a more detailed proposal, including a list of sources and bibliography, a rationale for independent study as opposed to regular course work, etc.)
2. Nature of the Final Product: Describe the nature and length of the final product (e.g. academic paper, artistic product, research report, etc.)
3. Scheduled Meetings and Work Expectations: Provide information on frequency and length of meetings with instructor, and expected work commitments and/or timetables:
4. Grade to be based on: Provide information on how your work in the course is to be evaluated.
Description of Independent Study; Final Product; Scheduled Meetings and Work Expectations; Grade Basis (attach an extra sheet if necessary):

_________________________________________ Date ______________
Signature of Student

Approval Signatures: Please read attached policies and procedures on independent studies before signing.

_________________________________________ Date ______________
Supervising Faculty Member (print name) Signature

_________________________________________ Date ______________
Director of Undergraduate Studies (print name) Signature

ASSIGNED COURSE AND SECTION NUMBER: ____________________________

ASSIGNED PERMISSION NUMBER: ____________________________