

HONORS INDEPENDENT STUDY (HP 398)

The “Honors Independent Study” course provides a student with the opportunity to explore, in depth, a topic of her or his choice. It is distinguished from the “Honors Directed Readings” course (HP 399) in that HP 398 focuses on research in the topic area rather than reading.

In an Honors Independent Study course the student will do research on a particular topic, meet regularly with the faculty advisor to discuss the research, and write a research paper which not only demonstrates mastery of the topic but also the ability to reflect on the materials. The research paper is usually expected to be at least five pages in length for each registered credit (i.e., at least a fifteen-page paper in a three-credit course).

Independent Study will normally not be authorized in areas covered by regularly scheduled courses. Only one Independent Study course (3 credits) will count toward the Honors Program requirements. The course may be taken for 1 - 3 credits.

In order to arrange an Independent Study course, the following steps should be taken:

1. Decide upon a topic area to research.
2. Select an instructor who has some knowledge in your proposed area of research and with whom you wish to work.
3. In consultation with your instructor develop a “thesis,” “goal,” or “focus” for your research and a preliminary bibliography.
4. Set the requirements for the evaluation of your work in the course.
5. Write a description of your proposed course which includes a brief discussion of the research topic (1-2 pages), the course requirements, an explanation of the evaluation process, a timetable, and a tentative bibliography.
6. Submit this description and the contract sheet (see enclosed) to the Director of the Honors Program.
7. Once the Director has approved the course description, you will be granted “permission to register.”