



INDIVIDUALIZED MAJOR PROGRAM

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Bloomington

GUIDELINES FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY INSTRUCTORS

Students in the Individualized Major Program often need to arrange independent study courses in order to receive instruction in areas not covered by regular university classes or to receive college credit for work done on their final projects.

It is important that you and the student are clear on the expectations and grading criteria for the independent study. The following are a few examples of IMP independent study models; feel free to adjust the content of the course to suit the student's needs.

Reading/Research Paper Model

The student follows a structured reading list, prepares interim oral or written reports for the instructor, and writes a term paper at the end. The workload is comparable to a 300/400 level course.

Technical Skill Acquisition Model

The student acquires technical proficiency—for example, in a computer language or in the use of electronic equipment. The instructor guides this process and at the end certifies the level of proficiency attained. The workload is comparable to a beginning language or laboratory course.

Fieldwork Model

The student spends several hours a week off campus as a participant-observer collecting data or interviewing subjects. The instructor monitors field activities through conferences with the student during the semester and asks for a written analytic report at the end of the semester (c.f., Sociology S494, Anthropology P405, or Geology G420).

Creative Production Model

The student works several hours a week producing a portfolio, film, dramatic performance, piece of software, art show, scientific experiment, etc. The instructor directs the student's efforts via regular written or oral progress reports and evaluates the product created.

Internship Model

The student spends several hours a week working as an intern in a field related to his or her major. The instructor monitors the student's activities through conferences during the semester and asks for a written analytic report at the end of the semester. The on-site internship supervisor also evaluates the student's work. (*Note: Students who wish to receive credit for internships that are not their IMP final projects should register under the course number X473, not X490.*)

Here are the formal procedures by which IMP students may register for independent study credit:

1. The student and instructor describe the course syllabus on a contract form (available on the IMP website). The instructor determines the appropriate number of credit hours (usually 1-4).
2. The student submits the contract to the IMP office and is authorized to register for the course.
3. A grade for the course will be solicited from the instructor by the IMP Assistant Director via email at the end of the semester.

If you have any questions, please contact the IMP office.