

INDEPENDENT STUDY REQUEST FORM PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

An Independent Study (PHYS-UA 997, PHYS-UA 998) requires a proposal from the student, careful guidance from a faculty member, and a body of work that can be submitted at the end of the study and evaluated for course credit. An independent study is approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Guidelines

- ✓ Make a research proposal to a faculty member with whom you would like to take the independent study course.
- ✓ To get point credit that counts toward a bachelor's in physics, the instructor in independent study should be a member of the Physics Faculty.
- ✓ If you want the research experience without the point credit, that could eventually count for graduation with honors in physics, you may do the research outside the Department, but in that case you should have an "in-house" mentor in addition to the outside mentor. The in-house mentor would certify the quality of the research and thesis, and should be someone who is familiar with and interested in the subject.
- ✓ Meet with the instructor to discuss the scope of the independent study, the course format, method of evaluation, number of credits (2 – 4 credits), and to determine what will comprise the final project. Use this form with your sponsoring instructor.
- ✓ Return the completed proposal, with the instructor's signature, to Bill LePage, Undergraduate Coordinator, in the Physics Office, 726 BW, 1005C. The form will then be submitted to the Director of Undergraduate Studies for approval.
- ✓ Deadline for submitting an independent study request is one week before the first day of registration for the semester for which you are applying.
- ✓ **If this Independent Study is for the Honors Program, please see the following page under "Independent Study Instructor Approval."**

Student Information

Date _____

Name _____

N Number _____

Major _____

Minor _____

Independent Study Information

Term _____

Credits _____

Instructor _____

Department _____

Independent Study Proposal (to be completed by the student)

Describe the content and objective of your study.

Independent Study Instructor Approval (to be completed by the faculty supervisor)

An independent study should have, at a minimum, these following criteria.

- ✓ The student has appropriate and sufficient background knowledge to complete the proposal successfully.
- ✓ The proposed work is at least the equivalent of course work carrying the same number of credits.
- ✓ The student and faculty member have agreed upon a schedule of reading, writing/number of hours in lab per week, and meetings.
- ✓ The student and faculty member have agreed upon a reasonable method of evaluation.
- ✓ **If this is for the Honors Program in Physics**, two consecutive semesters of independent study are required. The final paper must be submitted to the Director of Undergraduate Studies of Physics as well as the faculty supervisor *after the second independent study is completed*.

Deadline for submission of final project/paper _____

Instructor Name (please print) _____

(Instructor Signature) _____ Date _____

Director of Undergraduate Studies Approval

I approve of this Independent Study

(DUS Signature) _____ Date _____

I do not approve of this Independent Study

(DUS Signature) _____ Date _____