

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

INDEPENDENT STUDY APPROVAL

This form will become part of the student's permanent file. Complete it carefully since it may be duplicated as a supplement to official transcripts.

Student Name: _____

Student A#: _____ Student Status: *Freshman *Sophomore Junior Senior

* Supporting documentation indicating preparedness of Freshman & Sophomore must be submitted within this application.

Project Title: _____ Credit (3 maximum) _____

Instructor: _____ Department: _____ Semester: _____

LEARNING OUTCOMES OF STUDY. DESCRIBE THE KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS THE STUDENT WILL BE EXPECTED TO DEMONSTRATE.

INDICATE HOW YOU WILL DETERMINE THE STUDENT HAS MET STATED OUTCOMES. (This is a direct assessment based on papers, presentations, exams, etc.)

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Advisor Signature _____ Date _____

Instructor Signature _____ Date _____

Credit-Granting Department Chair Approval _____ Date _____

This form must be submitted to the Registrar's office with all the above signatures and approvals prior to the end of the add period of each semester.

Dean of Academic Affairs Approval _____ Date _____

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INDEPENDENT STUDY APPROVAL POLICY

- Independent Study is advanced-level course work, in a subject area not covered in depth by the normal course offerings of an academic department. It should provide within its own structure a valuable experience of independent research, analysis, and reporting which will enhance the student's grasp of their subject field, and entail the requisite motivation, skills, and discipline of independent work. Independent Study should provide new and unique objectives consistent with the academic program of the student.
- Independent Study proposals are to be developed jointly by the instructor and the student. The learning objectives are to be carefully considered and identified in the proposal. The method by which the student will evaluate the learning experience and by which the instructor will evaluate the student must be indicated. It is imperative that instructors evaluate whether the student is able to work independently and will benefit scholastically from such a study.
- Students are limited to a maximum of 12 credit hours of independent study and independent research credit, combined. Independent Studies may be taken for variable credit, and require approval of the Independent Study instructor, Chair of the credit-granting department, student's advisor, and Dean of Academic Affairs. Application for an Independent Study requires that a student be a matriculated junior or senior, with the exception of freshmen and sophomores whose readiness is specifically demonstrated on the Independent Study Application.
- The amount of credit to be earned in any independent study course is to be determined by the instructor at the time the proposal is submitted, and may vary from one to three credits, depending upon the number of objectives identified in the proposal, and the degree of difficulty, or complexity, as judged by the instructor.
- The number of credits is not to be changed at the end of the study period because the student failed to meet all of the objectives which were identified in the proposal. The grading system cited in the college catalog is designed to provide for this.