

Faculty of Health Sciences INDEPENDENT STUDY POLICIES

An Independent Study is a course for which credit is earned through individual study under the supervision of an instructor. This option may be elected as early as the second semester or as late as the last, depending upon the capacity of the student for undertaking academic work with a minimum of guidance. An Independent Study in the Faculty of Health Sciences may have the course number of ABHL/ADCS/HLSC/NURS/PUBH/TREC 2990/3990/4990.

An Independent Study is worth 3.0 credit hours and follows the standard grading mode (letter grade). Because the purpose of an Independent Study is to expand a student's program beyond the limits of the regular curriculum, it may not be used to duplicate course offerings and should be undertaken only in areas not covered by courses in the curricula. While these courses offer the chance to study subjects that would not otherwise be available to the student, and to pursue unique topics independently and in depth, students considering them must be aware that:

- an Independent Study requires the ability and discipline to work independently, with the support/guidance of an instructor;
- the subject of an Independent Study must be one in which the student has a genuine interest;
- a student may receive credit for a maximum of three Independent Study courses in a Health Sciences program.

It is recommended that a student who wishes to conduct an Independent Study contact a potential supervisor at least a month prior to the beginning of the term in which the course is to be registered. **Using the template, the learning plan for the Independent Study should be developed by the student in consultation with the supervising instructor (<http://www.uleth.ca/healthsciences/independent-study>).** This learning plan must clearly identify the overall purpose of the course, specific learning goals to be achieved, strategies that will facilitate goal achievement, and relevant assignments that allow the student to demonstrate achievement of the goals. The student should indicate reasonable dates by which the work will be submitted, and may suggest criteria by which the assignment will be evaluated. The instructor reserves the right to adjust or revise these due dates and criteria; such revisions and their rationale will be explained to the student.

Assignments should be reasonable, goal-focused, and consistent with the level of the course. They may take the form of traditional literature reviews and critiques and tests, or may be non-traditional in nature (e.g., presentations, reflective journals, performance). Ultimately, the assignments should contribute to the student's learning and must be consistent with the course goals. Their evaluation should consider relevant aspects and standards of content, original thought, creativity, style, and presentation that would be expected of student work in other courses in the curriculum. Keeping these caveats in mind, consult the following paragraphs to learn the specific requirements of study at each level:

2990 - Like other 2000-level courses, Independent Study courses at the 2000 level allow students to prepare general surveys of a specific topic.

3990 - Independent Studies at this level are intended to be equivalent in value and similar in scope and nature to other 3000-level courses. They are usually more specific in their subject content than 2000-level courses, and allow students to concentrate on both depth of knowledge and analysis.

4990 - The 4990 Independent Study allows students to conduct and report on an original research project that addresses a significant research issue. Under faculty supervision, students are required to conduct the planned study, select and conduct appropriate analyses, and write a report on the project.

Proposal and Registration of Independent Study Courses

Step 1 Student and supervising instructor complete the Learning Plan template

Step 2 Student submits completed template to the Academic Advisor and picks up the *Approval and Registration for Independent Study Enrolment* form

Step 3 Student and supervising instructor complete the *Approval and Registration for Independent Study Enrolment* form

Step 4 Student submits the *Approval and Registration for Independent Study Enrolment* form AND the completed Learning Plan to the Academic Advisor by the first day of classes for each term (refer to the Academic Schedule (<https://www.uleth.ca/ross/academic-schedule>) - NO EXCEPTIONS.

Formal registration in an Independent Study occurs after the approval by both the Academic Advisor and the Dean. Credit for Independent Study is at the discretion of the Faculty of Health Sciences upon recommendation of the supervising instructor.