

Students may request approval for up to four credits of independent study that will count towards the Master's degree electives credit requirement. While four credits is the maximum, most students will not take any Independent Study credits and those who do will likely not take more than one or two credits of Independent Study. Independent Study is limited to one or two credits per subject. (Exceptions may be granted to devote three or even four credits to a subject but this is very much the exception.)

Independent Study credits provide students the opportunity to pursue a subject of interest that is not available through course offerings on campus.

Independent Study will include research, reading, at least one writing component, and might also include, for example, taking a workshop, seminar, or training about the subject of study. The student must work with an Independent Study advisor and meet regularly with the advisor during the course of study.

Each credit will require 40 hours of work, including reading, research, writing, and other activities included in the course of study.

Independent Study credits require prior approval from the program director. Approval will be considered on the basis of an Independent Study Proposal submitted with an Independent Study Approval Form. Before submitting a Proposal, schedule a meeting with the program director to discuss your study idea and to determine the scope and nature of the study (subject, reading, assignments, advisor meeting schedule, etc.)

The Proposal will include:

1. Date of application for approval
2. Name of student
3. Term during which the study will be completed
4. Subject of study with description
5. Confirmation that the subject is not offered in other UO courses
6. Number of credits
7. Study components (reading, writing or other assignments, workshop/seminar/training attendance, etc.)
8. Estimated number of hours devoted to each study component
9. Preliminary reading list
10. Schedule of meetings with advisor (eg. Weekly, every two weeks, three times during term)
11. Advisor
12. Student signature
13. Program director signature

Registration for Independent Study credits will only be possible after the Independent Study Approval Form has been completed, signed by the program director, and given to the program assistant.