Guidelines and Application for Independent Study and Fieldwork

Definition. At Michigan State University, Independent Study is planned study, highly individualized, not addressable through any other course format, proposed in writing by the student on a standard form, accepted for supervision by a faculty member, and approved by the student’s academic advisor and the teaching unit at the beginning of the semester.

Guidelines. Independent Study should: (a) Consist of work not described in the University catalog in any other format; (b) Be taken under a course number commensurate with the student’s class level, major field, and experience; (c) Relate to a subject for which the student has adequate preparation; (d) Be directed by a faculty member with whom there is periodic contact and consultation throughout the study; (e) Not exceed eight semester hours of credit in a single semester; (f) Not exceed 10% of the credits earned in a bachelor’s program; (g) Be applied for on the form provided by the University, or any equivalent departmental or College form; (h) Be approved on this form before the student enrolls in the course; (i) Have an Affiliation Agreement signed by any site/company that is not based on an Michigan State University program (i.e. private businesses, public schools, associations, etc.); and (j) Have a Complete Criminal Background Check (CBC) form submitted to MSU Human Resources BEFORE enrollment can take place. Please have student email the completed CBC form to CEDhr@msu.edu.

Application and Enrollment. Please complete this form and the Application to Enroll in Variable-Credit Courses. Take both completed forms to the Department of Kinesiology offices in 134 IM Sports Circle.

Enrollment Information

Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) ________________________________ PID __________________________
Course: KIN _______ Section _______ Credits ______ Semester: FS SS US Year ____________

Course Description

1. DESCRIPTION (subject matter, purpose, methods) _________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. RATIONALE (why independent study rather than regular course?)________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

3. PREPARATION (relevant course work, reading, work experience, etc.)
______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
________________________________________

4. WORK TO BE COMPLETED
(a) Type and amount of reading, writing, lab work, etc. ___________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________
(b) Estimated contact hours per week with instructor _____________
(c) Deadline for submitting work for final evaluation ______________
(d) Evaluation procedure__________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

5. AFFILIATION AGREEMENT NEEDED? Yes    No (circle one)
If yes, what is the name of the site that the student will complete the experience at? _________________________________

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Sign- Offs


Student ________________________________ Date ________________________________
Instructor ________________________________ Date ________________________________