

Independent Study Policy and Procedure Department of Urban Policy and Planning

Independent Study credit may be obtained at either the graduate or undergraduate level. Students can arrange to work with a faculty member of their choice on projects, research or other initiatives that are within the scope of the program or departmental curriculum. Students are limited to a maximum of two independent studies. A student must have completed nine credits in a graduate program or undergraduate major to be eligible for an independent study.

Students interested in Independent Study should first identify a full-time faculty member in the Urban Policy and Planning Department who is interested in supervising the project. In consultation with that faculty member, the student should then develop an initial 2-3 page proposal outlining the study's purpose, background and significance, primary research questions, methodology, data sources, and a bibliography of relevant literature.

The proposal should also specify specific deliverables to be completed over the course of the Independent Study. The final deliverable could be: a research paper, literature review, policy brief, media project, film, brochure, survey, or any other such research worthy product. The effort a student invests in an Independent Study should be comparable to that of a three credit course. Please note: being a research assistant does not constitute an independent study. Nor can one earn Independent Study credit for work completed for another course.

The Independent Study proposal must be submitted to the Department Chair for approval prior to the start of the semester for which credit is to be obtained.

Chair's deadlines:

Summer and Fall semesters, May 1

Spring semester, December 1