

REQUESTS FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE INDEPENDENT STUDY

Trinity College of Arts & Sciences

**** This form is to request a DUS-Approved IS with either Computer Science Primary or Secondary Faculty (<https://www.cs.duke.edu/people/faculty>)**

Independent study enables a student to pursue for course credit individual interests under the supervision of a faculty member. There are two types of Independent Studies: Non-research and Research.

Courses entitled Independent Study are individual non-research directed study in a field of special interest on a previously approved topic taken under the supervision of a faculty member and resulting in an academic and/or artistic product. Such independent study courses do not bear a Research (R) code and do not satisfy any general education requirements.

Courses entitled Research Independent Study are individual research in a field of special interest under the supervision of a faculty member, the central goal of which is a substantive paper or written report containing significant analysis and interpretation of a previously approved topic. Such research independent study courses bear a Research (R) code and satisfy general education Research requirements. One research independent study may be submitted and approved for a Writing (W) code in addition to the R code designation. No other curriculum code designations are permitted for research independent study courses. Students who wish to request a W code for one research independent study course must take the appropriate form to 02 Allen Building by the end of the semester they are enrolled in the course. The request form is available at <http://trinity.duke.edu/academic-requirements?p=independent-study-research-w-coding>.

Policies:

The following policies apply to both types of independent study¹:

1. **Approval** — The independent study must be approved by the instructor(s) involved as well as by the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the relevant department or program.
2. **Faculty appointment** — The instructor of record (supervising faculty member) must hold a regular rank faculty appointment at Duke within the department or program sponsoring the independent study. In some cases, there may be an additional instructor who mentors the bulk of the independent study and holds an appointment outside the sponsoring department or program. If this is the case, the supervising faculty member is responsible for submitting the final grade, and ensuring that the instructor adheres to academic standards, policies, and procedures pertaining to undergraduate students in Trinity College of Arts & Sciences.
3. **Course Content / Quality** — The independent study must provide a rigorous academic experience equivalent to that of any other undergraduate Duke course. Independent study courses may not duplicate available course offerings in the semester or summer term in which the independent study occurs, nor may the independent study be used simply to provide low-level support for other projects or to observe or shadow the work of others.
4. **Meeting schedule** — For CS IS we require weekly meetings with the person supervising you and must be in writing on the proposal. In addition to the individual effort of the student, which normally entails ~10 hours per week.
5. **Final product** — The student will produce a final academic and/or artistic product to be completed during the semester for which the student is registered for the course.
6. **Grading** — The instructor will evaluate the work, including the final product, associated with the independent study, and submit a grade by the end of the semester. If the instructor is someone other than the supervising faculty member, the instructor will consult on the final grade with the supervising faculty member from the sponsoring department or program, who will submit the final grade.

Procedures:

1. Make arrangements with a faculty member having expertise in the desired area.
2. The student and instructor must agree on the course title, plan of study, objectives and expectations, as well as on the nature of the final product and evaluation criteria.
3. The student submits the Independent Study Permission Form (attached here) to the Director of Undergraduate Studies for final approval before the end of the drop/add period of the term in which the independent study is to be taken.
4. If approved, the student will receive a permission number to register for the course.

¹For policies and procedures related to independent study in Study Abroad programs, see Duke Abroad Handbook.

Description of Independent Study; Final Product; Scheduled Meetings and Work Expectations; Grade Basis:

_____ Date _____
Signature of Student

Approval Signatures: *Please read attached policies and procedures on independent studies before signing.*

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Supervising Faculty Member (print name) Signature Date

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Instructor (print name) Signature Date
(if different from Supervising Faculty member)

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Director of Undergraduate Studies (print name) Signature Date