

# Independent Study in Studio Art

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## Description

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**Students MUST have faculty permission to enroll for Independent Study credit hours.**

Independent Study is appropriate only after substantial work in studio courses. Students work at an advanced level and, with faculty guidance, set an individual program of study. Although not required, it is typical for students to have worked with the faculty member in prior contexts.

At this level of work, the student is expected to focus on a body of related work (content). You should be concerned with the development of your own personal voice as an artist.

There is no quota to be completed by the end of the semester. You may work with a strategy of proliferation (lots of experiments with the expectation that many will not turn out) or a strategy of refinement (honing in on the details and nuances of a process or image), or some combination of both. In any event, you will be expected to have a body of work that reflects significant time investment.

This course will vary with each faculty member and student according to defined objectives and his/her manner of working.

### Variable credit

Students may pursue Independent Study for variable credit, ranging between 1 and 6 credit hours, with 3 being typical. You should discuss with the faculty member his or her expectations for the number of hours you plan to pursue. In general, you should work a minimum of 3 hours per week per credit hour

## Procedure

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- Contact** It is imperative to contact the faculty member you wish to work with *before* the semester starts. You will be asked to demonstrate your ability to work independently. You should be prepared to provide work samples (portfolio) as part of this request process. You should also expect to discuss a preliminary proposal for the semester. **If the faculty member does not agree, the process stops here.** (Although you may seek permission from another faculty member)
- Proposal** If the faculty member agrees to do independent study with you, you will need to submit a written proposal outlining the guiding principles and work you propose to do. (See details governing the proposal in the requirements section of this syllabus)
- Contract** Independent study contracts are required by the College of Arts and Sciences. You can obtain the Art Department contract form on the Undergraduate Majors Sakai site. This document describes your plan of interaction with the faculty member. The contract must be signed by the faculty member and approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Submit the contract and proposal for approval to the DUS during the registration period but no later than the second day of classes for the semester. *Please note that if you wait until the beginning of the semester for approval, that the timeframe for approval is very tight. It is the student's responsibility to set the whole process in motion in a timely manner.*

**Students may not enroll without a contract signed by all parties:** student, supervising faculty and Director of Undergraduate Studies (or Department Chair)

- Enroll** Bring the completed and approved contract to the Student Services Representative to enroll.

## Course Requirements

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### Statement of purpose

All independent study students must submit a concise, 500-1000 word (1-2 pages) proposal for the semester's work. The faculty member should assist you in identifying ideas and goals, and may suggest or require specific details of your creative research (readings, reports, technical challenges, quota of works, etc). These details should be included in the written proposal, which will become part of the contract for your semester's work

The proposal should define the arena of activity, both conceptual and technical. Possibilities include a single large project (installation, collaborative project, organizing an exhibition) or a series of related works in a single media. You might consider a thematic scheme to organize the work. While exploration may be guided by a technical problem, this should be in service to larger artistic (content, aesthetic) issues. The proposal should include a list of personal goals or learning objectives for the semester. This can include things such as productivity, skill development, honing a personal aesthetic or exploring the conceptual dimensions of your work.

The proposal must include a statement about your own art - what you think it is, what inspires and propels you to make art in general and what your motivating concepts are for this semester's work in particular. You should mention art historical or contemporary influences if you are aware of them. The purpose of this proposal is to help you begin to become conscious of yourself as an artist. Examples of Masters and Honors thesis statements are kept on reserve at the Sloane Art Library. You will also find many artists (of varying caliber) on the internet. Take a look at some artist's statements to see how folks whose work you like write about their art.

At the end of the semester, you will submit a summative self-assessment in which you re-write this statement, assessing how your ideas have developed and/or changed as a result of the semester's work. This is due at the last scheduled meeting.

### Contract

Department contract as described above is required prior to enrollment.

### Interaction

The College of Arts and Sciences requires that independent study work carry a minimum of 750 contact minutes with supervising faculty. This amounts to approximately 45 minutes every week. To this end you must work with your faculty member to develop a plan for this interaction. The interaction should include individual face-to face appointments minimally every 2 weeks. Additional interaction can be in the form of email or blog updates of work in progress or in group critiques scheduled with other independent study students and faculty advisers. This schedule must be established as part of the Contract. Students are further responsible to secure the Critique Room at the Hanes Art Center, the Clean Room at the Art Lab or other suitable space to review finished works and work in progress. Failure to show progress at these meetings will adversely affect the grade.

### Evaluation

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Individual critiques take place during finals week and will be scheduled at a mutually agreeable time for the faculty member and student.

The grade for the independent study is determined at the discretion of the faculty member. It is based on the quality of the exploration as evidenced by the work completed, the relationship of the work to the initial proposal and/or final self evaluation and the student's compliance with the terms set out in the contract. Qualitative assessment is guided by the grading standards adopted by the Studio faculty (available on the Art Majors Sakai site)