

# Recommended Independent Study Structure

## Developing Learning Objectives and Plan for an Independent Study

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The independent study course is a curriculum option for all students in all degree programs and divisions. Choosing an Independent Study allows students to work with their advisors or division faculty to determine an individualized plan for the knowledge and skills to be sought in a specific or individualized public health topic or focus (in addition to the knowledge and skills to be obtained in the required public health core courses, practicum and culminating experience).

In essence, the student and the student's advisory committee are building specialized courses that will constitute a focus area for master's and doctoral students to complete their degree program.

### **Required Steps to Develop the Independent Study Structure**

Building an Independent Study Course requires three steps to be completed:

1. Develop a goal statement for what the student hopes to accomplish and the purpose of the independent study.
2. Select and/or develop learning objectives related to the goal statement.
3. Develop a timetable for implementation of activities and completion of course requirements.

#### **STEP 1. Write a goal statement/purpose of Independent study.**

Write a brief description of the background, experience and strengths the student brings to the topic/focus area. Identify the goals for your education by explaining what you hope to gain in terms of knowledge, skills, personal and professional contacts, and other experiences while in the Independent Study Course. Use the Independent Study Form attached.

#### **STEP 2. List course learning objectives.**

List objectives by using broad statements describing what the student is going to achieve. List each objective and/or learning activity in the plan and note the numbers of the competencies the student is expected to meet through specific learning activities. See Writing Objectives resources at [https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/content/uploads/2012/01/Writing\\_Objectives.pdf](https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/content/uploads/2012/01/Writing_Objectives.pdf)

#### **STEP 3. Develop a timetable and plan.**

Develop a plan for the Independent Study Course that the student can follow to include what the student is expected to do and produce and dates for completion and submission. List the types of activities/assignments that the student will be completing during the semester, as well as grading components that may include papers or presentations.

## Independent Study Plan

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Student Name (print)	Signature	Date
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Supervising Faculty (print)	Signature	Date
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Title of Course \_\_\_\_\_

Course Credit Hours \_\_\_\_\_

**Goal Statement/Purpose:** This independent study is intended to fulfill the Division requirement for \_\_\_\_\_ . The course will \_\_\_\_\_

**Learning Objectives** (This course will enable me to learn to do the following). A typical course has 5-10 major objectives.

**Course Materials and/or Research Plan**

Required Textbook(s) (*list*):

Supplemental Readings (*list*):

**Other Course Activities**

**Timetable**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Due Date</b>

**Methods for Assessment of Student Attainment of Objectives**

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**Student Signature**

**Date**

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**Faculty Signature**

**Date**

**It is recommended that copies be distributed to the Student, Faculty Member, and the Office of Student Affairs.**