

The College of Arts & Sciences prides itself in providing students with an opportunity to have a close working relationship with faculty. Independent Study and Independent Research Contracts provide students an individualized program of study or research tailored to student needs.

The student and faculty must work closely to develop a course of study consistent with the State of Florida credit hour standard. Each credit hour earned must approximate at least 1 hour of class and two hours of out-of-class student work. A three credit hour class should involve 9 hours of work per week in a 15-week semester.

It is the responsibility of the faculty member in collaboration with the student to ensure the selected course prefix and number meets the requirements of the student's degree program. All degree program requirements can be found in the University Catalog specific to the student's catalog year (<https://www.usfsp.edu/catalog>). If questions exist regarding the degree program the student should seek advice from an Academic Adviser.

The three types of individualized programs of study include Internship, Independent Study, and Independent Research. Internships are arranged by the College of Arts & Sciences Internship Coordinator, who works with the student and faculty member to develop an Internship plan. This document addresses all other Independent Study Contracts and Independent Research Contracts.

#### Definitions:

- x Independent Study / Directed Study / Directed Readings Registration by contract only. The student and faculty member plan and conduct an intensive program of study not covered in regular course offerings and under the supervision of a faculty member. The course typically involves extensive reading and/or literature reviews outlined in the syllabus. This course typically results in a work product produced by the student at the end of the course to demonstrate mastery of the material. Grading is S/U only. See Catalog for departmental prerequisites and restrictions on the course.
- x Independent Research / Directed Research / Individual Research Registration by contract only. The student and faculty member plan and conduct a research project in an area of interest to the student and faculty member. Description of the project and work

responsibilities are outlined in the project description. This experience is not covered in regular course offerings. A work product is produced by the student at the end of the course to demonstrate collection and/or analysis of research data. Grading is S/U only. See Catalog for departmental prerequisites and restrictions on the course.

1. The student identifies a faculty member who is willing to sponsor their independent study or research. They meet and develop a course of study outlined in the Syllabus.