

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF AND RATIONALE FOR THE INDEPENDENT STUDY:

<p>LEARNING OBJECTIVES</p> <p><i>Identify WHAT you want to learn. Suggest one learning objective per credit.</i></p>	<p>LEARNING ACTIVITIES</p> <p><i>Identify activities you will do to meet the learning objectives. Suggest two activities per objective. Examples are: reading, library research, interviewing. In this section, describe how you will learn.</i></p>	<p>DOCUMENTATION OF LEARNING</p> <p><i>Describe evidence you will submit to document learning that meets each objective. Examples are: research report, video, learning journal, case study, simulation, PowerPoint, webpage, or other materials developed. The faculty will use this evidence to assess your learning.</i></p>

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LEARNING RESOURCES: *Supply a list of proposed books, journal articles, films, websites, experts, and/or other resources that will form the basis for your directed independent study.*

FACULTY COMMENTS/ RECOMMENDATIONS: *(May include special requirements and/or details of grading criteria and method of course evaluation here.)*

Department of Human Services and Rehabilitation

Student Information and Procedures ♦ Western Washington University ♦ Woodring College of Education

COMPLETING A DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY

- ❑ **Deadline:** The deadline to submit a directed independent study contract is the last day of class before finals week of the quarter preceding the independent study. (Contracts for fall quarter must be submitted by the end of the second week in August.)

Western Washington University's Human Services Program offers a limited number of opportunities for students in the major to pursue directed independent study. Areas of study are limited to topics that are not currently offered by Western at your site. The directed independent study contract specifies what you want to learn, how you will learn, and the evidence you will submit for the faculty to assess your learning. Learning contracts are developed, agreed upon, and signed by you, the supervising faculty member, and the Chair of the Department. Following are the steps to develop and complete an independent study contract prior to registration.

STEP I: Completing the Directed Independent Study Information Section

It is up to you to recruit a full-time faculty member in the Department of Human Services and Rehabilitation to supervise your independent learning experience. The faculty member must be willing to meet with you on a regular basis.

You and the supervising faculty member will select the course title and number (HSP 300/HSP 400) for your study. The title that will appear on your transcript should reflect the topic you will be studying and is limited to 30 characters (including punctuation and spaces)

The number of credits for a directed independent study will vary according to the time spent and the depth of learning required. To determine the number of credits, estimate the approximate number of hours you will spend engaged in learning activities.

1 credit	30 hours
2 credits	60 hours
3 credits	90 hours
4 credits	120 hours
5 credits	150 hours
6 credits	180 hours

Your supervising faculty member may modify the proposed number of credits based on his or her professional judgment regarding the time involved to complete learning objectives and activities.

STEP II: Writing Student-Generated Learning Objectives

A **Learning Objective** is a clear and concise statement that specifically describes what you want to learn. Learning objectives describe **what** you will learn, **not** what you will do to achieve your learning (see below for **learning activities**). Although you are responsible for drafting learning objectives, your supervising faculty member will provide feedback. Before you begin to identify your learning objectives, you may want to consider the following questions.

- What scholarly ideas, concepts and/or thoughts do I want to explore?
- What additional knowledge do I need to acquire in order to gain the level of competence I desire in this subject area?

- What professional skills do I need to develop as a result of this learning experience?

Translate your thoughts into learning objectives. Clear and specific learning objectives help you focus on **what** you want to learn. Listed below are some verbs that may be helpful in writing clear and specific learning objectives:

Analyze	Compile	Formulate
Apply	Contrast	Generate
Assess	Define	Identify
Categorize	Describe	List
Chart	Design	Search
Classify	Diagram	Select
Collect	Distinguish	Simplify
Compare	Evaluate	Synthesize

STEP III: Identifying Learning Activities For Each Learning Objective

A **Learning Activity** describes **how** and **what** you will do to demonstrate that you have met your learning objectives. For **each** learning objective, identify learning activities, strategies, and resources for accomplishing that objective. Before meeting with your supervising faculty member to negotiate your independent contract, conduct some preliminary research on your topic. Check with the WWU university librarian, scan the web for appropriate sites, and/or identify relevant professionals who can serve as resources. Obtain feedback from your supervising faculty. Listed below are some examples of learning activities:

- **Read recommended books, articles, web sites, etc.**---include titles of books, articles, web sites.
- **Research** ---describe topic, type of research you will conduct, and sources you expect to use.
- **Consult with professionals and experts**---indicate who you will consult and briefly describe his or her background, the approximate number of meetings, the time involved, and the purpose(s) of your communications.

Example:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	DOCUMENTATION OF LEARNING
<p>Learning Objective #1: <i>I will identify and analyze the cycle of abuse in intimate partner violence</i></p>	<p>For Learning Objective #1: <i>I will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Read a minimum of one book and six journal articles identified through consultation with faculty and the librarian.</i> • <i>Attend workshop sponsored by Domestic Violence Services</i> 	<p>For Learning Objectives #1 & 2:</p> <p><i>I will:</i></p> <p><i>Submit a 10-12 page paper that draws on readings, workshop, and interview sources to address both learning objectives one and two</i></p>
<p>Learning Objective #2: <i>I will design a model of service delivery that responds to clients in all phases of the cycle of abuse in intimate partner</i></p>	<p>For Learning Objective #2: <i>I will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Read a minimum of one book and six journal articles identified through</i> 	

<i>violence</i>	<i>consultation with faculty and the librarian.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Attend workshop sponsored by Domestic Violence Services</i> • <i>Interview two professionals in the areas of intervention and treatment of abusive spousal relationships</i> 	
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STEP IV: Specifying How You Will Demonstrate/Document Learning

Determine how you will document your learning and describe how learning will be evaluated. Grading criteria should be negotiated with your supervising faculty member. Listed below are some suggestions to document your learning:

- **Written Report**--Identify topic, format, and special expectations.
- **Video**--Create a DVD.
- **Learning Reflection Paper**--Describe what you expect to be recording in this reflection paper.
- **Oral Presentation**--Identify topics to be covered, format, and length of time.
- **Power Point Presentation**--Identify topic and special expectations for your PowerPoint presentation.
- **Oral or Written Examination**--Identify type, i.e., take home, essay, objective.
- **Study questions**--Specify which readings or articles are covered.
- **Web Page**--Describe what you plan to develop for the web page.
- **Annotated Bibliography**--Give brief description of each reading.
- **Project or Product Assessment**--Specify product or nature of project.
- **Case study**--Identify situation and purpose.

STEP V: Identifying Your Learning Resources

Do some preliminary research on your topic before meeting with your faculty supervisor. Check the library and Internet for appropriate academic sources and identify resource people. Coming to the initial meeting with a list of possible resources will demonstrate your motivation and ability to be self-directed. The faculty supervisor may make additional recommendations.

STEP VI: Securing Approval for Your Independent Study Contract and Registering FOR HSP 300/400

After completing a draft of your independent study contract, review the contract with your supervising faculty. The faculty supervisor will help assure that: (1) the learning objectives and activities are clear, understandable, realistic, and reflect your learning goals, (2) the documentation provides relevant and valid evidence for faculty assessment of your learning, and (3) the course title and the number of credits appropriately reflect the learning experience.

Once you and your faculty supervisor agree that learning contract is finalized site staff can help you route to the department chair and appropriate university offices for their approval. It is important to pay close attention to program and university deadlines to ensure that you are able to register for and complete your independent study.