

# Instructions for 799-Independent Study Course Proposals

1. Meet with a faculty member to discuss the independent study idea and see if the faculty member is willing to help guide the course.
2. Agree with the faculty member upon times and methods for meeting or checking-in and determine the deliverables for the course.
3. Determine how many credits the course will be based on UW-Madison's [credit hour definition](#) which is below:
  - Institutional policy for what constitutes a credit hour must comply with the federal credit hour definition ([34 CFR 600.2](#))
  - A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:
    - (1) One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester [...], or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
    - (2) At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.
4. The course will be graded on an A-F basis. PA 799 does not meet the requirements for a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory course. PA 799 should not be taken Pass/Fail since Pass/Fail courses do not meet any Graduate School requirements, but students are still charged tuition. Contact the Student Services Coordinator with any questions.
5. The student is responsible for emailing the Student Services Coordinator and the faculty member with whom they wish to do an independent study. Email the professor and the Student Services Coordinator with the proposal, including all of the information in steps 1-3. Copy the Student Services Associate on the email and they will give you permission to enroll in 799 with the professor.

## Examples of 799-independent study course proposals

### Example A:

PA 799 – Independent Study

Student:

Instructor:

Term:

Credits:

Grading basis:

**Credits/Credit Hours compliance:** This study is a 2-credit course that meets once a week for 60 minutes during the 15-week semester. The student is expected to devote approximately 5 additional hours per week to research work.

**Study Description:** This study surveys Europe's macroeconomic conditions, with special reference to Italy and its international monetary policy and international financial market architecture. Research areas include possible benefits/costs of exiting the European monetary union for individual countries like Italy, possible steps towards lowering Italy's national debt crisis, and general research on how a country could exit the EU without major economic implications.

**Learning Outcomes/Deliverables:**

Knowledge:

- Student will demonstrate understanding of major current and past policy decisions, research findings, and analytical methodologies in macroeconomics and international finance.
- Student will demonstrate critical thinking skills. He will retrieve and examine the financial literature and evaluate evidence for and against hypotheses, identify knowledge gaps, strengths and weaknesses in existing literature, synthesize knowledge, and develop conclusions.

Applied Research:

- Student will read, comprehend, and effectively summarize macroeconomic research and relevant academic research.
- Student will effectively summarize findings/data for a professional audience (Instructor).

Communication:

- Student will communicate in clear written language: a real-world policy problem, relevant scholarly studies and practical applications, a policy-analytic method to investigate the problem, and client-oriented advice to mitigate the problem.
- Student will communicate substance of point A highly concisely and in language understandable to a non-specialist.

**Example B:**

PA 799 – Independent Study

Student:

Instructor:

Term:

Credits:

Grading basis:

The proposal is for a 1-credit independent study. Student completed PA 818 and PA 819 during the 2017-18 academic year. Part of the coursework for PA 818 and PA 819 consisted of empirical exercises (including take home exams). Students used the statistical software package STATA to complete these exercises.

The aim of the proposed independent study is to aid the student in learning how to read in data, organize data, and conduct statistical analysis using SAS. Work for the independent study will consist of replicating 7 empirical exercises, and two take-home exams, from PA 818/819 using

SAS. It is my expectation that this work will take the student 2 hours per week. In addition, the student and I plan to meet informally once per week to review the assignments, thus satisfying the requirements for 1-credit hour. At the end of the independent study, the student will have completed all 9-10 empirical exercises, will have a library of SAS programs to serve as reference for future work, and will be able to indicate that she is proficient in SAS on her resume.