

VCU School of Social Work

M.S.W. Program

Independent study policies and procedures

Description

SLWK 792: Independent Study - Variable credit (1-3 hours)

An independent, in depth study, planned and undertaken by one to three students, mentored by a faculty member, of an area or problem not ordinarily included in the social work curriculum. Results of the study are presented in a report.

Purpose

The independent study provides a means for the student(s) to individualize learning needs and to pursue educational goals through intensive study of an area, issue, or problem selected by the student(s) in a manner not possible in regular courses in the curriculum.

Policy

- I. An independent study of an area, issue, or problem in social work may be proposed by a student or group of students not exceeding three members.
- II. An independent study designation and course number cannot be used in the M.S.W. curriculum to substitute for a required elective or course.
- III. The student(s) proposing the independent study must obtain agreement from a faculty member to mentor the study and serve as a consultant to the student(s) in planning, implementing and reporting the results of the study.
- IV. The proposed study requires student advisor approval.
- V. Proposals for independent study shall be developed in accordance with the following procedures and attached format.

Procedures

- I. Proposal forms for independent study will be made available to student(s) by the adviser.
- II. The student must consult with his or her adviser to ensure that the student's educational needs are being met, and the adviser will indicate so by signing the student's Proposal for Independent study.
- III. The student must secure the written agreement of a faculty member to mentor the independent study.
 - A. The faculty member must agree to be available for consultation to the study throughout the semester in which the independent study is implemented.

- B. The faculty mentor and student will agree on the study's purpose, procedure, content, goals, contingencies, grading criteria, and the form the final report of the study is to take.
 - C. The proposal for an independent study, when completed and approved by mentor and adviser, will be submitted by the student to the M.S.W. program director for approval.
- IV. Once all approvals have been obtained, the M.S.W. program director will provide the student with the information needed in order to register for the independent study.
- V. The M.S.W. program director will forward copies of the approved proposal to:
 - A. The student academic adviser(s)
 - B. The student(s).
 - C. The faculty mentor.
 - D. The Associate Dean/Office of Student Services-Room 107 (for student's file)