

Independent Study

Purpose, Options, and Process



Policy:

An Independent Study is a self-designed project that allows you to explore in greater depth a topic touched upon in a D.Min. course or enables you to research an area which lies beyond the scope of the D.Min. curriculum. In addition, it provides an opportunity for you to further develop the topic of your Doctoral Project.

An Independent Study is a project developed by a student working with an approved supervising professor.

The Design:

An Independent Study for 4 units involves 160 hours of study in the following manner:

Readings	Up to 1,500	15-20 pages = 1 course hour
Experience	20 hours	1 hr = 1 course hour
Writing	20-25 pages	60-75 course hours
Professor Interaction	3-5 zoom, phone, or email sessions	3-5 hours
Total Course hours		160

- Reading: 700-1,500 pages of reading
- Experience: You will need 20 hours of experiential learning: attending a conference, workshop, interviews, field study, class meetings with the professor, peer conversations, etc. Experiential hours should include at least 2-3 hours in discussion or class time with the supervising professor.
- Writing: 20-25 pages
- Professor Interaction: regular interaction with the supervising professor is required throughout the course.

Independent Study Development

1. Students have an initial consultation with an academic advisor from the DMin office to discuss the plausibility of their Independent Study idea.
2. The advisor will identify a possible faculty member to serve as supervisor for the project. The student may request a preferred supervisor.

3. Students initiate contact with this faculty member to determine their availability to supervise the project. The student and the supervisor will negotiate the content and scope of the assignments.
4. Students write a proposal for approval. The proposal shall include:
 - A statement of the purpose of the Independent Study
 - The ministry challenge being addressed
 - The independent study design
 - The bibliography
 - Topic of the paper
 - The nature of the experiential learning
5. Students will send a signed copy of the Independent Study Approval Form to the D.Min. Director for final approval.
 - Once approval is granted, the D.Min. office will email registration information to the student. The student has 4 months from the date of registration to submit the completed paper. This due date will be recorded in the student file in the D.Min. office. (Papers should be emailed directly to the D.Min. office, NOT to the professor.)

****PLEASE NOTE:** Do NOT register for your independent study if you still have experiential learning to complete, only register when you are ready to begin writing your paper. The deadline for your paper begins once you register.

Independent Study Approval Form

Student Name

Independent Study Topic

Requested Units

Suggested Supervising Professor

A statement of the purpose of the Independent Study

The ministry challenge being addressed

The Independent Study Design

Topic of the paper –

The nature of the experiential learning – Your proposal for the experiential learning: up to 20 hours

Bibliography – Please list author, title and number of pages for each book. List the total number of pages at the bottom of your bibliography. Up to 1500 pages

Author	Title	# of Pages
	Total number of pages	

Student Agreement

I have read and understand the Independent Study Instructions sheet accompanying this Approval Form and agree to all obligations named therein, including tuition charges to be made upon Registration.

Student Signature

(Electronic Signature Accepted)

Approval Process

This section for office use only:

Submit this Approval Form and your proposal directly to the DMin Director. (Retain copies of both for your records.)

D.Min. Director Signature

Course Number

Paper Due Date:

QUESTIONS?

Contact the D.Min. office at 800.999.9578 ext. 5315, or via e-mail at dmin@fuller.edu