



# Independent Study Policies

Center for the Study of Complex Systems

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## What is CMPLXSYS 399?

- Directed readings or research in consultation with a member of the faculty of the Center for the Study of Complex Systems.
- It is expected that the student will meet regularly with their mentor, and will also gain exposure to the scientific literature of the field.
- Independent research is defined as a project in which the student will play a significant role in the design and implementation of the proposed project. This may include model design, simulation, data collection, and data analysis.

## What if my Faculty Sponsor is not a CMPLXSYS faculty member?

- A student wishing to receive credit toward his or her major for study done under the direction of a faculty member *in another department or unit of the University* must obtain approval from a core faculty member in Complex systems who agrees to serve as co-sponsor **before** beginning the project.
- A faculty co-sponsor will verify that the proposed research meets all of the criteria required of independent study or research carried out within Complex Systems.

## What should my independent study project request look like?

You should work with your primary sponsor to prepare a brief project description explaining, to the best of your ability, the rationale for the independent course, expected learning outcomes, and the relevance to Complex Systems.

## Can I repeat the course?

*College of LSA Policies:* A combined total of 30 credits of Experiential and Directed Reading/Independent Study courses may be counted in the 120 credits required for a degree.

Experiential and Independent Study courses are excluded from area distribution plans.

(<https://lsa.umich.edu/lsa/academics/lsa-academic-policies/creditlimits.html>)

## Pay v. Credit:

Students may not be paid for research work on a project also used for academic credit, i.e., projects may not be split between credit and pay.

## Credit Guidelines:

Working on an independent study or research project typically includes time spent at meetings with the Sponsor as well as time outside of meetings spent reading papers, completing small assignments, performing data analysis, drafting a manuscript, etc. Students should expect to spend at least 50 hours over the semester working on the project per registered credit hour.

## Questions about your independent study or research?

Contact the Complex Systems Advising Team ([cscs.academics@umich.edu](mailto:cscs.academics@umich.edu)) at any time with questions or concerns about your research, including issues with your mentor, work hours, or research topics.