

STUDENT AND FACULTY GUIDE to DIRECTED/INDEPENDENT STUDY

Individualized instruction is a part of Wesleyan's academic program, overseen by the Office of the Registrar.

All individualized instruction is an agreement, a "contract" between student and faculty member to complete specified learning and work tasks for academic credit. This contract establishes learning objectives, a plan to accomplish those objectives and the method of evaluation by which the sponsoring faculty member evaluates those objectives.

Types of Individualized Instruction

1. **Directed Study** refers to a one-to-one teaching arrangement for a course listed in the college catalog and is a course that a faculty member is not currently teaching. Directed Study is offered only when failure to do so would negatively affect the student's ability to graduate or otherwise diminish the student's academic experience at Wesleyan. ***All efforts should be made to find a suitable course substitution to meet requirements before pursuing a directed study.***
2. **Independent Study** is a specially developed individualized course in which a student pursues a plan of readings, field study or research under the one-to-one guidance of a faculty member. Independent Studies are appropriate for academically advanced students who can profit from study in depth. Such courses are not regularly listed in Wesleyan's course catalog.

REQUIREMENTS

- The student must have sophomore standing.
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
- Retroactive credit is not possible, and will not be applied.
- The completed Application for Individualized Instruction should be submitted to the Office of the Registrar prior to registration for the semester in which it is to occur but absolutely no later than the last day of add/drop. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- All individualized instruction experiences shall be for at least one credit, and no single experience – independent study or directed study-may exceed six (6) credit hours without the approval of the Dean of the Faculty.
- No more than 15 hours of Individualized Instruction (independent study, directed study, and internships) shall be applied toward graduation.
- Volunteer/community service that satisfies requirements for scholarship funds cannot be considered individualized instruction.
- Waiver of any of the above requirements is the discretion of the Provost.

STEPS FOR DEVELOPING INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION

1. Meet with the faculty sponsor to discuss the possibility of individualized instruction.
2. Draft a preliminary proposal of the course. The following criteria must be included in an accompanying syllabus – attendance requirements, method of instructional delivery, semester timeline, clear learning objectives, course learning outcomes and methods of evaluating learning objectives and outcomes.
3. With the help of the faculty sponsor, compile a syllabus. The document must be typed and free from spelling and grammatical errors.
4. Secure all necessary signatures.
5. Submit the data sheet and syllabus to the Registrar for approval. It will be reviewed and may be returned for revision or approved as submitted. The syllabus must accurately reflect the details of the instructional delivery and include the specifics outlined in the example. The deadline for submission is the last day of add/drop for the term.
6. Copies of the approved form will be provided to the student and faculty sponsor. The original will be filed in the Registrar's Office. The assigned directed study course number will be added to the student schedule once it is approved.

HOW TO DEVELOP YOUR INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION SYLLABUS

All items must be included in the course syllabus

Attendance Requirements

Outline of Instructional Delivery including a semester timeline

Learning Objectives & Course Learning Outcomes (required for catalog courses)

For a directed study, all course learning outcomes for the designated catalog course must be included in the syllabus.

Learning objectives give direction to the course or study. They should be precisely stated and reasonable in number, with a minimum of four. They may include cognitive (knowledge), affective (attitudinal, emotional or valuing behaviors) and psychomotor (physical) skills.

These objectives should state unambiguously what the student intends to accomplish. They should identify the competency or skills expected at the completion of the course. Objectives are commonly phrased as “to describe, or explain, to solve, to construct, to define, to classify, to compose, to design, to identify, to analyze, to discover.” “To learn” or “to understand” is not an objective, but the means to achieve it.

Examples:

Incorrect - - to learn about the different religions in India.

Correct - - List the major religions of India and outline their more common beliefs and practices.

Incorrect - - to know how to conserve energy in a classroom building.

Correct - - Identify and list current energy conservation techniques and explain how they can be applied to a classroom building.

Learning Methods and Materials

These should be consistent with the objectives and outcomes. They may be texts, equipment, periodicals, software, manuals, travel, reading lists, research guides, or trips to laboratories or libraries.

Evaluation Methods

The student and faculty sponsor must have a clear understanding of how each completed objective will be evaluated and a grade determined (include grading scale). Exams, essays, research papers, reports, self-studies, demonstrations, presentations, job diaries, software or computer programs, creative projects and other methods can be used to document the learning accomplished.

CREDIT

Academic credit will depend on the learning experience as compared to a typical college class. More credit requires more work and more evaluation. For a three credit course, an equitable amount of instructional time must be clearly demonstrated within the syllabus. For courses identified as online delivery, there must be work equivalent to the amount of work expected in an in-seat course (see chart below). Before teaching an online course for the first time, faculty must demonstrate the ability to design and administer online courses by successfully completing training modules leading to WVWC Certification for Online Instruction. Information is available in Blackboard under the Center for Teaching & Learning.

Online Course/Time on Task/Full semester

Using the rule of thumb that for every hour in class, a student should spend two hours in preparation (HLC, Assignment of Credits), a student should expect to spend the following:

3 credit course = 135 time on task total hours

2 credit course = 90 time on task total hours

1 credit course = 45 time on task total hours

RESPONSIBILITIES

The student will:

- Achieve all learning objectives to the best of his/her ability.
- Notify the Office of the Registrar of the need to terminate/change the contract.
- Maintain standards of professional excellence: promptness, initiative, dependability.
- Complete and return all forms and assignments due the faculty sponsor, and Registrar or the Provost.
- Follow all guidelines as outlined in the syllabus

The Faculty Sponsor will:

- Review the student's proposal, and in consultation with the student, establish learning objectives and methods of evaluations.
- Meet with the student and maintain contact as noted in the syllabus to review the student's progress on the course of study.
- Make a final evaluation of the student's performance based on evaluative measures outlined in the syllabus and submit the grade to the Registrar.

The Office of the Registrar will:

- Keep all records related to the student's course.
- Provide assistance in solving problems related to the successful completion of the course of study.
- Clarify the relationship between classroom and individualized learning and assist the student in creating a meaningful course of study.
- Act as a liaison between Wesleyan, student, and faculty.



**OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
DATA SHEET – Directed/Independent Study**

Type of study: ☐ Independent ☐ Directed (catalog course)

Date submitted: _____

Title to appear on transcript (if independent study): _____

Contract Period From: _____ To: _____ Year: _____

Student Name: _____ ID #: _____

Class: ___ Soph. ___ JR. ___ SR. Major (s): _____ Minor: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

ACADEMIC RECORD AND CREDIT INFORMATION

Credits to be Earned _____ Indicate Course Level ☐ Undergraduate ☐ Graduate

How will course instruction be delivered? ☐ Face to Face ☐ Online ☐ Hybrid (In Person & Online)

If not Face to Face, describe how instructional content will be delivered _____

If this is a directed study specific catalog course number _____ (required)

NOTE: Failure to include correct course number may result in incorrect course number being awarded!

Course learning outcomes for specified catalog course must be included when submitting documentation.

I wish these hours of Independent Study/Directed Study to be assigned and credit awarded in:

Major: _____ Minor: _____ Exploratory: _____ (outside major/minor--three cr. hour limit)

Reason for completing course (required) _____

Is this a graduation issue? ☐ yes ☐ no

Is this course being offered during the requested term? ☐ yes ☐ no

Is there an option for completing the course through course sharing? ☐ yes ☐ no

SIGNATURES:

Student: _____

Date: _____

Faculty Sponsor: _____

Date: _____

Academic Unit Leader: _____

Date: _____

Office of the Provost _____

Date: _____

Registrar: _____

Date: _____