

Important Information

In Independent Advanced Research Study, the focus is the writing of an original, high-quality research paper. The student's work shall be overseen by a panel of at least two faculty members and shall culminate in the student making an oral defense of this paper before the faculty panel. The subject matter of the paper shall be mutually agreed upon by all involved in the study and, since research is the primary focus here, the areas of study shall be diverse and wide-ranging. It is likely that because several faculty members shall be involved in these projects, they shall consist of interdisciplinary studies. Finally, its study and learning shall also focus upon the substantive law involved in the project. Periodic meetings - although less frequent than those required of the tutorial study - should be held with the student and the panel of advisors, in addition to the final oral defense.

All of the faculty members involved in either form of Independent Study or Advanced Research shall participate in the grading process. Before the student begins work, the faculty members shall decide the grading policy for the Independent Study and that policy shall be communicated to the student(s). The faculty member(s) must choose either a letter grade or a pass/fail grading system and must settle upon a method under which each faculty member involved has a voice in determining the final grade. A faculty member who has agreed to supervise an Independent Study is expected to do so in good faith, devoting substantial time to the effort. Some of these, as well as other guidelines for independent studies are included in the course descriptions:

Guideline - A student who has completed 28 credits, may take an Independent Tutorial Study or Advanced Research. Exceptions may be made with the special approval of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. A student may take up to 9 credits of Independent Study at the Law School, of which up to 3 may be in Advanced Research. No more than 6 of these may be taken in any one semester, and no more than 3 credits may be taken under the sole guidance of any one faculty member. Each study, including its scope, coverage, credit hours and course guidelines, must be approved by the appropriate faculty member(s) after full disclosures by the student(s) to such faculty member(s) of the content and scope of all prior Independent Studies undertaken by the student(s). The basic criterion of each of these studies is that they entail substantial and innovative study and research. Each proposal for an Independent Study shall be submitted for review to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at a time appropriate for registration as a whole.