

Independent Study

Independent project participants are required to complete a capstone activity upon concluding their projects. Students who wish to deepen their knowledge through academic exploration focused on the theme or location of their project, or on civic participation, should consider the **Independent Study** option.

From the Duke University Bulletin of Undergraduate Education (2016-17):

Independent study enables a student to pursue for course credit individual interests under the supervision of a faculty member. Independent study is of two types: **Independent Study** (non-research) and **Research Independent Study**. Both require approval of the instructor involved as well as the director of undergraduate studies in the relevant department or program; student-faculty meetings at least once every two weeks during fall or spring semester and once each week during summer semester; completion of a final product to be completed during the semester for which a student is registered for the course; evaluation by the instructor of the work, including the final product, associated with the independent study. The independent study form is available [here](#).

Courses entitled Independent Study are individual non-research directed study in a field of special interest on a previously approved topic taken under the supervision of a faculty member and resulting in an academic and/or artistic product. Such independent study courses do not bear a Research (R) code and do not satisfy any general education requirement. Courses entitled Research Independent Study are individual research in a field of special interest under the supervision of a faculty member, the central goal of which is a substantive paper or written report containing significant analysis and interpretation of a previously approved topic. Such research independent study courses bear a Research (R) code and satisfy general education Research requirements. One research independent study may be submitted and approved for a Writing (W) code in addition to the R code designation, but no other curriculum code designations are permitted for research independent study courses. Students who wish to request a W code for one research independent study course must take the appropriate form to O11 Allen Building by the end of the Drop/Add period of the semester they are enrolled in the course. The request form is available [here](#). Students in the Pratt School of Engineering should consult their Academic Dean and departmental office for information about completing an Independent Study.

If you choose to complete an Independent Study to fulfill your DukeEngage independent project capstone requirement, please seek your instructor's approval as early as possible. **Prior to the Capstone deadline, submit the following via email to DukeEngage (thomas.n.phillips@duke.edu) and to your project mentor:**

- **Written independent project overview (write 2-3 pages, double-spaced, answering all the questions below)**
- **Scanned copy of the independent study application submitted to your department (signatures included)**

DukeEngage Project Overview

Describe your DukeEngage independent project (activities, schedule, with whom you worked).

If your project changed from your original plan, please explain these changes.

Describe community partner deliverables and your learning outcomes.

Please discuss the project challenges you encountered and how you dealt with them.

Curricular Connections

Please share your lessons learned and how you might apply this learning to your career at Duke and specifically to your independent study.