

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 (as of June 18, 2019):

Independent study enables a student to pursue for course credit a research or other academic topic of interest under the supervision of a faculty member. Independent study is of two types:

Independent Study (non-research)

Research Independent Study

Courses entitled **Independent Study** are individual, non-research, directed studies in a field of special interest on a previously approved topic taken under the supervision of a faculty member within the department 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 requirements aside from the Small Group Learning Experience (SGLE) requirement.

Courses entitled **Research Independent Study** are individual research in a field of special interest under the supervision of a faculty member within the department, 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 carry a Research (R) code. One and only one research independent study may be submitted and approved for a Writing (W) code in addition to the R code designation. 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 complete the [request for writing code form](#) and submit it to 011 Allen Building by the end of the drop/add period in the semester they are enrolled in the course.

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.