INDEPENDENT STUDY

INDEPENDENT STUDY CREDITS (PUBHLTH 396) ARE FOR STUDENTS:

- Who are doing independent research with a faculty member in the departments of Health Promotion and Policy, Biostatistics/Epidemiology, or Environmental Health Sciences (in some cases exceptions may be made for students working with a faculty member in other Departments in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences. In this case, permission of the Undergraduate Program Director is required).
- Who is serving as an undergraduate teaching assistant in a Public Health course.

WHEN SHOULD I DO AN INDEPENDENT STUDY?
You can do an independent study during the regular semester or over the summer. However, there are some important logistics to take into account:

1. Independent studies taken during the school year are part of your regular tuition.

2. Independent studies that you complete over the summer and wish to receive credit for must be paid for separately, through Continuing and Professional Education and are $195.00 per credit. Financial aid may be possible. Check with the Financial Aid Office at http://www.umass.edu/umfa/apply/summeraid/. To receive credit, you need to fill out an additional form from CPE that the Undergraduate Program Director or Advisor must sign.

3. If you are not looking to receive credit, you can sign up for the independent study on your own. Even if you do not receive academic credit, it will strengthen your resume and understanding of the field.

HOW DO I GET PRE-APPROVAL FOR INDEPENDENT STUDIES AND SIGN UP FOR THE CREDITS ON SPIRE?
Fill out the independent study application, sign and have the sponsor sign the form, and give it to Dr. DiFulvio (Arnold 307) for review. Dr. DiFulvio will contact you about the approval process. If you are doing a summer independent study, you need to fill out an additional form from CPE and get a signature from Dr. DiFulvio. Once you’ve received approval, the program director will be in touch with your faculty sponsor, as well as send out an email reminder about the final paper due date.

HOW MANY INDEPENDENT STUDY CREDITS CAN I DO?
Credits for independent study can range from one to nine credits. However, the norm is three credits per semester, with no more than nine total credits allowed for internships and independent study work in the major. A total of 15 internship and independent study credits is allowed for your entire undergraduate career. These credits go toward the Public Health electives (300-599) or Collateral field. Approval is needed from the Program Director for taking over three independent study credits a semester.

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC PAPER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INDEPENDENT STUDY?
The student and faculty sponsor are responsible for setting the paper and project requirements. However, for recommended paper guidelines refer to the independent study application.
Application for Public Health Independent Study
PUBHLTH 396

Independent study credits are for students who are doing independent research or who will be serving as a teaching assistant for a Public Health Course. This application must be completed to receive independent credit. Please type all of your answers. Submit the completed application to Program Director, Dr. DiFulvio, located in Arnold House 307. Contact Information: 413-545-4535 & gloria@schoolph.umass.edu

PART ONE:
Name: ___________________________________________ Date: __________________________
Spire ID: __________ GPA: __________ Term and Year of Indep Study: __________
E-mail: __________________________________________ Year of Graduation: __________
Faculty Sponsor: _________________________ Dept. of Sponsor: _______________________
Sponsor’s Email: _________________________ Sponsor’s Phone Number: __________
Number of Credits: __________

PART TWO: Student & Faculty Sponsor Agreement
As conditions of completing this Independent Study Application, I agree to the following with my faculty sponsor:
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________
Student’s Signature: _______________________ Date: __________________

Faculty Sponsor’s Signature: ______________________ Date: __________________

FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE OFFICE USE ONLY: Public Health Sciences Director/Advisor:
Date Submitted: __________ Date: _______Accept _______Deny