Independent Research Policy


1) Independent research for academic credit requires the approval of the associate dean for academic affairs.

2) Approval of independent research projects requires students to complete a request form.

3) This form includes a brief synopsis of the study, as well as instructor expectations for the course. For LDST 497-498 Senior Honors Thesis, documentation includes the honors application, work completed in LDST 399 Junior Honors Tutorial, and approval of the thesis supervisor.

4) Independent research must be supervised by a faculty member with a regular, rank appointment.

5) Independent research cannot duplicate available course offerings in the term taken, cannot be used as a substitute for required courses, cannot be used to solve routine scheduling problems, and cannot be used to provide low-level support for other projects.

6) Students may count no more than 1 unit of independent research toward the LDST major. Students may not count independent research toward the LDST minor.

7) In 1-unit courses, students are expected to confer with faculty supervisors at least once every two weeks during the regular semester and at least once a week for summer projects—with expectations adjusted accordingly for .5- and 2-unit courses.

8) In 1-unit courses, students are expected to spend an average of 10 hours per week on work related to the course—with expectations adjusted accordingly for .5- and 2-unit courses.

9) Students carrying out independent research, with the exception of those enrolled in LDST 492, are expected to present at the Jepson Research Symposium.

10) Independent research projects, with the exception of LDST 492 Directed Study, must culminate in a final product. An alternate final assessment may be used for LDST 492.

Approved by the Jepson faculty on January 11, 2016