Independent Study Proposal Document Template

If you use this template, please replace all text in italics, either by filling in the requested information or deleting any explanatory matter before submitting this document.

Title: the title of the independent study, as stated on the independent study form

Student: the student’s name

Faculty sponsor: the faculty sponsor’s name

INTRODUCTION

Include a description of the topic of the independent study, aimed at a general CS audience. The description should include answers to: What is the objective/goal of the independent study (that is, what are the proposed learning outcomes)? Why is the student pursuing it? How is this independent study different from or an extension of existing course offerings?

PLANNED WORK

Include a description of the planned work. This will vary widely depending on the independent study topic. The description should convey that the independent study plan has been thought through. A part of this section should be a schedule:

Schedule:

Include a tentative schedule for the work. This can be a week-by-week schedule, or a set of milestones in certain weeks. The purpose of the tentative schedule is to have a plan for the term – the schedule should convey what the student plans to do in any given week. This should also include the expected frequency of meetings between the student and faculty sponsor. Finally, the schedule must include the projected total number of hours the student plans to work on the independent study.

The final report must include an appendix. This appendix must list the major tasks a student worked on, the number of hours spent on each task, and the total number of hours spent on the entire independent study. Deviations are acceptable if they are supported by the early stages of the independent study. For example, for a research-type independent study, preliminary research results in the early weeks might indicate a different course of action in the later weeks than the one originally planned.

DELIVERABLES

Describe the deliverables. A report is a required deliverable. There might be other deliverables, for example software, presentations, etc.

EVALUATION

Describe how the work will be evaluated and how the grade will be determined.