

## INDEPENDENT STUDY APPLICATION 2023-2024

Non-departmental credit is awarded for independent studies completed under the supervision of a member of the faculty or other qualified advisor. The purpose of these studies is to allow students to engage in work *outside of the standard curriculum* in an area of special interest. Students first check with their guidance counselor and then complete an Independent Study Application. Independent studies may include creative projects, working as a teaching assistant, or academic research. The committee will review applications and approve, deny, or suggest modifications based on the educational merit of the proposal. ***Please note that the Committee will be considering student commitment to follow through on the Independent Study. Since spaces are limited, the quality and timeliness of your written proposal counts.*** Independent studies may be a year or semester long in duration, but no less. *For successful completion of this work, students must present their project to the Independent Study Committee in the weeks outlined below.* The committee may deny credit for work that does not fulfill the requirements as outlined in the proposal. Independent studies are graded on a pass/fail basis and must meet the guidelines described below. It is important to note that a 1-credit independent study generally requires a regular meeting of one block per 8-day cycle with the advisor for the whole year.

### Directions to the Student:

- 1) Complete this application and submit to guidance by:  
**Friday, September 22, 2023** for year-long and fall semester projects, and  
**Friday, January 12, 2024** for spring semester projects.
- 2) Make sure you have obtained all applicable signatures.
- 3) If you are proposing a collaborative project with other students, please submit **only one application**.
- 4) Students will be notified of their approved proposals by the end of the week following the deadline.
- 5) You will be required to present the product of your project during the weeks of:  
**January 8, 2024** for fall semester projects, and  
**April 22, 2024** for seniors' year-long and spring semester projects, and  
**May 28, 2024** for others' year-long and spring semester projects.  
Generally, presentations are scheduled during lunch blocks and at the end of the day (details available prior to signups the week before the presentation).

### Final Presentation

You will be making a 5 minute presentation to the members of the Independent Study Committee, which is considered as part of your grade. Exactly how this is done will vary from project to project but you should work closely with your advisor to prepare to answer the following:

- a) *An introduction to your project.*
- b) *Did you achieve the goals that you set out to achieve?*
- c) *Did you learn anything above and beyond the project?*
- d) *What most surprised you in the course of completing your project?*
- e) *Did you meet with your advisor as stated in the original application?*
- f) *Have you met the criteria outlined in the grading rubric?*

Please address the above questions in a concise manner. ***Presentations may not exceed five minutes.***

## **Weston High School Independent Study Proposal**

### **Application Part I: General Information**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guidance Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of project: Year-long          Semester 1          Semester 2

Name of Proposed Project: \_\_\_\_\_

What department does your project fall under (circle one):

English    History    Math    Science    Languages    Art    Music    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Independent Study Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Application Part II: Project Specific Information (requires type-written description)**

You must include with this application a type-written description of your proposal that addresses the questions below. Please organize your application into these four sections. *Hand-written descriptions will not be accepted.*

- a) **Reasons:** Explain your reasons for pursuing study outside of our curriculum.
- b) **Project Description:** Describe the project in detail.
- c) **Goals:** What are the goals you hope to achieve? What will the final product look like?
- d) **Time Commitment:** What schedule/how often will you meet with your advisor?

### **Application Part III: Approvals**

I have read the student's Independent Study Proposal and agree to support him/her in the endeavor:

**Signature of Independent Study Advisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Planned Meeting time(s)/block(s): \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the student's Independent Study Proposal and agree to its submission to the committee:

**Signature of applicable Department Head:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Independent Study Presentations:**

Weeks of January 8, 2024 for fall semester projects and April 22, 2024 (seniors) or May 28, 2024 (others) for year-long and spring semester projects; times to be determined.