

STUDENT AND FACULTY GUIDE to DIRECTED/INDEPENDENT STUDY

West Virginia Wesleyan College

Individualized instruction is a part of Wesleyan's academic program, directed by the Office of Academic Services.

All individualized instruction is an agreement, a "contract" between student and faculty member to complete specified learning and work tasks for academic credit. This contract establishes learning objectives, a plan to accomplish those objectives and the method of evaluation by which the sponsoring faculty member evaluates those objectives.

Types of Individualized Instruction

1. Directed Study refers to a one-to-one teaching arrangement for a course listed in the college catalog. Directed Study is offered only when failure to do so would negatively affect the student's ability to graduate or otherwise diminish the student's academic experience at Wesleyan.
2. Independent Study is a specially developed individualized course in which a student pursues a plan of readings, field study or research under the one-to-one guidance of a faculty member. Independent Studies are appropriate for academically advanced students who can profit from study in depth. Such courses are not regularly listed in Wesleyan's course catalog.

The advantages of Directed/Independent Studies include gaining pre-professional experience and job contacts, creating a personalized academic program, taking the initiative for one's own education, encouraging innovative teaching and learning, developing behavior patterns necessary for success in the work world, and linking practical knowledge with the goals of a liberal education.

REQUIREMENTS

1. The student must have sophomore standing.
2. A minimum of a GPA of 2.5
3. Retroactive credit is not possible, and will not be applied.
4. The completed Application for Individualized Instruction should be submitted to the Academic Services Office prior to registration for the semester in which it is to occur but absolutely no later than the last day of add/drop. Late submissions will require written justification and approval of the Admission and Academic Standing Council.
5. All individualized instruction experiences shall be for at least one credit, and no single experience – independent study or directed study-may exceed six (6) credit hours without the approval of the Vice President of Academic Affairs.
6. No more than 15 hours of Individualized Instruction (independent study, directed study, and internships) shall be applied toward graduation.
7. Volunteer/community service that satisfies requirements for scholarship funds cannot be considered individualized instruction.
8. Waiver of any of the above requirements is the discretion of the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

STEPS FOR DEVELOPING INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION

1. Meet with the faculty sponsor to discuss the possibility of individualized instruction.
2. Draft a preliminary proposal of the course, establishing clear learning objectives and methods of evaluating those objectives.
3. With the help of the faculty sponsor, complete the plan of study. The form must be typed or word-processed and free from spelling and grammatical errors.
4. Secure all necessary signatures.
5. Enroll in the appropriate number of hours for the directed study/independent study under INDP 201.

6. Submit the forms to the Registrar. It will be reviewed by the Director of Individualized Instruction; it may be returned for revision or approved as submitted.
7. Copies of the approved form will be provided to the student and faculty sponsor. The original will be filed in the Registrar's Office.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Learning Objectives

Learning objectives give direction to the course or study. They should be precisely stated and reasonable in number, with a minimum of four. They may include cognitive (knowledge), affective (attitudinal, emotional or valuing behaviors) and psychomotor (physical) skills.

These objectives should state unambiguously what the student intends to accomplish. They should identify the competency or skills expected at the completion of the course. Objectives are commonly phrased as "to describe, or explain, to solve, to construct, to define, to classify, to compose, to design, to identify, to analyze, to discover." "To learn" or "to understand" is not an objective, but the means to achieve it.

Examples:

Incorrect - - to learn about the different religions in India.

Correct - - To be able to list the major religions of India and outline their more common beliefs and practices.

Incorrect - - to know how to conserve energy in a classroom building.

Correct - - To be able to identify and list current energy conservation techniques and explain how they can be applied to a classroom building.

Learning Methods and Materials

These should be consistent with the objectives. They may be texts, equipment, periodicals, software, manuals, travel, reading lists, research guides, or trips to laboratories or libraries.

Evaluation Methods

The student and faculty sponsor must have a clear understanding of how each completed objective will be evaluated and a grade determined. Exams, essays, research papers, reports, self-studies, demonstrations, presentations, job diaries, software or computer programs, creative projects and other methods can be used to document the learning accomplished.

CREDIT

Academic credit will depend on the learning experience as compared to a typical college class. More credit requires more work, more evaluation.

Credit is, however, never for time spent, but for goals achieved.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The student will:

- Achieve all learning objectives to the best of his/her ability.
- Notify the Director of Academic Services of the need to terminate/change the contract.
- Maintain standards of professional excellence: promptness, initiative, dependability.
- Complete and return all forms and assignments due the faculty sponsor, and Registrar or the Office of Academic Affairs.

The Faculty Sponsor will:

- Review the student's proposal, and in consultation with the student, establish learning objectives and methods of evaluations.
- Meet with the student and maintain contact to review the student's progress on the course of study.

- Make a final evaluation of the student's performance and submit this grade to the Registrar.

The Office of Academic Services will:

- Keep all records related to the student's course.
- Provide assistance in solving problems related to the successful completion of the course of study.
- Clarify the relationship between classroom and individualized learning and assist the student in creating a meaningful course of study.
- Act as a liaison between Wesleyan, student, and faculty.

We hope your contract is a gratifying one!

(Once completed, cut and return this form to Academic Services)

DATA SHEET – Directed/Independent Study

West Virginia Wesleyan College

Date _____

Title of Independent Study/ Directed Study/ (circle one)

Contract Period From: _____ To: _____ Year: _____

Student Name: _____ Student #: _____

Class: _____ Soph. _____ JR. _____ SR. Major: _____

College Address _____ Box # _____ Phone _____

Address During Study Period: _____

_____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

ACADEMIC RECORD AND CREDIT INFORMATION:

Credits to be Earned _____

If this is a directed study (catalog course), give code and # _____

I wish these hours of Independent Study/Directed Study to be applied to my academic record as credits in:

Major: _____ Minor: _____ Exploratory: _____ (outside major/minor--three hour limit)

SIGNATURES:

Student: _____ Date: _____

Faculty Sponsor: _____ Date: _____

School Director: _____ Date: _____

Director of Academic Services: _____ Date: _____