

Honors College

Dear Faculty Member,

The Honors College would like to thank you for interest in serving as an instructor of record for an Honors Independent Study.

Independent study courses are very important to Honors education at NAU, and students typically use them to work on projects of interest and to support their Honors Capstones. Independent study courses are intended to provide added value to regular coursework and allow students to shape their educational goals. Ideally, independent study courses are tailored to help students develop skills in research, writing, and public speaking.

The independent study coursework varies by major and discipline, and faculty have latitude in determining the nature of that work. The common denominators are that the independent study requires significant effort and that the student is involved in the planning process. The scope and final direction of the project should be determined by the faculty member and the student; the projects themselves will vary greatly depending on the content. Some examples of independent studies worth three units include:

- A robust research paper totaling in 30 pages of academic writing
- A business evaluation of a company's digital marketing plan
- An educational unit plan for three months of an elementary science curriculum
- An original gothic horror novel for young adult audiences
- An original documentary on oral histories of first generation students

These suggestions are not intended to be exhaustive, and we encourage faculty to help students develop innovative projects that will enhance student understanding of their specific material or of their academic field more generally. We do ask that projects be substantive, keeping in mind the number of credits to be earned and the Regent's contact hour policy of 45 hours per credit.

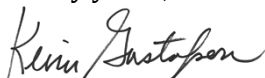
As a faculty member of record for an independent study, you are primarily in charge of helping the student plan the project—or discuss the plan created by an outside organization—provide support and accountability throughout the project, and ultimately assign a letter grade for the work submitted. Some specific responsibilities include:

- Helping the student to outline the scope of the project by using the HON 497, HON 485, or HON 491C forms
- Ensuring that the work is in accordance with ABOR standards and that effort is commensurate with about 10 pages of academic writing per credit hour
- Discussing ethical considerations, such as whether a student needs IRB (Institutional Review Board) approval and, if so, ensuring that the student takes appropriate measures
- Providing support and ideas to students when asked
- Assigning a final grade for the independent study, based on the agreed-upon grading and assessment standards

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at Kevin.Gustafson@nau.edu

Thank you again for your dedication towards student success!

Sincerely yours,



Kevin Gustafson
Dean, NAU Honors College