

MASTER OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
LIS 8010 Special Studies in Librarianship (Independent Study) Guidelines

GRADUATE CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Directed and supervised projects of independent study. You must have a sufficient background to work independently. You may take no more than two independent studies.

Prerequisites: Completion of eight courses, including 7010, 7030, 7040, 7050*, and required management course; 3.3 GPA or above; instructor permission.

*LIS 7050: Research Methods are required prerequisites for students entering the program in Fall 2011 or later.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The independent study topic should be of sufficient academic and scholarly substance and merit to be worthy of at least three credits, and it should result in a product that will document both the substance and merit of the student's performance in the independent study. An independent study is not a substitute for an existing course.
2. The student should discuss the topic with an appropriate member of the faculty. Adjunct faculty may work with a student on an independent study project in an area of his/her expertise. A member of the full-time faculty, preferably in a cognate area, must approve the project if the student will be working with an adjunct faculty member. The student should address these points when discussing the proposed project with the faculty member:
 - The topic of the study.
 - The purpose of the study.
 - The learning objectives
 - How the study will be carried out, what sources will be used for it, what the finished product will be, and the date when it will be completed.
3. Once a supervising faculty member agrees to work with the student, the student is required to fill out and submit the online Independent Study Registration and Proposal form. This form is located in Gateway under the student tab. Look for "Registrar Office Online Forms." Select Independent Study proposal and registration form from the list of forms on the forms page.
4. The submitted application will be forwarded to the faculty member (the one listed on the form) who has agreed to oversee the special study. (The student should be sure to make a copy of the form for his/her own records.)
5. Once the faculty member approves the proposal online, the proposal and the application will then be automatically forwarded on to the MLIS Associate Dean.
6. The MLIS Associate Dean will make the decision concerning approval known to the student, the faculty member, and the person directing the student (if different from the faculty member who approved the project).
8. After the proposal is approved by the faculty member and MLIS Associate Dean, the Registrar will register the student in the course.