

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Undergraduate Program in Physiology**  
**APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY**

PLEASE READ THE GUIDELINES BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM.  
 ALL ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE APPROVAL SIGNATURES ARE OBTAINED.

|                      |              |                |                          |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Please Type or Print |              |                |                          |
| Name: _____          | DATE: _____  |                |                          |
| Last                 | First        | Middle Initial |                          |
| PID: _____           | LEVEL: _____ | CLASS: _____   | MAJOR: _____             |
|                      |              |                | Cumulative<br>GPA: _____ |

Independent Study (PSL 480) and Independent Research (PSL 490) represent planned, but individualized study in an approved area of physiology, not addressable through any other course format. They are intended to increase flexibility within the curriculum for undergraduate physiology majors and to provide students with a formalized independent study or research experience that will appear on the student's academic transcript. Students should register for PSL 490 for laboratory-based, faculty supervised research. PSL 480 should be used for all other types of faculty supervised independent projects including literature-based, computer-based, or inquiry-based research. One credit of Independent Study is intended to represent a time commitment of 6-8 Hr/ week. Students may register for 1 or 2 Cr in any single semester. In accordance with university guidelines, *total* independent study credits (PSL 480 plus PSL 490) may not exceed 10% of credits earned in a bachelor student's program (i.e., 12 Cr of independent study in total), with not more than 8 Cr in either course.

- Course Number:     PSL 480 (Independent Study in Physiology)  
                            PSL 490 (Independent Research in Physiology)

Credits \_\_\_\_\_                      Semester \_\_\_\_\_                      Year \_\_\_\_\_

Number of other Independent Study                      Total of prior Independent Study  
 Credits to be earned the same semester \_\_\_\_\_                      credits in semester credit equivalents \_\_\_\_\_

1. DESCRIPTION (Subject matter, purpose, methods)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. RATIONALE (Why independent study rather than regular course?)

3. PREPARATION (Relevant course work, reading, work experience, etc.)

4. WORK TO BE COMPLETED

(a) Type and amount of reading, writing, lab work, etc.)

(b) Estimated contact hrs per week  
with instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Deadline for submitting work  
for final evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

5. EVALUATION PROCEDURE (Basis of grade assignment)

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVALS**

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Faculty Supervisor      Date

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Undergraduate Studies      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Supervisor's Name - Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
UG Director's Name - Printed

**DISTRIBUTION**

The faculty supervisor should e-mail the completed form to the Director of Undergraduate Studies (Karl Olson; olsonla@msu.edu). After approval by the Director, the application will be uploaded to the student's Electronic Student Academic Folder (ESAF) and the student will be enrolled in the course by the Undergraduate Office (i.e. L. Seischab and B. Bird).

Revised August 2020

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY

### DEFINITION

At Michigan State University, Independent Study is planned study, highly individualized, not addressable through any other course format, proposed in writing by the student on a standard form, accepted for supervision by a faculty member, and approved by the student's academic adviser and the teaching unit at the beginning of the semester.

### GUIDELINES

Independent Study should:

1. Consist of work not described in the University catalog in any other format;
2. Be taken under a course number commensurate with the student's class level, major field, and experience;
3. Relate to a subject for which the student has adequate preparation;
4. Be directed by a faculty member with whom there is a periodic contact and consultation throughout the study;
5. Not exceed eight semester hours of credit in a single semester;
6. Not exceed 10% of the credits earned in a bachelor's program;
7. Be applied for on the form provided by the University, or any equivalent departmental or College form;
8. Be approved on this form before the student enrolls for the course.

### APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT

Please complete the form on the reverse side, obtaining indicated approvals and necessary overrides before enrollment for the course: