



# Independent Study Proposal

Student name	<input type="text"/>	AndrewID	<input type="text"/>
Supervisor	<input type="text"/>	AndrewID	<input type="text"/>
Course #	<input type="text"/>	Units	<input type="text"/>

Apply as: ☐ Units only ☐ Elective ☐ Qualifying ☐ AI ☐ Systems ☐ Theory

This study is expected to result in: (check as many as apply)

Mid-semester	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paper review(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paper/report outline
<input type="checkbox"/>	Implementation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Experiments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group meetings/presentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (see statement)

End of semester	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paper submission (see statement)
<input type="checkbox"/>	M.S. thesis proposal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Formal presentation (see statement)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Open-source code (see statement)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (see statement)

Projected grading criteria:

Mid-semester	
A	<input type="text"/>
B	<input type="text"/>
C	<input type="text"/>

End of semester	
A	<input type="text"/>
B	<input type="text"/>
C	<input type="text"/>

	Name	AndrewID	College/Department
Student	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Sign and Date Here to Approve		
Supervisor	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Sign and Date Here to Approve		
MSCS Advisor	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Sign and Date Here to Approve		

# Instructions

## Goal

The overall goal of an independent study is for a student to learn something not taught in a regular class. There are many options for the learning goal(s) of a study. In addition, the MSCS program strongly encourages independent studies to result in an identifiable contribution to humanity. Here also there are many options – for example, a technical report or a submission to a refereed venue; delivering acquired insight to others through a presentation; code; theorems; experimental measurements. While the primary focus is the student's education, we believe that beginning an independent study with a careful consideration of the secondary aspirations makes it more likely that both will be achieved.

## About this form

This form is a prospectus, not a contract! Everybody understands that the outcomes of a creative endeavor are, by definition, not fully predictable in advance. However, in the words of Yogi Berra, “If you don't know where you're going, you might not get there.” So we would like you to attempt in advance to project where you'll end up.

## Steps

1. If it isn't obvious who should supervise your independent study, talk to your advisor. By no means should you send mail to faculty members at random. This will make you look bad and make it hard for your fellow MSCS students to find independent-study supervisors.
2. Once you have identified a supervisor, jointly prepare a brief description of the independent study (probably around three paragraphs). You may refer to the expected-outcome tables above. Try to identify at least one deliverable which can be evaluated before the date when mid-semester grades are due.
3. Fill out the form (it is a fillable PDF), but nobody should sign it yet. Take the form and the draft statement to see your advisor.
4. If appropriate, you may get on the wait list for 15-689. But nothing will happen until the MSCS program approves the independent study

## Specific form fields

Course number – This will most often be 15-689, and that is administratively the simplest thing. If the research supervisor is in another department and would prefer that you register for a master's-level independent study class in that department, that can work as well.

Units – This will typically be 12, sometimes 9 or 6. If not 12, discuss with your advisor.

Apply as – This will typically be “Qualifying”; discuss with your advisor.

Grading criteria – These are obviously not set in stone, but it is wise for the student and research supervisor to concretely discuss an A/B/C/uh-oh “triage” up front.