

Independent Studies and Research Courses

Independent studies and research sections are courses of study that involve substantial interaction with and instruction by faculty and are set up on an ad hoc basis. All independent study and research courses are taken for pass-fail credit only. Independent Studies may be set up with variable credits.

An HSPH faculty member or an adjunct faculty member must supervise all independent studies and research sections taken for degree credit at the School. Students who wish to enroll with a faculty member with a School “annual appointment” or a faculty member from another Harvard school must enroll in the section sponsored by their School academic advisor. By sponsoring the independent study, the School advisor agrees to the appropriateness of both the work and the non-School supervisor. The academic advisor must contact the non-School section supervisor to assign a grade for the student. The student’s academic advisor must submit the grade at the end of the course as required by the School’s Committee on Educational Policy (CEP).

Credit Allotment

Full semester (16 weeks)		Half Semester (8 weeks)	
Work Hours	Credits	Work Hours	Cred
1 hour/week	.5 credits	1 hour/week	.25 credits
2 hours/week	1.0 credits	2 hours/week	.50 credits
3 hours/week	1.5 credits	3 hours/week	.75 credits
4 hours/week	2.0 credits	4 hours/week	1.00 credits
5 hours/week	2.5 credits	5 hours/week	1.25 credits
6 hours/week	3.0 credits	6 hours/week	1.50 credits
7 hours/week	3.5 credits	7 hours/week	1.75 credits
8 hours/week	4.0 credits	8 hours/week	2.00 credits
9 hours/week	4.5 credits	9 hours/week	2.25 credits
10 hours/week	5.0 credits	10 hours/week	2.50 credits