

Non-Clinical Independent Study

These should be focused projects that will have a clearly defined work product. As a rule of thumb 15 hours per week effort corresponds to 1 credit. You may register for a 2 credit or 4 credit independent study. Sometimes the project grows and students apply for a 2nd independent study that will have a new work product. You could also come up with a different project and apply for a new independent study.

The application needs to include a specific* description of the project, your role, and the work product that will be turned in at the end of the 2 or 4 week period. For most research projects it is unrealistic to think a paper for submission to a journal will be completed in 4 weeks so this is not a realistic product. A more realistic project may be performing a background literature search and writing up an IRB proposal. If you are joining an IRB approved study, clarify what your role is (e.g. data analysis, running a specific experiment). In this case your work product would likely be an interim report summarizing what you have learned so far.

It is certainly a great goal to have a peer reviewed publication come from a research project. If you are starting at the IRB submission stage of a project then data collection may be completed by next year at which point you may consider submitting a second independent study that involves data analysis and paper preparation.

*For IRB approved studies you can include relevant sections from the IRB proposal.