Nature of Independent Study:

Independent Study is an opportunity for students to earn academic credit for individualized research, scholarly and/or practical academic experience that cannot be met through courses in the regular curriculum. For Psychology/Neuroscience students, PSYC/NRSC 4841-Independent Study is an opportunity for students to work with individual direction from a faculty member on a topic of mutual interest in psychology or neuroscience. Typically, PSYC/NRSC 4841 credit is approved for student collaboration with a departmental Faculty member on a research project related to that Faculty member’s program of research.

For more information concerning possible research topics and opportunities in the department see: [http://psych.colorado.edu/research-faclabs.html](http://psych.colorado.edu/research-faclabs.html), and faculty listings: [http://psych.colorado.edu/people-faculty.html](http://psych.colorado.edu/people-faculty.html)

Requirements for Independent Study in Psychology/Neuroscience:

Students are expected to have already had some previous course work in the subject matter, so that they are well prepared for an Independent Study experience that provides a high level of intellectual development and new research skills. PSYC/NRSC 4841 is restricted to Psychology and Neuroscience majors with an overall GPA of 2.5 and completion of at least 1 full-time semester on campus. A student must enlist the participation of a departmental Faculty member who agrees to sponsor and supervise all aspects of the Independent Study project.

The Independent Study Agreement Form:

Students and Faculty Sponsors must complete the Independent Study Agreement form. A student may pick up the Independent Study Agreement form in the Psychology/Neuroscience Advising Center, Muenzing D243. It is important for the student to be explicit in their description of the project. A minimum of 25 hours of independent study work is required for each credit unit earned. It is the responsibility of the Faculty Sponsor to be explicit in the method of evaluation. A component of that evaluation must include review of a report written by the student pertaining to their independent study experience.

After obtaining the signature of the sponsoring faculty member, the form should be placed in the mailbox of the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Psychology and Neuroscience main office in Muenzing D244. The Director will evaluate the form and forward it to the student's Academic Advisor for enrollment in the Independent Study credit hours.
A final copy of the student’s written report of the independent study experience must first be approved by the Faculty Sponsor and then be submitted to the Director of Undergraduate Studies before a grade of Pass/Fail is submitted on behalf of the student.

**Limitations to Independent Study:**

Some experiences are not appropriate for Independent Study credit and, in fact, are prohibited by College policy: internship type experiences; experiences for which the student will receive compensation; as a substitute for regular course work; or to meet College List or Core Curriculum requirements. Students may receive credit for extra work performed in association with a regular class only if all procedures of the Independent Study agreement are followed prior to the work being initiated.

The Psychology and Neuroscience Department will not give Independent Study credit for work completed elsewhere (e.g. another institution). Independent Study may not be awarded for work done retroactively. That is, the agreement form for Independent Study is to be completed, signed and approved prior to the initiation of the project, not after it has been completed. Enrollment in Independent Study is subject to the same registration deadlines established by the University for other courses. The deadline for enrolling is census date (about two weeks after the start of the semester). Independent Study is not to be added as an afterthought (e.g. “because I need one more hour this semester”). Requests to "late add" Independent Study are subject to the petition process, and the petition must be accompanied by a copy of the signed Independent Study Agreement form.

The maximum hours allowed in Independent Study by College policy are as follows: 16 credits total towards degree, eight in any one department (PSYC and NRSC are considered one department), six in any single semester. The Psychology and Neuroscience Department limits Independent Study to a maximum of three credits per semester. Independent Study is graded as Pass/Fail. Therefore, the independent study credits cannot be used to fulfill the minimum credit hours required for an undergraduate major in PSYC or NRSC, but do count toward the maximum 45 credits allowed in any one department.