

## **BCHM 4901**

### **Independent Study in Biochemistry**

### **Information Sheet**

#### **Introduction**

Independent study provides an opportunity for students to work on a research project with an individual faculty member outside of the regular class structure. This provides a hands-on experience where new results are being sought and the outcome of the research is not known in advance unlike laboratory courses. A student completing independent study may have a totally independent project or may be part of a research team. Students enrolled in independent study should meet regularly with their mentor and faculty sponsor to discuss their research progress. In addition, most students will be required to complete a written paper or presentation at the conclusion of the semester in which they are enrolled in independent study, as determined by the faculty sponsor. The faculty mentor should keep a copy of the work for a period of at least one year following the conclusion of the semester.

#### **Eligibility**

To receive independent study credit, students should be at least a junior (as determined by credits) who have taken the appropriate course work or have appropriate experience to prepare them to undertake the proposed research. Independent study is most appropriate for students with at least a 3.0 GPA. The minimum standard for the department is that a student should spend at least 3 hours per week on their proposed research per credit hour.

#### **Semester Credit Hour Limitations**

The School of Arts and Sciences allows for a total of 16 credit hours of independent study to count towards the 120 hours required for graduation, with only 8 credit hours in any one department. Students are able to enroll in a maximum of 6 credit hours of independent study in a single semester.

#### **Restrictions**

Independent study credit is not granted for work which a student is paid or for work associated with an internship. Research outside of the department will not be granted independent study credit unless arrangements are made in advance for a faculty member to act as a faculty sponsor and maintain regular supervision of the work.

#### **How to Enroll**

To enroll in independent study, first identify a faculty sponsor and agree upon details of your project. Then complete the Independent Study Proposal and Agreement (page 1 of this document). Obtain the signature of your faculty sponsor, and submit the completed Proposal and Agreement to the Undergraduate Program Manager in JSCBB B217 to be enrolled in the course.

***Be sure to complete this process before the deadline to add classes for the semester.***