

**University of Colorado Boulder – Department of Physics
Independent Study Agreement**

Student Name: _____ Student ID: _____
Student e-mail: _____ Student phone: _____
Course number: _____ Major: _____
Section number: _____ Semester: _____
Credit hours (1-3): _____ Faculty Sponsor: _____

Topic of proposed independent study

Goal or expected product (term paper, exams, oral presentation, etc – must include some written work)

Dates (first conference, due date for completion of project, etc)

See reverse for independent study guidelines.

Signatures:

Student: _____ Date: _____

Faculty Sponsor: _____ Date: _____

Associate Chair: _____ Date: _____

Student: Email a copy of this form to maria.j.martinez@colorado.edu for signature routing in Docusign. Once the form is complete, you will be enrolled in the credit hours.

University of Colorado Boulder – Department of Physics

Independent Study Guidelines

Purpose of Independent Study

Physics independent study is an opportunity for students to work with individual faculty members on a topic of mutual interest in physics. Students are expected to have the requisite knowledge to pursue work on the chosen topic. Independent study is intended for work in areas in which the Physics Department does not normally offer course work. It is not intended to be used by students to take a course not being offered that semester. To take a course not offered in a particular semester the student should consult with Continuing Education about courses by consultation.

Unacceptable independent study activities

- Internship type experiences (prohibited by College policy)
- Work in a university department (prohibited by College policy)
- To meet College Core requirement (prohibited by College policy)
- Substitute for regular course work (prohibited by College policy)
- Volunteer work (may be acceptable if it is part of and germane to the rest of the independent study project)
- Work in business (may be acceptable if it is part of and germane to the rest of the independent study project)
- Extra work performed in association with a regular class (may be acceptable if all procedures in setting up the independent study are followed prior to the work being started)

Contract

Students, their faculty sponsor, and the associate chair of the department (the independent study coordinator) must each sign the Independent Study Agreement (on reverse). The minimum expectation is 25 hours of work on the project per one credit hour of independent study. This may include laboratory work, library research, and consultation. The topic of the project, the expected product of the project (such as term paper, exam, oral presentation, etc) and the schedule for the start and completion of the project are included in the contract.

Restrictions

The College of Arts and Sciences allows a maximum of 16 total credit hours of independent study towards a degree, 8 hours in any one department, and 6 hours in any single semester. The College of Engineering allows a maximum of 6 hours of independent study degree credit towards the BS, and a maximum of 3 credit hours in any one semester, but major departments may be more restrictive.

Eligibility

Any student, regardless of major, may take an independent study in the Physics Department with the approval of a faculty sponsor and the independent study coordinator. Independent study may not be done retroactively. The contract for independent study must be completed, signed, and approved prior to the initiation of the project. The deadline for enrolling is the census date for the semester – usually about two weeks after the start of the semester. See the Office of the Registrar's website for the Registration Calendar.

Students should make arrangements with an individual faculty member to pursue independent study. Students may register for PHYS 4840 (upper-division undergraduate-level) or PHYS 7840 (graduate-level). Students must present a completed Physics Department Independent Study Agreement form, including the three required signatures, in order to be registered for the appropriate course. A copy of the signed contract will be kept by the student, the faculty sponsor, and the department independent study coordinator.