

**Department of Geography
University of Maryland, College Park**

**INDEPENDENT STUDY GUIDELINES
(Geog 398, 498)**

Geography Department students may receive credit for individualized academic projects through Independent Study. The student is expected to engage in study that is supervised by a faculty advisor. Independent Study coursework must not duplicate courses that are traditionally offered at the University. The final work product must have been developed with the Independent Study faculty advisor. The faculty advisor may be any UMD professor—full-time, visiting, or adjunct; however, he/she must have some knowledge or background in the issues or areas the student will explore in the independent study. The responsibilities for the faculty advisor include:

- (a) Sign off on the attached application
- (b) Meet with the student regularly during the semester
- (c) Approve timeline for deadlines with the student
- (d) Assign appropriate readings, review/revise the final product periodically
- (e) *submit a grade at the end of the semester

*Grades are due at the end of the first week of finals.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:

Students must have at least 60 semester hours, a minimum grade point average of 2.5, and have completed the Geography Primary Courses (except GEOG 212/215). In addition, the following are required:

- 1) Submit a proposal- of the topic of the paper and a possible outline to your faculty paper for approval.
- 2) Research Paper-Students must complete a research paper at the end of the semester or a subject relevant to Geography. The paper is to be developed over the course of the semester under the supervision of the faculty advisor. The faculty advisor has final approval on all aspects of the paper except the length which is predetermined by the number of credits the student register for.
- 3) Presentation-Students will need to present their work at the bi-annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. For more information please visit: <http://geog.umd.edu/content/undergraduate-research-symposium>
- 4) Readings-Decisions regarding what books and articles must be read are to be negotiated by the student and the faculty advisor. Faculty advisors may assign readings or they may approve readings that students suggest if they feel the content is appropriate and relevant. In addition, faculty advisors have the authority to set deadlines and assign any related work.
- 5) Timeline-Student submit a schedule to your faculty advisor of meetings, updates, and completion of final paper.

The minimum paper length is determined by the number of credits:

- 1 credit= 10 page minimum
- 2 credits= 15 page minimum
- 3 credits= 20 page minimum

