Resolution to Modify Eligibility Requirements for Independent Study, IS901

Whereas, the goal of independent study is to allow for self-directed study relating to an area of academic or professional experience;

Whereas, the current requirements to engage in independent study includes a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher, a minimum of 30 earned credits, and at least an introductory course or sequence in the area of inquiry;

Whereas, independent study may benefit students at any stage of their college career;

Whereas, undergraduate research already meets the criteria for independent study of allowing for self-directed study in an area of academic or professional experience and is committed to the principle that research is a learning experience leading to deeper understanding of concepts taught in the classroom, through their application to discover new knowledge or solve societal problems;

Whereas, many students who engage in meaningful undergraduate research have not already completed 30 credits or have a GPA of 3.0 or greater;

Whereas, students may conduct undergraduate research as an independent study project, and they may be working on a project in an interdisciplinary area such as climate change, where the college does not offer an introductory course;

Whereas, independent study, requires a faculty mentor, and also needs the approval of the school dean of the faculty mentor, and the faculty and dean are well-suited to assess whether an individual student is prepared to engage in a research-based learning activity regardless of cumulative GPA or number of completed credits;

Whereas, it is no longer necessary to download forms

Therefore, be it resolved that the criteria for eligibility for independent study, IS 901, an interdisciplinary course be modified to read:

an eligible student must have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher

and the statement about downloading forms to complete the application be removed

and other edits to clarify the policy be made.

Discussion:

The current description of the independent study course, previously approved by college governance and found in the catalog, follows. Edits show the proposed changes. The Independent Study application is also attached with a slight modification shown

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Independent study is a learning experience that allows for self-directed study relating to an area of academic or professional experience. Key elements of the course include critical analysis, application or development of ideas and concepts related to the area of inquiry and guidance by a faculty mentor. An eligible student must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher. ~~3.00 or higher, have earned a minimum of 30 credits*, and have completed an introductory course or sequence in the area of inquiry. Visit the forms section of the College website~~

The application can be found at **www.citytech.cuny.edu/registrar/important-forms.aspx** ~~and download an application.~~ In the semester prior to the commencement of the independent study, the student should identify and meet with a faculty mentor to discuss and formalize the idea for an independent study course. Next, submit a completed and signed (by faculty mentor, student and dean) application form with supporting documents ~~to the school dean~~ prior to the registration deadline for the semester of study. Honors Scholars and students interested in research are encouraged to apply.

Note: The course is offered for variable credit of 1-3 credits (3-9 independent study hours per week) following the formula for Carnegie hours. An eligible student may enroll in this course a limit of two times Á¦Áæåãã}æÁã ^•Á ã@

~~approval from the Provost.~~ ~~The student must have earned a minimum of 30 credits prior to the first Independent Study 9010 and 90 credits prior to a second Independent Study 9010.~~

New York City College of Technology of the City University of New York 11/07//2011
APPLICATION FORM: INDEPENDENT STUDY _____ IS 9010

Before completing this form, review regulations for independent study in the current college catalogue and discuss your plans with your faculty supervisor. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications must be filed prior to the registration deadline for the semester of study.

Applicant's Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Credits completed: _____ GPA: ____ ~~(3.0 minimum required)~~

Major: _____ Associate level ___ Baccalaureate level ____ Applicable
Term: Fall _____ Spring _____ Summer _____ Year _____

Project Title: _____ #of credits ___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3

I understand that upon completion of the independent study, I will present a seminar, open to the college community, along with the final report on the research at the end of the term.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

An independent study complete application must include the following materials: 1. A proposal of one or more paragraphs in length that clearly describes the intended objectives of the study, including anticipated procedures to attain those objectives. This description should be addressed to a non-specialist reader. A relevant bibliography must be included. 2. A statement clearly specifying the expected role of the faculty supervisor in this study (frequency / purpose of meetings with supervisor, anticipated laboratory, studio, or field assistance, etc). 3. A timeline clearly outlining your obligations in this study (preparation for meetings with supervisor, paper type and length, lab notebook, portfolio or finished products, anticipated deadlines, etc). 4. A statement clearly describing how the study will be evaluated – the assessment rubric (tests, papers, laboratory notebook, dance production or a talk, quality and quantity of art work). 5. A one-paragraph evaluation of the usefulness of the project by the faculty supervisor. 6. The signed application form submitted to the faculty supervisor for consideration by due date.

_____

Signatures:

Faculty Supervisor of independent study _____

Off-campus supervisor (if applicable) _____

Dept. or Program Chairperson: _____

Academic Dean _____

Action: Approved _____ Approved with revisions _____ Not Approved _____ Date: _____