

<hr/> <small>THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY</small> <b>SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES</b>	<b>Independent Study in Public Health</b>  <b>PubH 210.10, ExSc 293</b>  <b>Course Description</b>
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**Purpose:**

This course is designed to provide the student with an opportunity to gain or enhance public health knowledge and to explore an area of interest related to public health research or the delivery and/or administration of health services.

**Objectives** (one or more of the following substantive and process-related objectives must be met depending on the project):

- Students expand current knowledge in a specific area of interest related to public health;
- Students remediate deficient areas of knowledge, behavior, or skills;
- Students develop or enhance skills in analyzing, synthesizing, and integrating public health-related information or experiences;
- Students develop or enhance skills in project identification, development, management, implementation, evaluation, communication, and/or dissemination;

**Course Design:**

This is a variable 1-3 credit course that may not be repeated. It is expected that for **each credit** registered the course will require approximately 45-60 hours of work for the 15 week semester.

**Registration:**

The student will not be able to register for this course until the independent study project plan and the graduate petition form have been completed and approved by the student, the faculty instructor (supervisor), the student’s academic Program Director, the faculty instructor’s Department Chair, and Dean of Student Affairs. **Independent studies must be approved prior to registration for the course.** Students should submit completed forms and a Registration Transaction Form to Student Records (Ross 222) when registration is open for the semester that the independent study is taking place.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Students discuss their general topic with a faculty member with whom they would like to complete the independent study project and solicit the faculty member’s commitment to being the project supervisor.
2. Once the faculty supervisor is identified, the student and faculty supervisor determine the specific project in which the student will be involved. After this discussion, the student presents a typed outline of the independent study project to the faculty supervisor, who must approve the outline. The outline must consist of the following elements:
  - a. Purpose and objectives of the independent study;
  - b. A short description of the project, including a project title;
  - c. A list or description of the components of the project to be completed by the student;

- d. A timeline for completion of the project within one semester;
- e. A list of the number and approximate dates for meetings between the faculty and student for evaluation and discussion of the project;
- f. A description of how the student project will be graded, including any intermediate evaluation/grades that are required.

The faculty supervisor may choose to include additional elements to the independent study outline.

This outline and accompanying form serve as the formal contract for the independent study project. The contract and form must be signed by all parties before the project is initiated.

Once the outline is completed and the independent study form signed by the faculty supervisor and the student, the outline and form should be sent to the student's academic Program Director, the faculty supervisor's department chair, and then to the Dean of Student Affairs for approval.

3. Independent study projects may not be used as a substitute for an available required or elective course and may not cover substantially the same subject matter that is available in a required or elective course.

### **Grading:**

Methods of grading will be specified in the contract with the student and will be determined by the faculty member based on the requirements of the independent study. Letter grades must be used; independent studies may not receive a grade of Pass/Fail. The student must successfully complete all project components agreed in the contract in the timeframe required by the contract. Students and faculty may agree to a project timeline that extends beyond a single semester if appropriate. Failure to meet any of the terms of the outline can result in a failing grade. Incomplete grading and an In-Progress grade will only be allowed under extenuating circumstance such as personal medical issues or a change that is out of the control of the student that makes the project extremely difficult or impossible to complete in a timely manner.

### **Academic Integrity**

Please review the University's policy on academic integrity, located at [www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html](http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html). All graded work must be completed in accordance with The George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity. Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information. Common examples of academically dishonest behavior include, but are not limited to, the following: Cheating; Fabrication; Plagiarism; Falsification and forgery of University academic documents; Facilitating academic dishonesty.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you feel you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, please contact me privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact the Disability Support Services Office at 202.994.8250, Suite 242 Marvin Center, <http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss> , to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

