



Trinity Law School INDEPENDENT STUDY APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____
Street

_____ Work Phone: _____
City State Zip

Social Security #: _____

Units Requested:

1 2 3 For Fall Spring Summer Year _____

Paper topic: _____

Please provide a brief description of your topic: _____

Supervising faculty comments: _____

Date

Student Signature

Date

Supervising Faculty Approval

Date

Dean's Approval

INDEPENDENT STUDY

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A law student may request approval from his advisor and the dean to conduct guided research for elective course credit. A guided research proposal must include the name of the faculty sponsor, the nature and goals of the research, and the number of credit hours requested. Upon appropriate approval, a student may register for credit for guided research under the course code LA970.

There are two basic types of projects that may qualify for credit as guided research. The first involves research and writing in a subject matter that is traditionally legal in scope or closely related to a traditional legal subject. This contemplates the type of research and writing that would be involved in a scholarly article for a law review or law journal or for a public policy or other professional journal. The article would be the result of substantial research and analysis. This kind of project includes a law review quality article.

The second type involves subject and project areas that are not traditional legal scholarship such as: research and writing necessary for preparation of substantial pleadings in a hypothetical or expected real case, including memoranda supporting the pleadings; or the pursuit of empirical study and research together with related doctrinal scholarly research, all to produce a substantial written report, article, or other document.

Either traditional or non-traditional legal research and writing may be used to satisfy the guided research requirement. If a student elects a traditional guided research under the direction and supervision of a member of the law faculty, it shall be independent of any course in which the student would be currently enrolled, but may involve the subject matter of current courses. The number of credit hours to be earned by the student should be determined by the faculty member, subject to the approval of the dean. In setting the number of credit hours, substantial weight will be given to the length of the final scholarly paper to be produced according to the following schedule:

1. 2 credits – 16 to 20 double-spaced pages, 8 ½ x 11” in size, including either footnotes or endnotes; or
2. 3 credits – 30 to 35 double-spaced pages, 8 ½ x 11” in size, including either footnotes or endnotes.

A shorter paper will generally be insufficient to indicate a rigorous academic experience in research and writing. However, the dean and the supervising faculty member on special petition may approve a one-credit guided research with a final written paper of from 8 to 10 pages, 8 ½ x 11” in size, including footnotes or endnotes.

For a non-traditional guided research project, a student shall present to the dean a petition describing the proposed course of study and requesting allowance of a specific number of credit

hours, accompanied by a short written expression of a law school faculty member indicating approval of the proposal together with an expression of willingness to work with and supervise the guided research. The dean shall review the petition and, if disapproved, return the petition to the student. But if approved, the dean shall refer the petition to the Curriculum Committee, which Committee shall review the petition and approve or disapprove the petition. Upon approval of the petition by the Committee, the student may enroll in a course designated for guided research.

A student shall only be permitted to earn a maximum of three (3) credit hours of guided research during the years of legal study.

For all student work in a guided research for academic credit, the student shall be assigned a final letter grade according to the grading policies of the law school.

A student may not normally use a previously written paper for credit in doing guided research. The supervising faculty member will determine whether a prior work may serve as a basis of a guided research if substantial research and writing would still be required within the independent study project.

If a student wished to do a guided research under the supervision of an adjunct faculty member, he must state the reasons in a petition. Such an independent study will be permitted only after approval of the dean and the Curriculum Committee.