The University of Mississippi -

Independent Study and Ole Miss Online: General Policies

Department of Online Learning and Independent Study

Anne M. Klingen, Director • Suite M, Third Floor, Martindale • (662) 915-7313
indstudy@olemiss.edu online@olemiss.edu

http://indstudy.olemiss.edu/ http://online.olemiss.edu/

Independent study courses are courses that are administered by the Department of Online Learning and Independent Study, asynchronous with the normal academic calendar, and involve communication between the student and instructor through the mail (traditional correspondence course) or via an electronic (Internet-based) mode. Students admitted to the University who wish to take a correspondence or an electronic independent study course must take it through the Department of Online Learning and Independent Study if the desired course is available through the Department. Also, prior approval by the student's academic dean is required before an independent study course can be taken.

Courses not available through the Department of Online Learning and Independent Study may be taken by correspondence or via the Internet from another institution and will be treated as transfer courses. Additionally, prior written approval of the student's academic dean is required before a student can take an independent study (correspondence or Internet-based) course from another institution.

Independent study courses taken from the University of Mississippi are considered resident credit for purposes of loan eligibility and for meeting other requirements involving academic residency.

A maximum of 33 hours of independent study courses may be applied to a baccalaureate degree. Independent study (correspondence or Internet-based) courses may not be used to satisfy the University core course in mathematics.

A University of Mississippi student is not considered officially enrolled in a course through the Department of Online Learning and Independent Study until he/she completes the mid-course examination, or if there is no mid-course examination, one half of the required coursework. Once the student has completed this work, he/she will not be allowed to withdraw from the course and a grade (A, B, C, D, or F) must be assigned. Generally a student has one calendar year to complete an independent study course and may purchase up to two three-month extensions of the deadline. Students who select to use independent study courses to qualify for federal aid must adhere to very specific enrollment and completion deadlines and have a much shorter time in which to complete their independent study (correspondence or Internet-based) courses. Contact the Department of Online Learning and Independent Study and the Office of Financial Aid for more information concerning this option.

When the completion of the course is noted on the student's transcript, the grade will be included in his or her cumulative GPA, but will not be calculated into the GPA of any academic semester. Grades earned through independent study will count as resident credit toward graduation honors designations. Each school or college may set other standards regarding whether independent study (correspondence or Internet-based) courses count toward degree requirements.

Ole Miss Online courses are those where 51 percent or more of the course, which includes lectures, discussions, and course work, takes places in an online or Web-based environment. Online courses are taught synchronously with the academic calendar. Students have the same responsibilities and rights in online courses as they do in traditional courses.