

BSW INDEPENDENT STUDY GUIDELINES FOR SOWK 360

Developed by
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What kind of work will be expected of students?

Together with a faculty member, the student devises a research/writing/activity program appropriate for the topic. The student develops a plan and performs activities, then reports on their implementation and results.

Independent Project is an undergraduate course with hands-on activity and summary report.

Independent Study undergraduate-level program of individualized research. I expect about twenty pages of text (double-spaced, no larger than 12 point type, double-spaced) and a dozen references to scholarly sources.

The student should be aware that this is an individual project requiring individual initiative central to the notion of independent scholarship. Students are expected to approach a faculty member with a specific proposal of study. The role of the professor is that of guide and reference person and, of course, evaluator of the final product. It is the student's responsibility to make wise and prudent use of the professor. By regularly communicating with the professor and receiving feedback on the project, the student can insure that the final product is acceptable. An unacceptable final project can result in either an incomplete or failing grade.

Study Proposal and Approval

Students must write a "study proposal" and should include the following: a summary statement of the area to explore or the problem or issue on which to work; a reading list or bibliography; and a description of the types of assignments (e.g. the number and types of papers, oral reports, or research projects). The written study proposal must be approved and signed by the faculty advisor.

a) Project title.

b) A clear and complete statement of project objectives.

What are the learning objectives? What new knowledge, skills and abilities will the student have at the end of the study? This may be concrete or flexible, but it's important for the student and his/her instructor to know what they are expecting to gain from the experience.

c) A concise statement of the plans and methods to be used in order to accomplish each objective.

What are the deliverables? The faculty advisor must be able to evaluate what the student has learned. Possibilities might include; one or more written documents or reports, PowerPoint presentations, teaching cases, or other products that would be of value to the student and/or key audiences.

d) A time plan indicating when various parts of the work are to be completed. What is your timeline for deliverables? Include interim mileposts such as advisor meetings, feedback on drafts, and final project completion.

e) Initial bibliography. These are expected to be "scholarly, professional" books, journal articles, reports, etc. Internet resources should be used sparingly and appropriately.