

WHAT ARE INDIVIDUAL STUDIES PROGRAMS?

Individual Studies programs provide motivated students with an opportunity to extend their education beyond the classroom. Various independent study formats allow a student to integrate experiential learning into their coursework.

Individual Studies courses in the Department of Physiology permit qualified students (see below) to work on an individual basis with faculty who have agreed to supervise such work. Each student, in consultation with a faculty advisor, will choose a suitable project of interest.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of a Physiology Individual Studies course, students should be able to:

1. Apply foundational physiology knowledge to real-world contexts such as research, teaching, or clinical settings.
2. Design and carry out an independent project under faculty mentorship.
3. Demonstrate critical thinking and responsible conduct in scholarly work.
4. Articulate the purpose and significance of their independent project through clear and well-organized written communication.

PHYSIOLOGY DEPARTMENT INDIVIDUAL STUDIES GUIDELINES:

1. All requests for undergraduate Individual Studies credit in the Department of Physiology must undergo review and be approved by the following individuals:
 - (1) the faculty member supervising the student's project;
 - (2) the student's Academic Advisor;
 - (3) the Physiology Undergraduate Program Director or Associate Director.
2. The student is expected to have a minimum overall grade point average of 3.00 at the time of registration to participate in an Individual Studies course. Students may work with their Academic Advisor to request an exception to this policy.
3. The project must address a **specific physiological question/issue** to be eligible for individual studies credit. Observation and shadowing are not eligible for individual studies credit.
4. At minimum, the student must submit a **final written report** to the faculty project advisor. The report should contain a description of both the work performed and the training obtained during the project. Faculty advisors may require a more extensive written report and may also require additional products/outcomes such as a poster presentation. These requirements should be clearly stated on the application form and agreed to by the faculty advisor and the student prior to the initiation of the project.
5. The student and faculty advisor must agree upon the number of Individual Studies units requested. Unit value is based on estimated time spent on the project. **Please use the table on page 2 to determine the appropriate number of units for your project.**
6. For all individual study courses, students should have regular contact with their faculty advisor. Approximately 1 hr/week of contact is recommended, when averaged across the semester.
7. Grading policies are as follows:
 - Available grades for PSIO 399 and 499: S (superior), P (pass), C, D, E, I, W.
 - Available grades for PSIO 492 (Directed Research) and all Honors Individual Study courses: A, B, C, D, E, I, W.
 - Grades will be determined on the basis of the student's degree of success in fulfilling the project's requirements. Students should know that Individual Studies grades of "S" and "P" do not count in their overall GPA.
 - University Honors students requesting Honors Individual Study and the faculty who agree to supervise them should consult the [Guidelines for Honors Individual Studies](#).
8. Although a student may receive faculty approval on a drop/add form for a specific Individual Studies course, **failure to submit an application or denial of an application by either the proposed faculty project advisor or the Physiology Undergraduate program will result in the student's name being removed for the official class list.** A completed and signed application form must be on file with the Physiology Department to signify approval of the Individual Studies Course.

HOW DO I ENROLL?

Once you have identified a faculty advisor and a potential project topic, request an Individual Studies application [here](#). Once you receive your application, you will work with your faculty advisor to fill out the prompts on the form. The form will then be e-signed by you, your faculty advisor, and your Academic Advisor before undergoing final review by the Physiology Undergraduate Program. Once approved, your units will be added. **Final approval and enrollment can take 2-3 weeks. You are encouraged to submit your application during priority registration to ensure that your Individual Studies units are added prior to the start of the semester.**



Please use the table below to determine the appropriate units to request for your individual studies project.
University policy requires at least 45 hours of work by a student for each unit of credit.

15-week semester (Fall/Spring)		
Total Hours Dedicated to Project (hours/semester)	Weekly Time Spent on Project (hours/week)	# of Units to Request
45	3	1 Unit
90	6	2 Units
135	9	3 Units