



# Proposal for Directed Independent Study

Occasionally students have a very specific interest they wish to pursue as part of their professional development plan, but there is no course at the School of Social Work or University that they are able to take that covers the content. In such a case the student may wish to create a Directed Independent Study (DIS) as a way to explore the topic. Students wishing to create a DIS should develop an idea, and then seek out a faculty member to be their instructor for the study. There is no guarantee that a student will be able to create any DIS they wish; students must identify a faculty instructor, create a DIS plan, obtain the approval for their DIS plan from that faculty member, and obtain the approval of the Senior Associate Dean for MSW Education.

Students should have their DIS written and approved as early as possible, and always at least one week prior to the close of registration for the semester when the DIS will be completed. A DIS is designed for Specialization rather than Generalist Study; the credits are usually used in place of an elective.

To obtain permission to complete a DIS, students should complete the following steps:

1. Consult with the faculty advisor about plans for the DIS. The individualized study must be compatible with both concentration and learning goals;
2. Reach an agreement with a faculty member on the direction, content, outcomes, reading list, activities, products, and evaluation plan for the proposed course;
3. Prepare the [DIS form \(see below\)](#), obtain the required signatures, and submit the packet to the Senior Associate Dean for MSW Education for approval.

**Direction:**

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**Learning Objectives:**

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**Content:**

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**Evaluation Plan** (should include a plan for student/instructor engagement during the course, a description of assignments that includes page length, deadlines, late policy, etc., and the percentage of total grade for each assignment):

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**Number of Credits:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Course Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Semester:** \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Senior Associate Dean for MSW Education

Date: \_\_\_\_\_