



Pulaski Academy Upper School Independent Study

The Independent Study course is a curriculum option for students in 12th grade who have at least a 3.5 GPA and an appropriately-rigorous course load. By selecting this course, students will work with their counselor to determine an individualized plan for knowledge and skill development in a specific topic or focus area. Upon approval for the Independent Study course, the student and counselor (course supervisor) will work with an academic advisor and/or community mentor to build a specialized semester or year-long course for the student.

Required Steps for Course Development:

1. Schedule a meeting with an Upper School Counselor to discuss your interest in the Independent Study Course.
2. Complete the Independent Study Course Proposal Form.
 - a. Develop a goal statement for what the learner hopes to accomplish and the purpose of the Independent Study. Then identify the goals for your education by explaining what you hope to gain in terms of knowledge, skills, personal/professional contacts, and other experiences while in the Independent Study Course.
 - b. Write a brief description of the background, experience, and strengths that both the student and advisor/mentor bring to the topic/focus area.
 - c. Turn the form in to the Upper School Counseling Center. Your proposal will be reviewed and evaluated by the Head of Curriculum and the US Counseling Department.
3. After approval of your proposal, submit a detailed Independent Study Course Plan.
 - a. Select and/or develop learning objectives related to the goal statement. These objectives should be broad statements describing what the learner is going to achieve. List each objective and/or learning activity in the plan, and note the numbers of the competencies the student is expected to meet through specific learning activities. Click [here](#) for a helpful resource.
 - b. Establish a timetable for the implementation of activities and completion of course requirements. This Independent Study Course schedule must include required tasks, assignments, and projects, as well as dates for completion and submission to the advisor/mentor. List the types of activities/assignments that the student will be completing during the semester, as well as grading components that may include papers, presentations, and/or skill assessments.

Before the beginning of the Independent Study Course, the counseling office will notify the student regarding course procedures and required communication during the semester/year. This will include submitting a 500-800 word reflection paper at the end of each quarter. If the student fails to uphold his/her Independent Course requirements, the student will be removed from the course and placed in an at-school elective.

Independent Study provides a rigorous experience equivalent to that of other Pulaski Academy courses. The grade earned through the Independent Study course does not calculate into the GPA, but the coursework does provide an elective credit.

PLEASE NOTE: Students desiring to utilize an independent study course for athletic skill development must have an intention (and have taken the required steps) to play at the collegiate level.



**Pulaski Academy Upper School
Independent Study Proposal Form**

Student's Name: _____

Course Duration: Fall / Spring / Both semesters (circle one)

Proposed Topic/Focus Area: _____

Independent Study Goal Statement (Purpose): _____

Brief Description of Proposed Independent Study: _____

Student's Background, Experience, and Strengths in This Focus Area: _____

Name of Academic Advisor/Community Mentor: _____

School/Company: _____

Title: _____

Contact Information (phone number and email): _____

Advisor/Mentor's Background, Experience, and Strengths in This Focus Area: _____

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

PLEASE NOTE: This form is only a request for an Independent Study Course. The counseling department will communicate with the student applicant once a final decision has been made.

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Counselor Signature

Date