

# Independent Study and its Value for Graduate Studies

## A. Skills Gained Through Independent Study

- Time Management Strategies
- Decision Making Capabilities
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Organizational Experience
- Research Techniques
- Presentation Skills
- Writing Skills
- Creativity
- Stress Management

## B. Utilizing Independent Study as an Example of your Work

- Personal Statement: You can mention Independent Study in your application for admission as a reason why you are interested in continuing your studies in specific areas.
- Formal and Informal Interviews: In conversations with professors at graduate programs of interest, it can be helpful to discuss your Independent Study project and the extent of involvement required of Wooster students to complete this requirement.

## C. Tips for Explaining Your Independent Study to Others

- For people who are not familiar with Independent Study they might be surprised at the scope of this academic requirement.
- Explain your project in a logical fashion: start at the beginning and explain your activities sequentially. Emphasize specific skills gained and results found during the process.

Example:

Independent Study is required of all seniors at The College of Wooster for graduation. I chose \_\_\_\_\_ as my topic of study and proposed my ideas to faculty members for approval. Realizing I needed funding to complete this study, I wrote a grant proposal explaining my interests and was awarded \$\_\_\_\_\_ toward my efforts. I then utilized \_\_\_\_\_ to conduct research relevant to this topic and designed a series of experiments to test my hypothesis. I conducted the experiments and recorded the results. In analyzing my findings, I noted that \_\_\_\_\_ and I wrote a \_\_\_page thesis describing my Independent Study and defended the results to the department. I've also been asked to present my study at \_\_\_\_\_ conference and/or submit an abstract for publication to \_\_\_\_\_ journal.