Individualized Studies
UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

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Individualized Studies 493: Information for Faculty Sponsors

The Senior Study is the end product of a student's Individualized Studies major. It is intended to provide the student with an opportunity to investigate in depth and with a reasonable amount of creative and original thought a topic relevant to his or her Individualized Studies major. It should give evidence of a familiarity with the subject material and indicate resourceful and effective study and investigation, and, when appropriate, meet all the requirements of scholarly documentation. In short, a Senior Study should meet all the academic standards you would expect of an independent study done by a major in your department.

The senior study CANNOT be an internship. Some students have completed internships as a foundation or springboard for their senior studies, and this is encouraged. However, the senior study itself must be an original paper or project, not merely a report of "what I did on my internship."

All Individualized Studies majors must register for the Senior Study, INDIV 493. Since INDIV 493 carries 5 credits, the topic of the Senior Study should be such as to require the student to spend at least the average of 15 hours per week that the University recommends for 5 credit courses. If the student is submitting a traditional term paper, the length is expected to be approximately 35 pages, plus footnotes and bibliography.

In order to meet the requirements of Individualized Studies, the finished product must be of sufficient quality to earn a grade of at least 2.7.

Although most Senior Studies are written, this is not a requirement if a student's major includes creative skills best demonstrated in a medium other than writing. If this is the case, the student must submit a synopsis, outlining the content of the study and the steps taken in the process of completing it. If the study is written, it should be submitted to you in finished form and in an acceptable academic style, fully documented with footnotes where appropriate and a bibliography.

Before a student is allowed to register for INDIV 493 he or she must submit to the Individualized Studies adviser an outline of the proposed work as approved by a faculty sponsor. If you agree to supervise this student's work, please sign the completed INDIV 493 proposal form and return it to the student, who will then submit it to the Individualized Studies adviser.

Since the Senior Study is an integral part of the student's degree, Individualized Studies as the degree-granting department reserves the right to reject or demand modification in the completed study before a student is allowed to graduate as an Individualized Studies major. All Senior Studies are reviewed by the Individualized Studies Committee, although final acceptance is based primarily on the grade and evaluation that you submit.

Thank you for your commitment of time and effort, which makes the Individualized Studies program possible. If you have further questions, please contact:

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