

# Considering an “Independent Study” Project?

## Dr. Rick Albrecht’s Philosophy Regarding “Independent Project” Courses

### Movement Science “Independent Project” Courses:

- Independent Readings (MOV 399 and PED 399)
- Independent Study and Research (MOV 499 and PED 499)

### Purpose of Movement Science “Independent Project” Courses:

Independent project courses offered through the Movement Science Department (MOV 399, MOV 499, PED 399, PED 499) are designed to provide students with individual educational experiences unavailable through regularly scheduled courses.

### Two Things “Independent Project” Courses Are NOT:

1. “Independent Project” courses are NOT to be taken as a substitute for a course that is specifically listed as a requirement for the student’s degree program.
2. “Independent Project” courses are NOT to be taken as a substitute for regularly scheduled courses offered by the University.

### Student Responsibilities Associated with “Independent Project”

#### Courses:

- **It is the primary responsibility of the STUDENT – not the faculty member – to develop the general focus of the independent study.** Although the faculty member can (and should) assist in developing the educational project, the student should initiate this process – in writing. Because the purpose of independent project courses is to enable students to engage in individualized educational opportunities, it follows that the student should determine for himself/herself the general focus of the study. Due to unique individual goals, experiences, and interests, the student is in the best position to develop a valuable supplemental educational experience. Please don’t contact the faculty member and simply inquire: “Is there something I can do for an independent project credit?”. This would rarely lead to a project that is specifically designed to supplement the student’s educational needs.
- **Workload required as a part of an independent project should approximate the workload associated with comparable credit hours taken through coursework.** Although some flexibility in the time commitments required in independent projects is necessary, as a general rule, the time required to fulfill an independent project requirement should be approximately the same as that needed to successfully complete an equal number of credit hours via traditional classroom experiences. The following may be used as a rough approximation of time commitments:
  - 1 credit hour = approximately 35 hours should be committed to the project
  - 2 credit hours = approximately 70 hours should be committed to the project
  - 3 credit hours = approximately 105 hours should be committed to the project

(These time commitments are calculated on the basis of one contact hour (classroom time) per week for each credit hour and 1.5 hours of additional course-related work per week outside of class).