



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

MPA 8012 Independent Study: Intent and Proposal Form

Purpose:

You may choose to apply to complete an individual research project as part of your studies. This option is specifically designed for students as a potential additional opportunity to further develop research skills, building upon the foundation laid in the coursework. Please note that enrollment in an individual research course requires the successful completion of MPA 8011 and MPA 8051, as well as the approval from the MPA Director.

Requirements:

Students interested in an Independent Study should first consult with the Assistant Director of Student Services and then complete an Independent Study Proposal outlining the proposed research plan. Once the proposal is complete, students must seek out and receive permission from a professor to supervise their Independent Study. Students register for the Independent Study course (MPA 8012) with the Chair of the Department of Public Administration. Approval from the MPA Director is also required.

The Independent Study Proposal includes:

- (1) Overview of the purpose of the research and a brief description of the topic of study;
- (2) Description of the research question(s) and research methods; and
- (3) Summary statement of the main goals of the research and its main contributions to the public administration field (a sample is provided).

Once the student has registered for the course, the student and professor will create a timeline with deadlines and structured assignments for the project, which includes a detailed outline of the final paper, see sample below.

Student Name:

Semester:

Professor:

Title of the Project:

Independent Study Proposal

(1) Overview of the purpose of the research and a brief description of the topic of study:

(2) Description of the research question(s) and research methods

(3) Summary statement of the main goals of the research and its contribution to the public administration field (a sample is provided).

Sample Independent Study Timeline

Goal	Structured Assignments	Deadlines	Corresponding Section of the Final Paper
1) Purpose of the research project	Updated Independent Study Proposal		I. Introduction
2) Complete Literature Review	Annotated Bibliography		II. Literature review
3) Design research methods	Interview Protocol/Survey		III. Methodology section
4) Conduct research and analyze findings	Summary and analysis of research		IV. Findings
5) Connect the findings of the research with the literature	Venn Diagram Exercise		V. Discussion
6) Recommendations for Practice	Advocacy proposal		VI. Recommendations
7) Conclusion/summary of what was accomplished in the project	Reflection		VII. Conclusion

Program Director Review

Signature

Date

Faculty Member

Date

Signature