

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

SCHOOL OF INFORMATION

Guidelines for Undergraduate Research Experience Courses

DEFINITIONS:

Research Experience — A student assists and collaborates with a member of the iSchool's full time research faculty on a project directly supporting their academic research.

Students may count only a cumulative total of six credit hours of Independent Study or Research Experience courses toward their BA/BSI degree. More than that requires the consent of the Undergraduate Program Coordinator (Prerequisites: Upper-division standing and consent of the faculty member supervising the research.)

CRITERIA:

A Research Experience course should not be authorized unless it satisfies both of the following criteria:

- A. The faculty member supervising the course has an ongoing research project in which the student can contribute.
- B. Participation in the research project would constitute a valuable learning experience for the student.

GUIDELINES:

- A. A student accepted for a Research Experience should be in good academic standing.
- B. The work hours involved should be equivalent to those of an upper-division course of equivalent credit hour value, e.g., circa 125 – 150 hours for the three-credit Independent Research I 378R. Evaluation standards are comparable to those for standard class work.
- C. The product(s) and/or contribution(s) resulting from a Research Experience course must evidence a scholarly approach, demonstrate critical and/or creative thinking, and be in a style and form acceptable to the faculty sponsor.
- D. Prior to the registration period and before the registering for a Research Experience course, the student must:
 1. Consult with his/her undergraduate advisor to ascertain the appropriateness of such a course to the student's total program.
 2. Consult with the proposed faculty sponsor of the study to develop a proposal that the faculty member agrees to supervise.
 3. Prepare a proposal using the attached form and additional sheets as necessary; negotiate the proposal with the faculty sponsor; obtain the signature of the faculty sponsor; and submit the form to the Graduate Coordinator. If the proposal is approved, the iSchool Course Administrator will then register the student for the Research Experience during the next open registration period at the beginning of the appropriate semester.

REGISTRATION:

4. The faculty sponsor must approve and sign the proposal.
5. Upon this approval, submit this form to the iSchool Course Administrator (aaron@ischool.utexas.edu) to complete registration.

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Proposal for Undergraduate Research Experience

Instructions: The proposal must be approved prior to the last day of registration for the semester in which the study is proposed. Most good proposals are one to two double-spaced pages long, c. 250 – 500 words. The student should secure the signature of the faculty sponsor and submit this form to the Course Administrator to complete the registration process.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

UT EID: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

SEMESTER: _____ YEAR: _____

COURSE (mark only one): **I 178R** (1 credit hour) **I 278R** (2 credit hours) **I 378R** (3 credit hours)

FACULTY SPONSOR: _____

BRIEF PROPOSAL TITLE: _____

PROPOSAL

State: (1) the proposed objective, (2) the methods to be employed, and (3) the expected culminating product(s). Attach additional sheet(s) as necessary.

Faculty Sponsor

Date

Distribution: 1) Student 2) Faculty Sponsor 3) Course Administrator