

**Independent Study  
Psychology Graduate Program  
Counseling Graduate Program**

**State University of New York at New Paltz**

The primary purpose of independent study is to enable students to assist a professor on a research project, develop their own research project, or pursue knowledge in an area not covered by a regularly offered course. Research training is an essential part of graduate school. Research experience is often the most heavily weighted selection criterion used by Ph.D. programs after other factors (such as GPAs and GREs) are considered.

In doing an independent study, students work closely with a faculty member. For independent studies involving research, students will be expected to get involved with all aspects of the research project including: developing the research question, designing the research methodology, executing the research study, and coding and analyzing data.

To initiate an independent study project, the student must propose the idea to a faculty member in writing on the Independent Study form. After the instructor has outlined the basis of evaluation, signatures of the student, sponsoring faculty member, Psychology Chairperson, and Dean are required for the student to register for the course.

No more than six independent study credits can be applied towards one's degree.