

To initiate an independent study, the MSPE student must first find a faculty member who is willing to supervise their research. Upon securing a supervisor, the student drafts a proposal, which must be endorsed by the supervising professor, and then emailed to the MSPE office at mspe@illinois.edu where it will be reviewed by the program director. Once approved, the student will be eligible to register for the "independent study" course.

The proposal should provide detailed responses to the following inquiries:

Research Topic: Clearly articulate the topic you intend to investigate during the independent study.

Research Methods: Describe the methodologies and approaches you plan to employ to address your research question effectively.

Duration of Research: Provide an estimate of the time required to complete your research. Consider whether it can feasibly be accomplished within a single semester.

Evaluation Method: Outline the criteria and methods by which your research will be assessed or evaluated.

Credit Hour Assessment: Determine if the work undertaken during this independent study justifies awarding four credit hours. Note that only independent studies designated as worth four credit hours will be applicable towards your degree.

Supervising Professor Endorsement: Provide documentation that the professor endorses and will supervise the independent study proposal.

Please ensure that your proposal addresses these points comprehensively and concisely to facilitate the approval process.