

## University Honors Independent Study

Honors College students may elect to develop and submit a University Honors Independent Study contract proposal with the oversight of a qualified University Honors faculty supervisor. Honors College Independent Studies for UH Foundations credit may be done with any of our core Honors College faculty members. The Honors College faculty supervisor must be a content expert in the area the University Honors Independent Study will focus on. University Honors Independent Study courses are variable hour courses so it is the responsibility of the student and Honors College faculty supervisor to determine how many hours will be dedicated to the Independent Study. For three hours of credit, students must do 135 hours of work during the semester, which is equivalent to the amount of work expected in any three-hour course.

**If a student is interested in completing an Independent Study in their major, they are encouraged to work with a faculty member in the appropriate department to register for their major's Independent Study course. A student may petition the Honors College faculty and Dean to have an Independent Study from their major satisfy Honors Elective requirements.**

Honors students interested in completing a University Honors Independent Study (UH 400) are encouraged to begin working on a proposal well in advance of the start of the semester. Students should brainstorm and research the topic and project they are interested in completing. Once the student has created their proposal, they will need to work with an Honors College faculty supervisor to further develop and clarify the proposal. Once finalized between the student and Honors College faculty supervisor, the student will be responsible for completing the University Honors Independent Study application and routing it for approval.

The approval process includes the Honors College faculty supervisor and the Honors College Independent Study review committee. It is the responsibility of the student to begin the process of working with the Honors College faculty supervisor early as the University Honors Independent Study proposal development and approval process may take a good deal of time.

A University Honors Independent Study allows an Honors College student to work with an Honors College faculty supervisor to further explore and research a focused area. University Honors Independent Study proposals may not replicate or duplicate a course that already exists at The University of Alabama. Below are additional guidelines to consider as a University Honors Independent Study proposal is being crafted:

1. Oral and written work should demonstrate greater depth of thought.
2. Proposals should show evidence of analysis, synthesis, evaluation and application of knowledge.
3. Honors students will attend required weekly or bi-weekly meetings with their Honors College faculty supervisor to discuss and review components of the University Honors Independent Study.
4. Proposals should be research-based and distinct from any existing course at The University of Alabama.
5. University Honors Independent Study proposals should exhibit the level of rigor and robustness expected for an Honors-level course and experience.

Once a student and the Honors College faculty supervisor have agreed to a University Honors Independent Study, the student must complete and submit the Independent Study form. To do this, the student must login to myBama ([mybama.ua.edu](http://mybama.ua.edu)), go to the Academics Tab, go to the Honors College

box, and click on "Special Approval System Application." Students must complete and attach the Independent Study Proposal form within myBama.

After submitting the application, an email will be sent to the Honors College faculty supervisor using his/her UA email address (which must be the one submitted on the application). Once the Honors College faculty supervisor approves the application, their supervisor/department chair will approve. Finally, the Honors College will receive notification and will make a decision on the application. If approved, the student and the Honors College faculty supervisor will receive email notification.

If approved, the student will register for a UH 400 course at the direction of the Honors College Director of Student Services and/or Registrar.