

Directed Study Criteria

- (1) Opportunities for directed study are available to all students (contingent upon degree requirements) **who have completed three semesters and have a cumulative grade point average of B (3.0).**
- (2) Registration for a directed-study is by petition only after consultation with the professor, and requires approval by the professor, the student's advisor, and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- (3) Any directed study must build upon rather than serve as a substitute for introductory coursework in a particular field of study and may explore interests stimulated by a particular faculty member, taking into consideration that faculty member's own interests and strengths.
- (4) Directed studies may not be taken for courses already taught in regular rotation unless some dire circumstance requires it, and then by successful petition to the professor and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

A student who wishes to apply for a directed study must submit a petition that includes a proposed plan of study (including a bibliography), showing the genesis of the study in a regular course as well as the particular issues or problems to be studied and the ways in which they will be investigated. Any directed study should include periodic meetings between the student and professor for progress reports, discussion, and planning of the next stage of work. The final product should be at least a major paper. A student must spend the same amount of time on a directed study as on any course for the same number of credits.

Because it is often difficult for students and their instructors to prepare the directed study syllabus at the time of registration, the registrar's office will accept registrations for directed studies without the approved petition and accompanying syllabus (though still signed off by the professor in the "special approval" box on the "Permission to Register" form). The full petition and syllabus, however, must be received in the registrar's office already approved by the instructor and the student's advisor prior to September 1 for the fall semester and prior to January 15 for the spring semester. If we do not have that, the student will be notified that they are being dropped from the directed study.

More than one student taking a directed study with a single professor may meet jointly with the professor (a "group directed study"), provided that the students are all at the same level of competence in the subject. A directed study undertaken in conjunction with educational travel must provide that 50 percent of the time required for the study is spent on non-travel activities—for example, reading and writing about the subject of the study.