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# The Science Academy of South Texas

900 Med High

Mercedes, Texas 78570

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## Independent Study Guidelines

Proposals for an Independent Study course must be submitted by the student and approved by the supervising teacher, counselor, and principal the semester prior to the course being taken.

### Independent Studies courses can be taken in:

English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Engineering

### The Proposal must include the following:

- A course description explaining the purpose of the Independent Study that is above and beyond any courses offered at the Science Academy.
- A timeline of events, per quarter and semester, and a description of activities to be produced as part of the Independent Study must be included.
- The proposal will include a listing of all books, resources, and materials to be used as part of the Independent Study.
- A description of the criteria used for evaluation and grade of the student's work reflective of college level work must be developed and agreed upon by both teacher and student.

### Independent Study Guidelines

An Independent Study course will not be in addition to the current course sequence, it is only to be placed in a time slot where a student has completed all courses offered in that particular department. A student cannot take an independent study course as a ninth class.

Final product / paper / presentation will constitute a major part of the Independent Study grade as outlined in the approved proposal.

Independent Study calls for individual work and individual learning. Group work is not allowed.

The teacher, counselor and principal will review the proposal and notify the student if the proposal has been approved. This committee will also make recommendation to the student about the modifications to be made in the proposal in order to meet the Independent Study guidelines.

If the teacher of the Independent Study, at the final presentation, evaluates that the work done does not merit college level / AP level, then the course will revert to a level two (1.05) weight. If the presentation is deemed to be college level / AP level the grade will then merit a level three (1.10) weight.

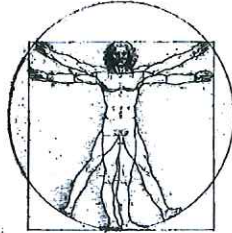
*South Texas Independent School District*

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# Independent Study Courses Teacher Requirements

## SCIENCE ACADEMY



**Rationale:** In order to ensure rigor, quality instruction, and fair grading practices, the following prerequisites must be fulfilled in order to deliver instruction and be documented as teacher of record (PEIMS) for any Independent Study course(s).

- Review of the student-drafted independent study proposal, modeled after AP course framework
- Review of a minimum of three course textbooks and/or instructional resources considered for use during the independent study course
- Grading rubrics developed for projects, assessments, homework, assignments, etc.
- Teacher credentials/certifications/endorsements necessary to teach respective Independent Study course(s)
- Other, as determined necessary by administration

**Process:** Upon fulfillment of the Independent Study Course Teacher Requirements, the students will submit their Independent Study proposals to their respective counselors for a subsequent review. The proposal will then be forwarded to the campus principal. Once approved, the proposal will be returned to the counselor for appropriate schedule change(s) as needed.