

Immunology 493 & 494, Independent Studies Undergraduate Course New Course Requirement

Undergraduate Director: Dr. Weiguo Zhang

The student should produce a report of their work.

The University specifies that all independent studies must result in an “academic product”. The students who do an independent study in the Department of Immunology are required to submit a research report at the end of each semester to their advisors and the department, regardless of where the project stands after the completion of the class.

1. This report should be 8-10 pages (double space).
2. It should include the background and rationale for the project, the methods and results, and discussion of significance and future direction.
3. The students are required to submit this report to their research advisors on the first day of the final exam period of each semester designated on the Duke academic calendar.
4. At the end of the semester, the research advisor should forward this report to the department (Jennifer Goins @ immunologydept@mc.duke.edu) stating the grade given with a short rationale for the given grade.

The project should be an independent research project.

Although most projects are conducted under the close supervision of a mentor, the student should take substantial responsibility for the formulation of a hypothesis, experimental design, data collection, analysis and interpretation. In the case of a collaborative effort, the student should have a distinct and identifiable role in the project. A student's responsibility should extend beyond simply providing low-level technical support for other projects or observing the work of others,

The student should spend at least ~120 hours per semester on the project.

The expectation is that the student will invest time equivalent to a laboratory course, i.e. ~8-10 hours per week for 14 weeks. This may include planning, data collection (including field work), analysis and writing. Note that the time spent writing should be a relatively small portion of the total time investment, except in the case of ‘W’-coded registrations where it will be a more significant part of the experience and final grade. Conversely, a research supervisor should not expect a student to invest an excessive amount of time, to the detriment of their other course work.