Independent Study Guidelines

Overview of project:
An Independent Study, formally known as a Performance Project, is to be completed the second semester of junior year or first semester of senior year. An independent study is a research project/performance. All Dance Emphasis students are required to complete an Independent Study. The emphasis of the project should be in one of these areas; choreography, performance, education or outreach. A 5 to 7 page paper and a journal are mandatory. If your project is performance based, a 3 to 5 minute presentation or performance is mandatory.

Aim of project:
The aim of an Independent Study is to begin to identify an area for your focus in the field of dance. Students are encouraged to research opportunities on campus.

Choosing topic:
Some topic suggestions are; choreography, assistant choreography, performance, dance therapy, business ownership or dance education at the elementary or secondary level. Your topic should be directly related to your specific area of interest in dance.

Topic Approval:
A written proposal must be submitted by the first week of the semester to all 4 members of the dance faculty. An electronic proposal is acceptable.

Evaluation:
A rubric will be given at the start of the project. You are required to select a primary advisor. All other dance faculty will be present and involved in the grading of you independent study.

Steps:
- Submit Proposal
- Proposal Acceptance
- Choose a Primary advisor
- Research or begin choreography
• Organize your daily journal
• Actively work on your research paper during the course of the semester
• Final Performance/Demonstration

Due Date: All Independent Study materials must be presented, performed and passed in by the FIRST DAY OF FINAL EXAMS AT 12:00 PM.

Proposal Criteria:
• Define the focus of your Independent Study (education, outreach, choreography or performance)
• Submit a request for rehearsal space, performance space, or venue. We encourage the venue to be on campus, but you may ask for an off site opportunity in your proposal. The faculty reserves the right to deny an off site request.
• A list of materials that will be needed and used for the Independent study
• A proposal should be submitted by the first week of the semester to your primary advisor.

Journal Criteria:
• Daily entries throughout the semester detailing how you write and organize your choreography, syllabus or rubric development, or an outline of your presentation/demonstration.
• Self Evaluation. What is working in your process and what isn’t?
• A Conclusion summarizing your success and failures.

Paper Criteria:
• 5 to 7 page Biography of a choreographer or innovator in your field of choice. Subject should have substantial history in your field of your choice and born before 1955.
• Bibliography is required with in text citation.
• Researched information should be from .org or .edu organizations.
• A comparison to contemporary innovators or choreographers in your field of your choice should be provided in the body of the paper.
Discuss how these people have adapted or been influenced by your topic choice.

- The faculty will only accept hard copy research papers.

Performance / Demonstration Criteria:

- Choreographed pieces need to be 3 to 5 minutes in length.
- Demonstrations, Presentations or Performances must occur on site. (The Newman Dance Studio, The Hennessy Theater or The Johnson Theater). Off site requests must be included in your proposal and approved by the dance faculty.
- All costumes, set design, and construction of materials must be provided by the student.