



## **IDST 6500 - Independent Study**

Course Description: Self-directed inquiry into a topic, problem or issue of practical or theoretical importance, normally conducted in one's area of specialization as approved by the faculty advisor. With advisor approval, course can be repeated to address separate topics, problems or issues. (Independent study hours 50 -150).

Credit Hours: 1 - 3 credits

Prerequisites: Permission of advisor

Course Goals: After completion of this course the learner will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an expanded concept of the problem area;
2. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the problem area;
3. Demonstrate ability to conduct in-depth study of a problem independently.

Course Requirements: The course requirements and evaluation of student performance are based entirely upon achievement of the course goals.

1. Submit the "**Performance and Result Contract**" to the advisor no later than the end of the *third week of the semester* (second week if summer session);
2. Provide the advisor with online progress reports at least every other week;
3. Initiate and arrange at least two interim conferences (by phone or in-person) with the advisor to reviewing progress;
4. Consult with the advisor to determine the format for presenting the study result, to include (if a PhD student), IDST 7000 - Doctoral Seminar.
5. Submit the final product of study to the advisor by the end of the *fourteenth week of the semester* (ninth week if summer session).

### **IDST6500 – Independent Study Performance and Result Contract Guidelines**

**Cover Page (include the following):**

- a. Title of the study, course number and title
- b. Student's name, phone number and e-mail address
- c. Student's signature and date of submission
- d. Advisor's signature and date of approval by advisor

**Introduction and Importance/Significance of the Study:**

- a. Provide a brief background/introduction to the topic.
- b. State succinctly why this topic is important to study.

**Study Objectives(s):**

- a. In clear, concise and measurable terms, state the terminal outcome(s) of the study.
- b. List objectives in logical sequence when there is more than one to be accomplished.
- c. Justify each objective with a short rationale.
- d. Indicate how the study contributes to the student's program or career goals.

**Activities and Timelines:**

- a. Specify methods to be used to accomplish each objective.
- b. Indicate the target date for each major activity.
- c. List activities in chronological order.

**Resources:**

- a. Identify factors (human and non-human) that are required to properly execute the study.
- b. Indicate the availability of the resources.

**Constraints:**

- a. Identify factors that may hinder the accomplishment of each objective.
- b. Propose strategies to overcome any anticipated constraints.

**Communication/Presentation of Results:**

- a. Indicate the way in which the results will be disseminated to those individuals involved or potentially interested in the study outcomes (e.g. advisor, instructor, resource persons, other students, etc.).

**Evaluation:**

- a. Specify what evidence that will be used to demonstrate completion of the study.
- b. Indicate criteria to be used for the evaluation of the study outcomes.