

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF NURSING  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM  
GRADUATE STUDIES

**Guidelines for Doctoral Level Independent Study in Nursing Practice  
NUR 791**

**I. General Information**

- A. Independent Study in Nursing Practice is for the purpose of allowing students to engage in nursing practice activities that are in addition to the activities in the regular clinical sequence of courses in a given major. Students apply or test out theories and knowledge obtained in established courses or in other independent study courses.
- B. Independent Study for Nursing Practice may be contracted for 1-9 semester hours of credit.
- C. An Independent Study in Nursing Practice is not intended to substitute for regular course offerings and should not be used for this purpose. In addition, enrollment in this course is not appropriate if the purpose of the independent study is to conduct research for which IRB approval is required; in this instance, students should enroll in NUR 790 or another course as recommended by the faculty advisor.
- D. Prerequisite knowledge is approved by the faculty member sponsoring the Independent Study for Nursing Practice.
- E. Prior to the beginning of the student's practice experience, contracts or letters of agreement may need to be established with the facility being used for the independent study. Therefore, early planning for this independent study is necessary.
- F. Liability insurance fees are assigned to NUR 791 courses. Evidence of professional nurse licensure and CPR certification is required for registration in the course.

**II. Student Responsibilities**

- A. Contact the faculty member to serve as a sponsor for the Independent Study in Nursing Practice, at least one term in advance of the desired term for registration.
- B. Develop an Independent Study for Nursing Practice Contract (objectives, activities planned, and evaluation criteria) and submit it to the faculty sponsor for review and approval. (See attached form).
- C. Following faculty approval, submit the signed and completed contract to the Office of Student Affairs, Room 101B, SON to obtain the call number for sponsoring faculty and the appropriate credit hours. **Only after the contract is signed by the sponsoring faculty member and received in the Office of Student Affairs can the student obtain the call number to register for the course.**
- D. Complete activities outlined in the independent study contract within the semester for which the student has registered.

**III. Faculty/Sponsor Responsibilities**

- A. Review the Independent Study contract and determine its appropriateness for the proposed hours of credit.
- B. Assist the student in refining the contract.
- C. Determine whether a contract between the University of Alabama School of Nursing and the clinical facility of interest has been established and is on file in the official files. If a contract is not present, follow the policy/guidelines for establishing an agreement/contract to use a facility as a clinical practice site. A contract or letter of agreement must be on file prior to the beginning of the student's clinical practice experience.
- D. Monitor the Independent Study in Nursing Practice contract and evaluate the achievement of objectives.
- E. Record the grade on the Grade Sheet in the Office of Student Affairs, room 101B, SON.



Name of Collaborators (if appropriate):

Evaluation Criteria:

Criteria for Grading:

Projected Schedule:

Projected Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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